



VALCO INDUSTRIES, INC.
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PRESSing NEWS

August 2023

Spotlight of the Month: Bob Wilkerson

This month our Associate Spotlight shines on Bob Wilkerson. We would like to say Thank You, Bob for all you have done for Valco, for your numerous customers, and for your fellow associates who you have worked with over the past 11 years. Bob joined the Valco Team in July of 2012 as a sales engineer. Bob has spent his entire working career in a wide variety of different manufacturing organizations and in a wide range of different positions and roles within those organizations.



Bob was born and raised in Springfield and graduated from North High School (Go Panthers) in 1974 and then attended both Clark State and Ashland College. His first job was with SPECO Corporation in the aerospace industry from 1979 until 1994 when they closed their Springfield doors. His last position with SPECO was manufacturing manager. He then went to work for USAEROTEAM in Dayton as vice president of materials until July 1998. Then for several years he worked at K.Wm Beach as their inventory manager. From 2000 to 2004 Bob worked at Valco Industries as our production manager before taking a job with ODIM Defense systems in Johnstown, PA where he was the materials manager for their aircraft application program. For several years, Bob was vice-president and part-owner of Dayton Telemanagement Inc., located in Dayton, which is a telecommunications company that at one point in time was serving over 350 small businesses in the Dayton-Springfield area.

Bob's hobbies include sports (especially The Ohio State Buckeyes), literature, music, movies, organic gardening and composting. Unfortunately, Bob has decided to retire due to some health issues and challenges and to concentrate on the most important thing in his life, his health. We are all going to miss Bob and his unwavering loyalty and dedication to Valco, his many customers and his fellow associates. Bob's relationships with his customers became far more than a business relationship, as each one became a long-lasting friendship. Bob always took each new order as a personal responsibility to be sure it was entered correctly, was being fabricated correctly and was shipped complete on time every time.

I personally want to thank Bob for his many years of service, friendship, sports updates, and loyalty to Valco. I wish Bob much success and good wishes on his health journey and look forward to him stopping in and seeing how we are doing and progressing.

Eddie Leventhal
President



We recently completed our third year of shareholder meetings. All associates received their new account certificates with in-depth information and explanations as to the reasons for the continued growth in each person's account. We are glad to report that our share price increased for the 2022 calendar year and that the average account balance increase was over 42%. There is no doubt that working in an ESOP company is one of the best wealth building opportunities each of us can have and will have during our working careers.

A new NCEO study commissioned by the Employee-Owned S Corporations of America (ESCA) found that workers who own their companies via an ESOP have far greater retirement security than the majority of the American workforce. The recent survey also shows that, even at a time of great upheaval and uncertainty in the labor market, when many companies are contracting and struggling to find and retain workers, employee-owned S corporations also report better employee retention through a corporate culture that fosters worker satisfaction.

"The evidence continues to show that employee-owned businesses and their employees are faring better than most, positioning them to better withstand the challenges of a volatile economy," said Stephanie Silverman, president and CEO of the ESCA. "As business leaders prepare for possible economic uncertainty ahead, ESOP-owned private firms offer a compelling model for positioning workers and companies alike"

Valco is proud to be a 100% Employee Stock Ownership Company (ESOP)!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bob Wilkerson September 10th
Jason CombsSeptember 22
Dave MontgomerySept. 27th
Larry Huxley September 30th

We hope each of you have a great day on your special day. Here's hoping your new year is a healthy one, with lots of laughs, lots of new adventures, lots of new projects to manufacture and fabricate, and much continued success. We wish each of you many more birthday celebrations in the years ahead and the good health to know what you are actually celebrating. Enjoy your special time of year.

Years of Service

Dave Jenkins. . .Sept.13. . . 13 Years!!
Ed Ledent Sept. 18 . . .6 Years!
Angie Judy . . . Sept. 24. . . 16 Years!!

We thank each of you for your many years of service and for being such a vital part of the Valco Team. We also greatly appreciate all you have done throughout the years and that you continue to do for Valco and for our many customers daily. We look forward to continuing to work together in the years ahead. Let's Keep On Keeping On!

WE WILL BE CLOSED LABOR DAY

A reminder that Labor Day 2022 will be taking place on Monday, September 4th. This will be a paid holiday for all Valco associates who have been with us for at least 90 days. We will be returning to regular production hours and schedules on Tuesday, September 5th. Labor Day is unfortunately the last summer holiday of 2023. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate to help make it an enjoyable holiday weekend. Be safe, smart and stay healthy out there.

CHECK IT OUT!

Brennen Kumbusky has been with Valco for over 6 years and is one of our outstanding welders. He is also an accomplished rock climber and recently took first place in the latest "Red In A Day" rock climbing competition in Kentucky. Brennen and his partner won the competition by climbing some 3,000 feet in 3 hours and 17 minutes. They beat the second-place team by over two hours.



Brennen has been an avid rock climber since 2019 and partakes in climbing 4 or 5 days a week. He does most of his climbing at Mad River Gorge and in fact lives across the street from the Gorge. He says this is one of the main reasons he bought that particular house. He and his fellow climbers spent a significant amount of time helping to clear the Mad River Gorge area of over 22 tons of trash to make it usable and a place for people to enjoy. He is a member of the Mad River Stone Riders as well as an active member of the Ohio Climbing Coalition. He helps to design and set up new rock-climbing courses throughout the area and in Kentucky. His normal climbing group consists of 15 people who are active climbers. Brennen says Ohio and Kentucky climbing walls are sandstone whereas out west they are granite.

Most of the climbing walls in Ohio and Kentucky are single pitch which means they are up to 100 feet tall. Out west the walls are 4 pitches (400 feet) or higher. His dream (sounds like a nightmare) is to climb Yosemite which has walls that are 36 pitches or over 3,000 feet. Brennen no longer considers rock climbing to be a hobby but feels it is a lifestyle, a great way to relieve stress, be part of nature and is good for the soul.

We wish Brennen much continued success, many more championships, and most importantly very safe, accident free climbs.

Great Quotes

"Whatever you are, try to be a good one."
William Makepeace Thackeray

"I swing big, with everything I've got. I hit big or I miss big."
Babe Ruth

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or to the present are certain to miss the future."
John F. Kennedy

"When anyone tells me I can't do anything, I'm just not listening anymore."
Florence Griffith Joyner

"I don't know that there are any shortcuts to doing a good job."
Sandra Day O'Connor



There's Brennen!

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