



VALCO INDUSTRIES, INC.
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

PRESSing NEWS

November 2023

THANKSGIVING WISHES

Most of the time it seems as though we are too busy taking care of our normal daily activities and fighting daily fires to stop and say Thank You for a job well done or to take a few minutes to appreciate the many good things we each get to enjoy on a daily basis.

The upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday will give each of us a chance to take a couple days off from work, to relax and to spend time with family and friends. The Thanksgiving holiday also allows us to take some time to appreciate the many freedoms and opportunities we each enjoy and have available. Hopefully Thanksgiving will allow you and I to rededicate ourselves to those things we personally have come to value and treasure. Each of us really does have the opportunity to become a positive force with our families, with our work, within our communities, and with our own personal futures.

I feel very fortunate and thankful that we have been able to successfully navigate another year. Despite the ongoing challenges, we have made it through 2023 and are well positioned to meet the challenges and opportunities we expect to have in 2024. We can all certainly be very proud of all we have been able to accomplish by working together.

I am also very proud that we continue to build upon our transition to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), where each and every team member is now a shareholder in Valco. This major ownership change will make both your jobs and your financial futures much more secure. We have created a company where each associate has now become a shareholder and owner while helping to ensure our company's continuity, our job security and a vehicle that will provide each associate with a brighter, more secure future and retirement. I am proud to know when a customer or vendor now calls, they will be talking to one of the owners. We have been able to create a company that remains positive and committed to the future of our associates, our customers, and our community.

As we enter the upcoming holiday season, I want to wish each of you and your families the very best during the holidays and may the new-year, 2024, bring you and yours a year of good health, much happiness, with lots of personal and professional growth and success. I look forward to working with each of you in 2024 knowing that by continuing to Work Together the Best is Yet to Come.

Best Regards,

Eddie Leventhal

Welcome TO THE TEAM!



We want to welcome our newest associate, **Viviana Rodriguez**, who started on November 13. Viviana will be handling a wide variety of positions in her role as reception, HR administrative assistant, and support with a number of accounting functions.

She was born in Henry, Illinois which is about 20 miles south of Chicago. She attended Henry Senachwine High School where she was class treasurer for four years and was also active in The Future Business Leaders of America organization. After high school graduation she attended Illinois Central College for several years, majoring in Business Administration.

Her parents had moved to Springfield several years ago and Viviana decided to join them to be closer to her family. Her first job was as a daycare assistant teacher with Creative World of Learning. After a couple of years as an assistant teacher she took a position with First Diversity as a Bilingual Lead Recruiter and spent the next five years with several different staffing organizations as a recruiter.

Beginning last year Viviana started working part time at Valco as a Spanish interpreter as well as translating numerous documents and policies from English into Spanish to better serve a number of our associates. She also attended our staff meetings providing translation services to help ensure that we were communicating with all of our diverse workforce associates. When this position became available, we were fortunate to have known and worked with Viviana and knew she would be a great fit for our team and would be able to provide much needed services and support to our people. *Continued on back page.*



Happy Birthday



- Francico Colon Montez . . Dec. 3rd
- Jose Rivers Pagan . . December 12th
- Roberto Cruz December 12th
- Derwin Reams December 15th
- Joey Guinn December 17th
- Jerry Shingler December 19th
- Renea Bailey December 28th
- Toby Clark December 29th

Looks like December is going to be a great month for Valco birthdays. 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 fabricate, and much continued success. We wish each of you many more birthday celebrations in the years ahead and the good health to enjoy every one of them. Enjoy your special time of year.

Years of Service

- Teddy Griffith. . Dec. 18. . 22 Years!!!
- Richard Ater . . . Dec. 19 . . 7 Years!

We thank Teddy and Richard for being part of the Valco Team. We also greatly appreciate all they have done over the years and that they continue to do for Valco and for our customers on a daily basis. We look forward to continuing to work together in the years ahead. Let's Keep On Keeping On!

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With Sympathy



It is with a very heavy heart and a great deal of sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Bob Wilkerson who died on November 11 after a short hard-fought battle with lung cancer. Earlier this year we paid tribute to Bob for his many years of dedicated service to Valco and to his many customers. Bob joined the Valco Team in July of 2012 as a sales engineer and retired due to health reasons in September of this year.

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 know all of us at Valco are going to miss Bob and know we each feel fortunate to have known and worked with him for many years. He was a good man and a valued colleague.

Eddie Leventhal
 President

Upcoming Holiday Schedule:

Turkey Day! We will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23 and getting a paid day off from work, so we can overeat, watch some football and hopefully spend time with family and friends. We will also be closed



on Friday, November 24 with normal production and shipping hours resuming on Monday, November 27. As in the past we will be providing gift cards to each Valco associate to help make your Thanksgiving dinner a little easier and more enjoyable. Be smart and vigilant while enjoying the holiday. You and your good health remains Job No. 1 at Valco.

Christmas Day is on Monday, December 25 and will of course be a paid holiday. Needless, to say, we will be closed on Christmas Day.



New Year's Day is Monday, January 1 and will also be a paid holiday. Normal production hours and schedules will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Viviana Rodriguez

Viviana is married to Mariana Morales Lopez who also works at Valco. They have three children ages 1, 3, and 4. When not working she is needless to say busy with her children and when times allows very much enjoys reading. After a couple of weeks Viviana says she very much enjoys her new position, is learning a great deal, likes the variety of work she is doing and feels fortunate to be learning new skills.

We feel very fortunate to have been able to hire Viviana for this critical position and look forward to working with her in the months and years ahead while also hopefully learning some Spanish and being able to better converse with many of our associates.