

LOCAL

KM's C.A. Foy 1st American company to receive special award

REBECCA PISCOPO

rpiscopo@kingsmountainherald.com

C.A. Foy Machine Company, in Kings Mountain Industrial Park, became the first American business to receive Lockheed Aerospace's annual "Special Recognition Award." Owner, Chip Foy, accepted the plaque Monday from Lockheed Vice-President John Carroll.

The award recognizes C.A. Foy's ability to create a superior part for C-130 transport aircraft used by the Defense Logistics Agency in Iraq, according to Carroll and a press release.

"We are real proud of Chip's company," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

And he had showed how pleased he was with Foy's company when he announced that Monday, September 22 is "C.A. Foy Day," and presented Foy the key to the city.

"It's exciting for us, for Lockheed to come recognize a small company for being able to make things happen," Foy stated.

"They (C.A. Foy) went over and above for what they had to do," Carroll said.

The Lockheed press release said, "The Foy Machine Company has been increasing involvement with the aerospace industry for the last five years and (was) recognized for quick response and providing a high quality part for C-130 transport aircraft. These aircraft were on the ground in Iraq awaiting the part for the throttle mechanism as a maintenance required replacement."

C.A. Foy Aerospace Project Manager Jim Stewart, claimed that the company had to pass through a qualifier to be the producers of the C-130 product part under Lockheed. A full, 100% inspection of the artifact proved to have a low defect level which, according to Stewart, surprised examiners.

The workmanship in quality and speed with diligence is how Carroll differentiates Foy from, "40 billion vendors that are ok. We only recognize businesses like this (Foy)!"

For example, worker Bountoun Inthirath makes four small parts in 40 minutes.

There is also the worker-team factor. Machine Operator and Mexican immigrant, Antonio Pimentel, said, "Communication is important because we work in teams."

Foy credits his employees for their hard work.

"You mean a lot to me. You pour your heart and soul into your work.



Vice President John Carroll of Lockheed presents C.A. Foy owner, Chip Foy, with the "Special Recognition Award."

We get caught-up in going to work. (That's why it's good to ask ourselves) Does what I do make a difference?" Foy stated.

But when Gaston County Commissioner Joe Carpenter, spoke at the podium he reminded workers and those in attendance that some may think that the boss takes all the money and doesn't perform work. That, he says, is not the case here.

"Everyday an entrepreneur puts business on the line. They have to make tough decisions," Carpenter stated.

Perhaps the success of Chip Foy's decisions for C.A. Foy is the fact that he has been able to hire workers. According to County Manager David Dear, machine companies have held up well in an economy where "unemployment is about 8%."

"All of us have to work together to bring more jobs (to the community)," Murphrey said.

The C.A. Foy Company, founded by Charles Foy in 1983, has 45 employees. It has been a part of the KM Industrial Park revitalization growth within the past few years, as told by Gaston County Economic Development Commission Project Administrator Marc Bolick.

Frank's Home Improvements
 For minor replacement windows, decks, screen porches & tool sheds.
 25 years experience.
 Licensed. 704.739.2712
 call anytime for a free local estimate.

Ingles opens with large crowd Saturday

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

A line of folks gathered outside of the new Ingles Saturday morning waiting for the new store's doors to officially open at 7 a.m.

A little after 1 p.m. the crowds continued to file inside. The parking lot was a sea of cars manned by store employees, tirelessly fishing out empty buggies for the next school of shoppers.

Over 100 staffers were on hand Saturday to make sure the Grand Opening event lived up to its title. Cashiers and baggers worked in unison at each station to keep the lines as short as possible and the customer's first impressions just as favorable. Stockers hustled to make sure the shelves were continuously replenished.

At the front of the store, the constant "chirp" of scanners, the soft "clang" of cash register drawers and the rustle of plastic bags being filled composed a pleasing rhythm for the dozens of Ingles officials who came to witness Saturday's Grand Opening. Sam Ingles, founder of



Store Mgr. Lisa Golden stands with Customer Service Mgr. Kristen Sides outside of the new Ingles in KM on Saturday during the grand opening.

the grocery store chain, even dropped by for a visit. He was pleased too, according to Store Manager Lisa Golden.

"We're glad to be here," she said. "It's nice every time we open a store, but it's especially nice when we open the first (Ingles) in town."

Golden said that the first 200 shoppers on Saturday received coupons for a free gallon of milk. Other special features that customers can look forward to are Ingles' drive-thru and in-store

pharmacy, gas station, café, one-stop shopping and self-scan checkouts.

If the store does not currently offer an item customers are looking for, Golden encourages them to let customer service know.

"Sometimes we can get those items," she said, adding, however, that sometimes they cannot. Either way the store hopes to have good communication and a positive relationship with its new neighbors and valued customers in Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club

PANCAKE SUPPER

Friday, September 26th
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Kings Mountain High School Cafeteria
 before the KM vs. Parkwood game

\$5.00 per person
 Children under 5 eat free with paying adult

All Proceeds go to Local Kings Mountain Charities!