



# Proclamation

Honoring  
*West American Rubber Company*  
*"Celebrating 100 years. Looking back, moving forward."*

**WHEREAS**, throughout its 100 year history in rubber manufacturing, West American Rubber Company (WARCO) has written many chapters and, as the company now embarks on its next 100 years, it is fitting to pay tribute to the past – to the people, events, activities, and achievements that have most influenced and shaped the Company; and

**WHEREAS, 1910** -English emigrates, brothers Douglas and William Radford founded the company in downtown Los Angeles. WARCO directed its efforts on the manufacture of molded rubber parts to serve the burgeoning oil industry; and

**WHEREAS, 1926** - WARCO experienced a devastating fire. Thanks to the help of other rubber manufacturers on the West Coast, WARCO's orders continued to be filled. WARCO gratefully acknowledges and remembers those companies and people who supported it during that difficult time; and

**WHEREAS, 1940's** - Sam Eisenberg and Paul Sampsell would buy out the interests of the other eight shareholders and operated WARCO from 1952 to 1977. They were hard working, honest and dedicated men who contributed greatly to the growth of the rubber industry in Southern California; and

**WHEREAS, 1960** - the company relocated to its current location on 11 acres on Main Street in Orange, California. WARCO then acquired several existing rubber companies. A new chapter unfolded as WARCO began the Extruded Rubber Division. During this time, the first Hemstreet came to WARCO, Alda Katherine Hemstreet, mother of Ken and Steve Hemstreet; and

**WHEREAS, 1971** - Steve Hemstreet began his career with WARCO. From 1971 to 1977, Steve held 18 different job functions throughout the factory and the laboratory. The company's investment in new equipment resulted in WARCO becoming a leader in the field; and

**WHEREAS, 1977** - Harrison Industries, in Birmingham, Alabama, acquired WARCO. Steve Hemstreet became an officer of the company, Ken Hemstreet joined the WARCO family, and Conrad Blackerby of Harrison Industries became WARCO's President. The company grew at a tremendous rate; and

**WHEREAS, 1981** - Technical Equities corporation acquired WARCO from Harrison Industries. WARCO continued its impressive sales growth and capital expansion, including the purchase of state-of-the-art production equipment for continuous vulcanization of extruded rubber products; and

**WHEREAS, 1986** - Conrad Blackerby and Steve Hemstreet acquired the company. In 1998, Industrial Growth Partners partnered with WARCO, acquired its assets and operated WARCO until 2001. In 2001, Steve Hemstreet and his brother, Ken, re-acquired WARCO; and

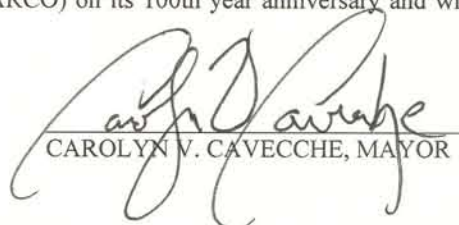
**WHEREAS, 2006** - the U.S. House of Representatives honored WARCO with an award for "Outstanding Business of the Year, 2005"; and that same year, WARCO announced its acquisition of Biltrite Corporation's (BRO) sheet rubber and matting business which positions it as the largest U.S. based sheet rubber maker in North America. The two strategically located manufacturing plants with their highly trained and dedicated staff and their expansive facilities, create a market presence of unparalleled capability, service and commitment; and

**WHEREAS, 2009** - WARCO faced a challenging economic environment. However, summoning the resourcefulness of its people, the company designed and implemented a comprehensive reformation of its business enabling it to overcome the obstacles and ensure its ongoing viability; and

**WHEREAS, 2010** - WARCO celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and pays tribute to all of the dedicated individuals who have contributed to the achievement of this truly extraordinary milestone.

**Now, Therefore, I, Carolyn V. Cavecche, Mayor**, on behalf of the entire City Council of the City of Orange, hereby congratulates West American Rubber Company (WARCO) on its 100th year anniversary and wishes them continued success.

**Dated**, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.

  
CAROLYN V. CAVECCHÉ, MAYOR