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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Brown Machine is pleased to congratulate Bill Kent for 50 years of service to the thermoforming industry...all at Brown. FIFTY YEARS!**

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In 1961, Bill began working for Brown Machine under Gaylord Brown's direction. Bill began as a technician assembling machinery on the shop floor. Within his first four years of employment, Bill worked his way up to Sales Engineer for the company.



In 1974 Bill was challenged with taking thermoforming sales to a global scale as Brown's Manager of Export Sales. He has logged approximately six million actual flight miles as he expanded the Brown footprint into international markets.

Throughout the years, Bill continued to accept the challenges presented to him, and by 1985 he was promoted to Vice President of Advanced Technology. Today, he is still an active member of the Brown Machine staff in his role of Technical Director.

Bill joined SPE in 1996 and served as a member of the SPE Board of Directors from 1998 until 2011. During his tenure with SPE, he served as a member of the Machinery Committee and worked on the technical portion of many conferences.

Ken Braney, SPE President (2010-11) salutes Bill's enthusiasm and commitment to both SPE and the thermoforming industry. "In 2009, the SPE European Thermoforming Division held their bi-annual Thermoforming conference in Berlin Germany. Just before the start of the conference the Iceland Volcano blew up and many speakers could not attend the conference as the ash cloud was stopping flights coming across to Europe. Bill Kent, who had arrived in Europe before the problem arose, volunteered to put together a replacement presentation overnight to fill in for a missing speaker. The presentation was very well received. This is typical of his willingness to help to overcome problems and his commitment to helping SPE succeed."

Jim Robbins, Brown's Vice President of Sales & Marketing, states, "First, congratulations on a tremendous career. With Bill's extensive travels throughout the world, he is clearly regarded as one of the leading pioneers of promoting and expanding thermoforming worldwide. He is also an invaluable resource within Brown by providing guidance in materials, product design, machine design and integrated equipment configurations. Bill is a true ambassador for both the industry and Brown Machine."

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For Kent, working at Brown the past 50 years has been extremely fulfilling. “Brown Machine has been on the cutting edge of thermoforming technology during my entire career. I’ve been particularly excited to have been part of Brown’s growing global presence.” He is also quick to praise his Brown colleagues. “The people here are extremely creative; continually pushing the thermoforming technology envelope.”

Brown Machine LLC, Beaverton, MI, is the global leader of thermoforming solutions. Brown engineers and manufactures a complete line of continuous and cut-sheet thermoforming equipment and related tooling/peripheral equipment. Brown has designed and developed numerous thermoforming innovations since 1952 and has machines operating in over 65 countries worldwide.