

Community Celebrates International Logistics Company's Grand Opening

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Local officials, employees and members of the community celebrated the official grand opening of Highland Forwarding's new building in Londonderry, which featured a moving flag raising ceremony honoring the 15 countries employees of the new facility represent.

Radek Maly, owner of the international logistics company, said the opening of the 42,000-square-foot facility has fulfilled his dream of "building a great office building for the company."

Maly, who settled in Atlanta, Ga., after coming to the United States as a refugee from Czechoslovakia in 1998, said he chose to root his family and future business in New Hampshire after traveling all over the country, searching for his favorite state in the Union.

After working in Bos-

ton for a number of years, and growing weary of his commute, Maly was excited to establish Highland Forwarding with Ed Kaplan in his home state in July of 1998.

"There's no single reason in the world why we cannot do what we're doing in New Hampshire - why we have to be in Massachusetts, or New York, or Chicago or Los Angeles. New Hampshire is the perfect place to be," he said.

After searching for the right property in Manchester and surrounding communities, Maly found the parcel he was looking for in Londonderry in 2007.

Working from a tiny office that fit about five people, Maly planned with architects and designers the 120,000-square-foot project he dreamed would occupy the 15-acre property on Kitty Hawk Landing.

Construction of the

Highland Forwarding Facility started in the fall of 2008 and was completed in 2009.

Following the grand opening celebration, Maly said his vision for the future of the site includes development in the next five to 10 years of another Class A office building to serve as headquarters for another international company looking to locate in the U.S.

Gov. Maggie Hassan, who attended the grand opening and flag raising ceremony, called development of the office complex "exciting for Londonderry and New Hampshire."

"We're hoping to make New Hampshire a leader in providing goods around the world," said Hassan, noting the company's growth is creating jobs in the State and helping to retain more young people in the workforce.

"Our growth is a testa-



Gov. Maggie Hassan looks on as Highland Forwarding President Radek Maly and his wife, Miriam, raise a flag in honor of the Czech Republic during the grand opening of the company's new facility in Londonderry.

ment to the fact that New Hampshire can, in fact, take away jobs in Boston, New York, Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago, and even overseas," Maly said. "We're handling projects that were, before, handled outside the United States. Our success is a testament to free trade that grows all economies worldwide and creates

high quality and high paying jobs, even in the United States."

Town Manager Kevin Smith, who first visited the facility in 2009, after construction was completed, said having an international company like Highland Forwarding in Londonderry is "a tremendous asset to the community."

As much as the opening ceremony was an opportunity to share the project with the community, the event honored the company's 30 employees, 90 percent of whom are women, and the many countries they have left behind to work in New Hampshire.

"We are rugged individuals here in New Hamp-

shire, and honoring all the employees' countries reflects that," Hassan said, noting individuals working together in industry and helping one another make the state stronger.

Many of the employees became emotional as their country's national anthem played and they raised their flags with family members and friends.

"It was very special," said Laura Fuentes, who raised a flag in honor of Spain.

"There's nothing like raising your own flag, and it's not something you get to do when you're in another country," Maly said. "It's a day we will all remember for the rest of our lives."