



# August/September/October 2021

*Pierce Distribution Services Company*

## Kevin Hogan Writes...

Summer is coming to a close and kids will be heading back to school (hopefully). Donna and I traveled back to Illinois to attend Michael & Hanna Chiodini's wedding. It was wonderful. It was a very nice wedding service and the reception was a blast. Donna went on to Tennessee to spend some time with her family while I stayed in Rockford and had a week of meetings. The weather was nice and our meetings productive. I was able to spend time with my Executive Team as well as have a meeting with the company attorney and accountant (my advisors). Russell was my trusted companion. I

was also able to meet with my Daughter (Meg) and her husband (Spencer). I have not seen them together since they were married. Their wedding was cancelled due to Covid and were married by the justice of the peace in downtown Chicago where no one was allowed to attend. It is was very disappointing that we couldn't have the wedding due to Covid on New Year's Eve on December 31, 2020. I know Meg and Spencer are very happy.

I continue to see "help wanted" signs everywhere I have traveled this summer including mostly recently Oregon, Idaho and here in Washington.

I know things are heating up with our Business Managers and I remain encouraged for future business. The Business Managers provide weekly reports on their progress in securing new business. Dino McNabb, Tony Chiodini and Jason Smith continue to work hard so that Pierce continues to be successful. I would like to thank all Pierce Associates for their hard work during these uncertain times (Covid).

I would like to wish everyone celebrating a birthday in August, September and October a Happy Birthday.

**KEVIN HOGAN**



## Russell's Words Of Wisdom...

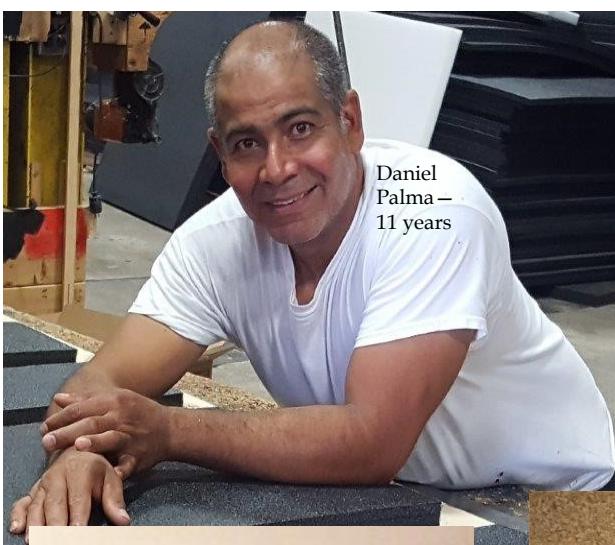
*"Having lost sight of our goals, we've decided to redouble our efforts."*

~anonymous

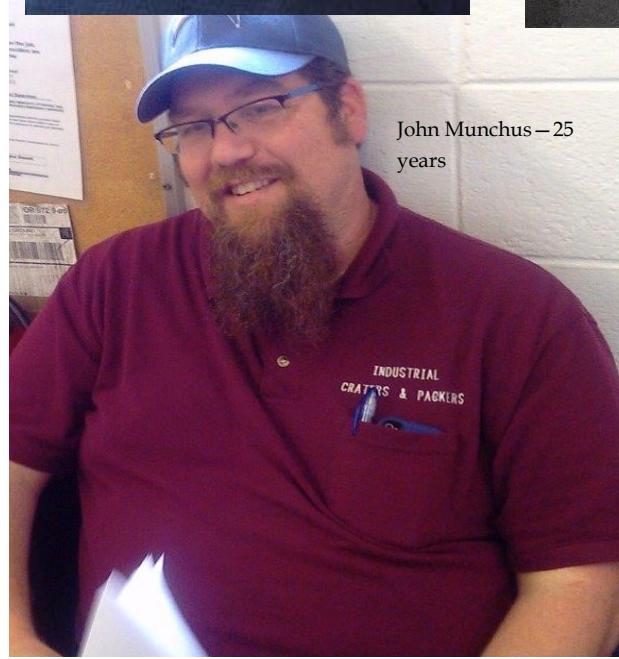
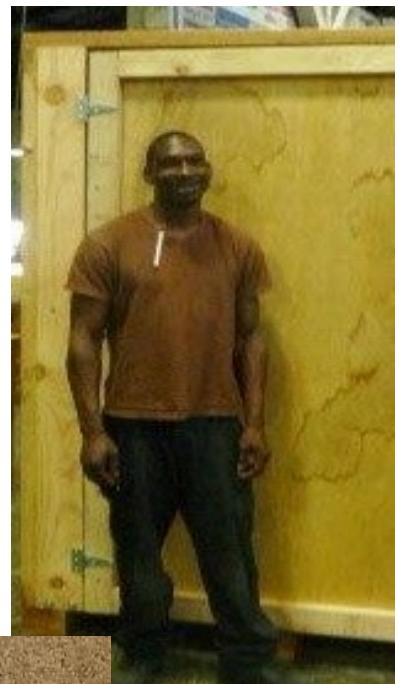
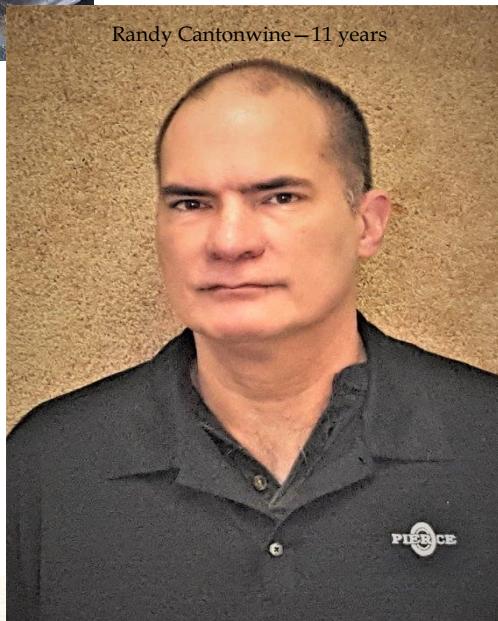




## ICP Writes...



## ICP SEPTEMBER MILESTONES



Above, Lamarr Hardy with one of the 50 crates he was instrumental in helping to build



## ICP Writes...

### ICP OCTOBER MILESTONES



Lat Long, 5 years!



Jason Bignall, 5 years!



### ICP NOVEMBER MILESTONES



Richard Palm, 3 years!





## ICP Cont...

Thrilling chase underway here...



## IN MEMORIAM



**Nestor Canedo**  
**10/04/1967**  
**To**  
**07/20/21**



# Birthdays and Anniversaries ...

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Name	Day	Plant
Christine Blazer	08/02	2
Rosa Temple	08/02	7
Steve Rutherford	08/06	ICP
Joann Land	08/09	7
Tabitha Chandler	08/15	7
Beth Futrell	08/16	2
Stacy Perry	08/20	7
Jason Bignal	08/24	ICP
Larry Hickey	08/26	2
Jason Howell	08/30	7



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Name	Day	Plant
Heather Wagner	09/03	7
Chad Hawks	09/04	7
Sara Stanley	09/05	3
Reth Chey	09/06	ICP
Donna Sangster	09/07	7
Luis Vazquez	09/07	ICP
Anne Jarnigan	09/09	7
Donnell Mann	09/09	7
Letty Medrano	09/10	2
Kim Quartaro	09/10	ICP
Khun Ngoy	09/15	ICP
Jody Edwards	09/16	ICP
Bobby Jones	09/16	7
Moe Jordan	09/19	3
Tony Strawn	09/21	7
Lisa Knotts	09/24	C
Paul Huss	09/25	2
Linda Rhyne	09/25	7
Mary Evans	09/26	7
Dirk Williams	09/28	ICP



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Name	Day	Plant
Willie Hancox	10/02	7
Horn Choup	10/04	ICP
Johnny Moore	10/04	7
Anthony Turner	10/05	7
Maria Medrano	10/06	2
Daniel Palma Flores	10/09	ICP
Dino McNabb	10/11	C
Mary Tate	10/11	7
William Warren	10/11	7
Sylvia Davis	10/14	C
Gregory Jackson	10/17	7
Christie Tennant	10/17	2
Cosandra Walker	10/17	7
Christine Cacciato	10/25	C
Belinda Hairfield	10/29	7
Leslie Mayberry	10/29	7
Joella Cook	10/31	7

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Day	Plant
Donna Hogan	08/02/99	C
Tracy Schmitt	08/11/99	7
Ken Holze III	08/05/02	2
Israel Galvan	08/05/13	2
Tina Nichols	08/15/16	7
Jessica Valdes Kercado	08/27/18	2
Elvis Pugh	08/05/19	7
Emily Cunningham	08/10/20	7
Mary Tate	08/10/20	7
Loreshia Ford	08/10/20	7
April Ward	08/10/20	7
Kimberly Adams	08/10/20	7
Jessica Brown	08/10/20	7
Ann Goble	08/17/20	2
Laquanda Boyd	08/31/20	2
Cheyenne White	08/31/20	2
Roger Williams	08/31/20	2



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Day	Plant
Jorge Perez Diaz	09/20/93	2
Jon Munchus	09/06/96	ICP
Ray Brown	09/15/06	7
Randy Cantonwine	09/20/10	ICP
Crystal Ruiz	09/09/13	2
David Miller	09/09/13	7
Dennis Gardner	09/09/13	7
Johnny Moore	09/23/14	7
Christine Blazer	09/12/16	2
William Warren	09/12/16	7
Martin Bautista	09/26/16	ICP
Frederick Nixon	09/17/18	7
Heather Wagner	09/17/18	7
Bobby Jones	09/24/18	7
Kimberly Robinson	09/24/18	7
Gabriel Lefebvre	09/08/20	ICP
Collin Buzzelli	09/14/20	ICP
Daniel Manning	09/14/20	2



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Day	Plant
Tracey Strawn	10/04/96	7
Jason Howell	10/07/03	7
Larry Hickey	10/23/06	C
Andrea Scott	10/30/06	2
Janice Rice	10/30/06	7
Daniel Palma Flores	10/10/11	ICP
Heddie Henderson	10/17/11	7
Mark Powell	10/17/11	7
Calvin Wainwright	10/21/13	2
Lat Long	10/31/16	ICP
Brenda Combs	10/30/17	2
Ryan O Klutts	10/01/18	7
Stacy Perry	10/08/18	2
Paula Brockwell	10/01/19	6
Parish Jones	10/07/19	2
William Martin	10/21/19	2

## Rockford Writes...

# ROCKFORD SAYS THANK YOU!

It's been business as usual here at plant 2. Every department has been steady throughout the year. Like everyone we continue to search for people looking for steady work. Getting them in the door is another battle as the job market here is pretty competitive right now. So to those of you who we depend on, Thank you! Thank you to the associate who comes to work every day. Thank you to the associate that shows up to work on time. Thank you to the associate who takes pride in themselves and their work. Thank you to the associate who does it because is the right thing to do. The one who picks up the debris rather than walk around it. The one who approaches the delivery driver rather than disappear from sight. The one who changes the tank instead of parking the truck on empty. The one who takes out the trash instead of just pushing it down. To you who follow the procedures you've been provided. To you who help and encourage your coworkers rather than bring them down. To those of you who "Do Whatever It Takes". THANK YOU! Without you there is no us.

Ken Holze  
Plant 2



## LARRY HICKEY CELEBRATES 15 YEARS WITH PIERCE



Larry's milestone anniversary was October 23<sup>rd</sup>. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated with a lunch catered by Maciano's – fettuccini alfredo, mostaccioli, meatballs, Italian beef, salads, cookies and brownies. Delicious. Larry selected a gift card from Full Throttle for his gift. Believe it or not, we have nine employees that were here when Larry started in 2006. Ken Holze, Jose Ramirez, Raul Sanchez, Leticia Medrano, Bertha Gonzalez, Maria Medrano, Jorge Perez Diaz, Beth Futrell and myself. Seven of us were able to attend the party. Pictured below Jose, Ken, Leticia, Lois, Larry, Maria, Bertha and Raul. Collectively, this photo represents 148 years of service at Pierce. Congratulations, Larry.

**LOIS PATMYTHES**



## Rockford Cont...



### LET'S PLAY BALL!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Kevin and Donna from the very bottom of my heart for stepping up and sponsoring Chloe and Alex's baseball team, this year. COVID decimated our sponsor banks last year which really limited our ability to take on new players and find teams for those that signed up. I have coached Chloe and Alex's teams for the past five years and have loved every minute of it. Missing last year was heartbreaking for everyone at Roy Gayle. We are so excited to be back! Thanks to Kevin and Donna's support, 14 more kids get the opportunity to play, this year.

I just got our team roster this week and will be reaching out to all the players to discuss our first practice on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Our team colors will be red, black and white. Games should start around Memorial Day weekend. We are in the Mustang division this year which is age 9-10 co-ed baseball. I will share our game schedules, team photos, and our progress in future newsletters.

Kevin and Donna's support will help us get a team shirt and hat for every player and coach, new batting helmets, a set of catcher's gear, game balls, stat/lineup books and a new equipment bag.

LET'S GO, TEAM PIERCE!!

**PAULA BROCKWELL**

## HELP, HELP!

We got an unusual request from Komatsu. They had a dealer with a unit down that needed a coupling for a transmission. Ripley didn't have any stock. Alex asked if we would remove the coupling from a transmission in FC inventory and ship it. Bill Hollis (CMO) sent a drawing and a brief description of location. Ken pulled the transmission for me, broke away the crate and located the correct coupling (there's two on the unit). I was afraid we wouldn't have the right tools to remove it, but as it turns out it pulled straight out. Ken sat on the floor, braced his feet on the skid, grabbed the coupling and pulled. Komatsu gave us a big thank you. Alex said "you are the best". It was team work. Ken did the physical labor, Larry consulted and I supervised. "We do whatever it takes".

**PIERCE  
PROCURE-  
MENT  
WRITES**

**LOIS PATMYTHES**

### PIERCE SPONSORS PONY BASEBALL TEAM

MUSTANG-PIERCE



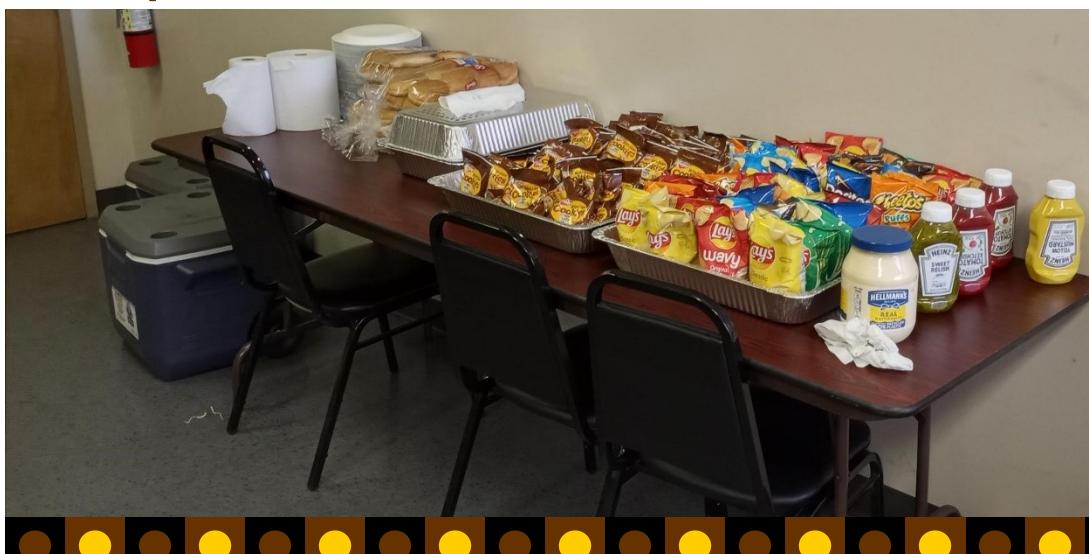
# Memphis Writes...

## OUR RECENT COOKOUT!





## Memphis Cont...



**Yum!**



The calm before the cook-out storm...



## GET TO KNOW ME!

By Nancy Montes

What's your favorite song? **Cara a Cara by Alex Campos**

What's your favorite indoor/outdoor activity? **Walking**

What was your favorite food when you were a child? **Atole de Frijol**

If you could learn to do anything, what would it be? **Sign language**

If you could choose to stay a certain age forever, what age would it be? **None**

If you could meet anyone, living and dead, who would you meet? **Jesus**

What do you want to be when you grow up? **More.**

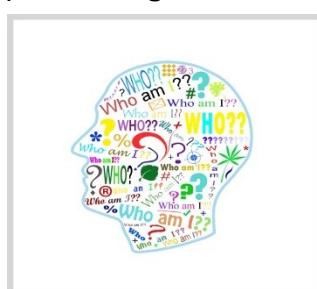
When you have 30 minutes of free time, how do you pass the time? **Watching tv**

What's the last good book you read? **The Bible**

What's your favorite TV show? **Extranormal**

When was the last time you were nervous? **10-21-20**

Do you have any pets? **4 dogs**



# Memphis Cont...

## GET TO KNOW ME!

By CaDarius McCoy

What's your favorite song? **Handle my Business** by **Migos**

What's your favorite indoor/outdoor activity? **Anything with my son**

What was your favorite food when you were a child?  
**Taco Bell**

If you could learn to do anything, what would it be? **Fly a plane or how to invest in stocks to become a millionaire**

If you could choose to stay a certain age forever, what age would it be? **27**

If you could meet anyone, living and dead, who would you meet? **Steve Jobs, Nicola Tesla, George Washington Carver, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King**

What do you want to be when you grow up? **Rich.**

When you have 30 minutes of free time, how do you pass the time? **Watching tv with my son**

What's the last good book you read? **Dr. Suess**

What's your favorite TV show? **Hell's Kitchen or The Chi**

When was the last time you were nervous? **The day I became a dad**

Do you have any pets? **Yes, a 5' long ball python**

# HELLO

My name is



## TELLTALE SIGNS YOU NEED MORE SELF CARE

- **DISORGANIZATION** Do you have trouble finding what you need when you need it? Are you chronically late to appointments? Being disorganized may be a sign that you need more self-care.
- **EXHAUSTION** Running on fumes is not sustainable. Not giving your body sufficient time to recover from the demands you place on it could result in an unexpected illness that forces you to take time off.
- **OVERWHELM** Overwhelm reduces your creativity and productivity, which can take a toll on your health.
- **ANGER** Do you have a short fuse? Stress that has not been well-managed can damage relationships and lead to chronic health conditions.



## Memphis Cont...

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Special shout out to Moore Staffing, who came out to join the fun!





## Memphis Cont...

# ATTENDANCE SO GOOD IT'S SPOOKY



For August, from left to right: Sara Stanley, Nancy Montes De Oca, Angelica Rodriguez, Mery Gonzalez



For May and June, from left to right: Mary Vargas, Sara Stanley, Andrea Salinas & Nancy Montez De Oca



## Ripley Writes...

### PARTY TIME—WE WILL MISS YOU, MILTON!



Milton Powell, 4th from left

On July 13th a "cook out" was organized to celebrate the retirement of Milton Powell. Milton has been a forklift operator for almost 11 years as he leaves to deal with some health issues. With 3 grills, volunteers prepared hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken legs & thighs, pig tails, Boston butts to the delight of over 100 Pierce/Komatsu associates at the Ripley plant. Adding to the huge meal were large containers of homemade potato salad, slaw, baked beans and more desserts than we have ever experienced. Milton was taken by surprise and appreciative of the monetary gift he received from his fellow associates. Enjoy your retirement dear friend!

**MIKE MOORE**

### DOESN'T THIS WARM YOUR HEART?



Congratulations to Ripley's Breakdown Line Lead, Donna Oliver as she welcomed her new grandchild, Adelyn Nicole Wilson, on July 13th. Ms. Adelyn Nicole Wilson is 17 inches long and weighed 6 pounds & 6 ounces. Adelyn is the daughter of Ms. Donna's son, Eric and wife Marie Wilson. She is gorgeous and is a true blessing to this sweet family!



## Ripley Cont...

### FRIENDS ON THE CORNERS & SHARING THE PROCEEDS

What does the title of this article mean? You would have to know our friend, Stephanie Gill, of Ripley's Plant 7, as she celebrated 15 years as a Pierce Family member on June 26th. Always a BIG cut-up and jokester, Stephanie keeps the Dealer Return "ladies" in laughter with her dry sense of humor as a means of making the day go faster. Dealer Return lead, Misty Kirkpatrick, can always count on Stephanie's leadership and love for her fellow workers to get the job done. Stephanie started out on 2nd shift when the plant was located in Humboldt with Todd Rice as the shift supervisor in Service Parts - moved up to the position of Label Maker. These days you will find her in our Dealer Return department. She states she, personally, has trained many Line Leads & Supervisors (you know those who make the big bucks). Through 15 years she cherishes the friendships she has made and continues to keep up with lots of associates who are no longer working with her. Away from the plant, you will find Stephanie "keeping the road hot" as she loves to travel. In fact, last week she spent the week at Orange Beach, AL, supporting her 16 year old nephew, Orlandis Ivory (her sister's son), as he played in the 16 year old Baseball World Series. And then, there's another story about pole dancing & street corners -- BUT, that's a story for another day! We love you Stephanie.



L-R: Misty Kirkpatrick, Lead & Stephanie Gill

### WATERMELON TIME IN TN

What do you do when the temperature is in the upper 90's and the Heat Index reaches 110 degrees? You try your best to keep 'em hydrated! As our plant is not air conditioned and the big ceiling fans circulate the "hot" air, it is very important to monitor our associates as we offer lots of water, lots of Gatorade, extended break time (to cool off in the air conditioned breakroom) to ENJOY cold slices of watermelon. YUM, YUM! As it is the end of July (week of July 26th) this elevated heat is not out of the norm for our area. Our leadership team keeps a sharp eye on all of our associates to monitor and make sure they take plenty breaks and drink plenty of liquids.

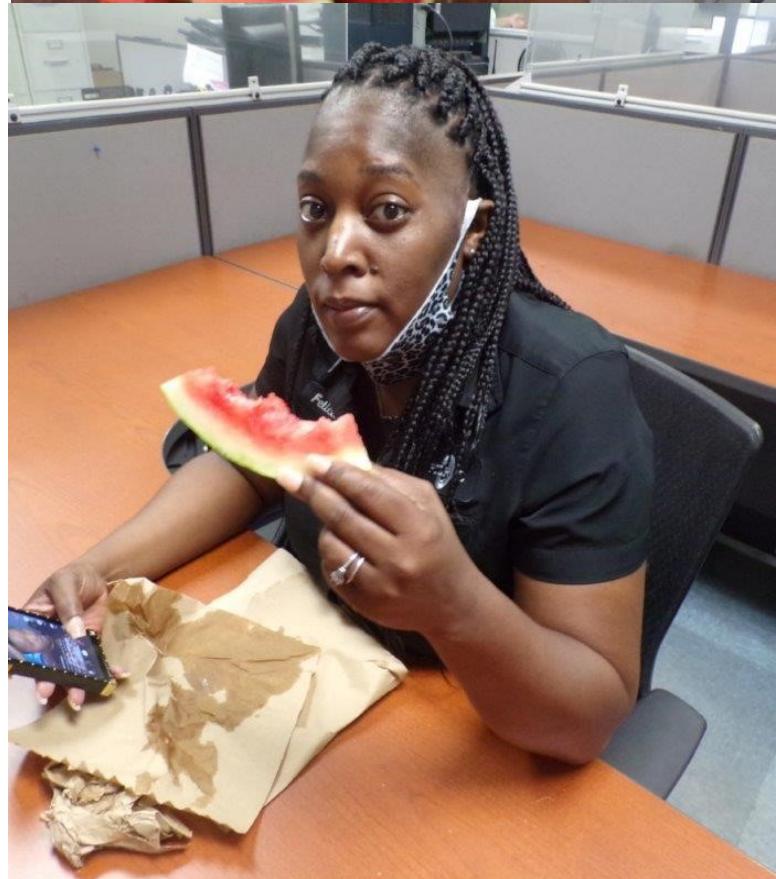


### MIKE MOORE



## Ripley Cont...

### WATERMELON TIME IN TN— more pictures!





## Ripley Cont...

### WHAT DO I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP?

Ripley's Plant 7 congratulates Balinda Hairfield as she is named Associate of the Month. Ms. Balinda serves as our Service Parts Line Lead and has been a member of the Pierce Distribution family since February 2, 2012. (She worked as temporary associate for over a year for Metro Temporary agency). Starting out in the Kits Department (with Ray Brown as her Lead), she moved on to the Service Parts area directing the everyday activities and is present most everyday one hour early to get the department organized and ready for all the challenges. Supervisor Tabitha Chandler is PROUD to have Balinda as the Line lead, she can make things happen. Balinda shares that when she came in the first day she gave herself 6 months, and now we are 9 years later and still going strong as a member of our Leadership team. "It's been fun, something new and exciting every day, always a new adventure and the opportunity to meet lots of people", says the lively Ms. Balinda. "I can remember when I was 5 or 6 years old a family member asked, What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up? Ms. Balinda (never short on her words) responding, I want to be "Fishing and Drinking". And just recently while playing a game on her cellphone,

the question re-appeared with a gorgeous picture of a 6 year old Balinda wearing a beautiful party dress, party hat, holding a glass of wine and smiling brought back fond memories of that same question." I do know Balinda loves her fishing as she and her "future ex" (long-time companion, Sammy Riley, as he always refers to himself) enjoy their lake retreat at Danville Shores (near Big Sandy) on the Tennessee River most weekends. As the "drinking" part - I will leave that part of the story for another day. Balinda is a graduate of Friendship High School, Friendship, TN, where she continues to make her home. Partner in crime, associate Gloria McDonald, chimed in about how "mean" Balinda is every day. Gloria always mentions the wonderful gift (a can of corn) she presented Balinda after Gloria's vacation to Ohio via Iowa several years ago. BUT, in Balinda's defense, Balinda continues to hold on to the can of corn as a beautiful memory of their friendship. These two need to stay away from each other! Congratulations Balinda!



Associate of the Month, Balinda Hairfield



Balinda, being congratulated by her department associates after being named Associate of the Month.

### MIKE MOORE





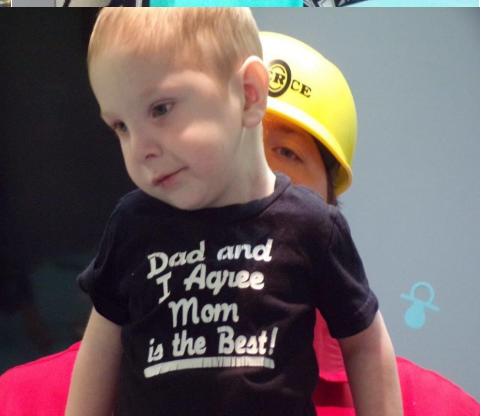
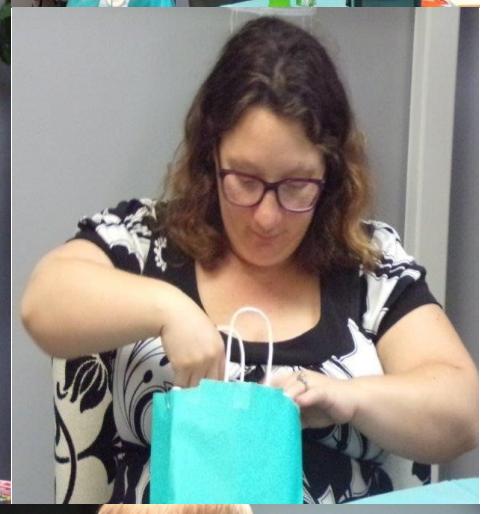
## Ripley Cont...

### BABY SHOWER FOR BABY LEO!



Ripley's Plant 7 showered our IT Specialist, William Warren, with Jessica and 3 year old big brother, Eli, as special guests, with a baby shower on Thursday, July 29th. With a beautiful decorated cake, associates enjoyed watching Will & Jessica opened the many gifts for baby Leo who is due to make his appearance any day now. A Big "Thank You" to Tracey Strawn for making this event happen for Will and his little family!

### MIKE MOORE





Ripley Cont...

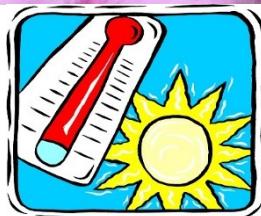
SHAVED ICE EXTRAVAGANZA!

THIS IS HOW WE ROLL IN  
RIPLEY!!!!



When the temperature gauge shows 100 degrees and the heat index is 110 degrees plus, we do what we can to keep our associates hydrated and as cool as possible. We love the Shaved Ice Barn who provided multi-flavored cups of shaved ice for all associates on August 11th. Thanks, Pierce Distribution! You Guys Rock!

MIKE MOORE



**Yum!**



## Ripley Cont...

### FALL IS FOR FOOTBALL!



**It's fall!!**

With footballs and Pom Poms - we're ready for a little football here in Ripley, TN. We support our area youth leagues, Middle & Junior High, High School and College teams! Go Team Go!!

### Homegrown Lauderdale County Tomatoes For the enjoyment of associates

In Ripley's Plant 7, we share our local homegrown tomatoes in our breakroom. This "healthy" snack is well received as the local "maters" are shipped all across the US as our Lauderdale County area celebrates with our annual "Tomato Festival". Have you ever had a tomato sandwich? Two slices of bread, a little mayo, a little salt on a couple of slices of our tomatoes = Heaven!



**MIKE MOORE**



## Ripley Cont...

### WOW! CELEBRATING 5 YEARS!

Ms. Tina has completed 5 years of employment with Pierce Distribution on August 15th. She actually started 18 month earlier as a temporary associate. We love our Ms. Tina here in Ripley as she "goes above & beyond" to keep everything neat and clean in the whole plant as our custodian. Ms. Tina is very appreciative of her Pierce watch presented to her on her anniversary.



## MIKE MOORE

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST  
WISHES!

Plant 7 in Ripley, TN bid farewell to our friend, Gloria McDonald, on August 23rd as she begins the next chapter in her life. She began her busy career with Pierce Distribution in January 2015. Working closely with Komatsu officials with daily scheduling of trucks, Ms. Gloria announced earlier this year of her plans to "enjoy retirement". We have since learned those plans included "packing up and moving" home to Kingston, Ohio to be closer to family. We will miss her tremendously, but wish her continued good health and best wishes for the days to come.

MIKE MOORE



## Ripley Cont...

## IT'S MORE THAN JUST A JOB



When Mark Strawn, Tony Strawn, Moe Jordan, and former plant manager Jay Hogan came to find Jerry, he immediately knew he was in some kind of trouble! However, to Jerry's delight, they were offering him the opportunity to be a Lead in the Woodshop department. And Jerry's response, "would I have to shave my head like you guys" to accept the new job? (Jerry says Mark Strawn is still mad about his comment.) Jerry goes on to explain that working at Pierce is more than just a job; it's my family & I love my family! I have the opportunity to work with Believers - Believers who not only talk the talk, but walk the walk. Jerry leads our morning Men's Prayer group (for over 8 years) and they have all benefitted from this daily sharing time. Jerry believes your closest friends are the ones that you shared all your emotions with and they still are your friend. "I recently lost my sister and both parents. To see my plant manager on my front porch delivering a ham to me and my family made me realize the importance of my work family". Tony Strawn is the "best boss on the face of the planet" (he's more of a brother than a boss). I am thankful that Jay, Mark, and Tony took me under their wings and made me who I am today. And to the other work crews here in Ripley, your backbone has given me backbone, I couldn't have made it without each of you. Today, you will find Jerry assisting Tracey Strawn in the Cage/Inventory department and helping all the other departments on his forklift. Congratulations Jerry - We love you bunches!

**MIKE MOORE**

## WE HAUL EVERYTHING!



In Ripley's Plant 7, Our "Big & Mighty" Pierce truck in our office lobby is loaded with Fall Pumpkins to deliver. Thanks again to Ms. Donna for her continued creativity - Fall has arrived!

## Ripley Cont...

### JUST SLOW DOWN...



Congratulations to Ms. Anne Jarnigan who celebrated 10 years with Pierce Distribution on July 5th. As we talked about her adventures at Pierce, Ms. Anne shared that she did not really think she would make it at Pierce, especially 10 years (& she had worked 2 years as a temporary associate). It seems she started out in the Dealer Return department (Judy Borgmann was her supervisor) and the work was challenging. So challenging that she quickly started receiving error slips. Soon she ended up in the office with Ms. Judy and Tracy Schmitt to discuss the numerous errors. Ms. Judy & Ms. Tracy knew Ms. Anne was more than capable of handling the job and offered the following advice, "SLOW DOWN"! Ms. Anne quickly realized they were right. Despite her nervousness, she did slow down, the error slips stopped and here it is 10 years later! Ms. Anne is thankful for her job and loves the people she works with every day, especially the people in her Service Parts department.

Can't wait to see what the next 10 years will hold for you - Congratulations Ms. Anne!

### MIKE MOORE

## KOMATSU-RIPLEY CELEBRATES 30 TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEING IN LAUDERDALE COUNTY!

Komatsu – Ripley, Parts Operations North America Region, celebrated 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being a part of Lauderdale County, TN in Ripley, TN on September 27<sup>th</sup>. General Manager, Abe Riddle, welcomed both state and local dignitaries, as well as Komatsu employees who are currently employed for 30 years or longer. Special guest also included many former Komatsu associates who had retired who have remained in the area. A cherry tree was planted on the grounds with current 30 year Komatsu veterans participating. As Pierce has been a part of the Komatsu family for over 40 years, we appreciated being recognized and certainly enjoyed the catered meal. Congratulations, Komatsu!





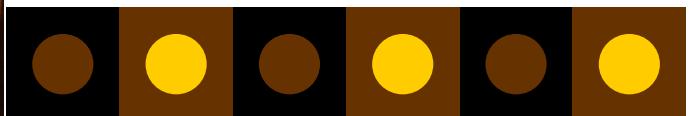
## Ripley Cont...



# CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW????

Anyone in a leadership role knows the importance of good communications skills. Ripley's Plant Manager, Mark Strawn, shares directions with Line Lead Jerry Hankins, "Can You Hear Me Now"?

# MIKE MOORE



## SHORT STUFF

Have you ever heard her say, "Stay Out of My House"? You automatically know that Dorothy Toomes is nearby! And you know she is a BIG cut-up and doesn't mean this in a bad way. She loves it when her fellow workers tell her that they have been in her house (actually, her work area) when she goes to break or meal time. Our Associate of the Month in Ripley is Ms. Dorothy Toomes who has been with Pierce Distribution since December 2019. This spry 70 year old (and no, she is not bothered by her age) is a joy to talk with and loves working with everyone, especially the folks in Service Parts. Being on the dance floor "showing off" this sweet lady in good physical shape - the much shared she grew up in an agriculture background in Haywood County, TN. And WOW - she shares 10 daughters - 10 girls & 11 boys! Dorothy is the 8th generation to be born in the same house. This work here at Pierce is EASY! Especially compared to the hard work of growing up on a farm and having to chop cotton and pick cotton. Dorothy's daughter, Regina Bledsoe (registered nurse and wife of Mike Bledsoe) and son, Thomas Toomes, Jr. of Decatur, IL, 8 granddaughters and 11 grandsons. Dorothy loves eating "Wangs" (chicken wings)! We love Dorothy and wish her the Best as our Associate of the Month.



## MIKE MOORE

## Ripley Cont...

### CELEBRATING SILVER ANNIVERSARY!



Do you remember the famous song, "Macarena"? Do you remember all the hand/body movements required to dance along with the song? Too long ago for some of you. But, Ripley's Purchasing Agent, Tracey Strawn, can give you all the words and all the dance moves to "Macarena" as it was the number one billboard song in 1996. Ms. Tracey is celebrating 25 years of employment as a Pierce Distribution associate as of October 7, 2021. She remembers Prince Charles and Lady Diana got a divorce, Mad Cow disease hit Britain, the number one movie was Independence Day, one gallon of milk was \$3.30, and one gallon of gas was \$1.23. Ms. Tracey starting out in the Receiving Office - at that time we received around 200 lines per day for Komatsu and we also serviced (packaged) another small account. Today, we receive over one million lines per month. Some 10 years later she was promoted to the position of Komatsu Representative where she worked "hand in hand" with Komatsu buyers/suppliers solving receiving problems (missing packing list, wrong parts, etc.). Some eight years ago she moved into the Purchasing Manager position as supervisor responsible for monitoring and ordering everything needed to make the plant move smoothly. Ms. Tracey states, "after completing 25 years of service, (I have experienced two plant moves and now commute two hours daily for my job), "I continue to love my job". Join me as we congratulate Tracey on a job well done - Happiest Silver Anniversary Wishes!

### MIKE MOORE

### AND THE WINNER IS: HEDDIE HENDERSON!



### MIKE MOORE

At right, : Dealer Return Associates: L-R: Rachel Langley, Misty Kirkpatrick, Stephanie Gill, Heddie Henderson - 10 Year Anniversary, Kristi Taylor & Casey Richardson



## Ripley Cont...

### GREEN IS BETTER THAN WHITE!



Congratulations to Ripley's Plant 7 associate, Billie Gaines, as she has been selected as our Associate of the Month. Her life has been a challenge. Originally from Florence, Colorado, Ms. Billie unexpectedly lost both parents at an early age in an automobile accident and was raised by grandparents. And how did she make it from the beautiful snow slopes of Colorado to the hills of Tennessee? Her sister married a military guy from Tennessee and they returned to Tennessee when his service time ended. Of course, she had to visit her sister and Ms. Billie fell in love with all the green plants, trees and especially the milder winter weather, not offered by the beauty of snowy mountains of Colorado. Thus - Green is better than White! A lover of music, any kind of music, but she leans to Pop (enjoys Radio Station FM 100) and loves to dance. The mother of 4 children (2 deceased), she enjoys family time with daughter, Michelle, and son, Paul. The biggest joy is her grandchildren, Daniel - age 12 and Elizabeth - age 13. Both grandchildren are nearby and attend the Halls Schools. Our 2nd Shift Service Department is fortunate to have Ms. Billie as a team member - "Thanks for what you do"!

**MIKE MOORE**



Above: Tabitha Chandler, Balinda Hairfield, Mark Powell & Donna Oliver

**GOD IS GOOD!**

What a fun interview with Mark Powell as he celebrated his 10 year work anniversary on October 17, 2021. Mark started as a temp 11.5 years ago in the Humboldt plant and lasted only 4 days in Label Only before being "stolen" by Woodshop's Lead Jerry Hankins. Mark and his Ripley gang, Tony Strawn, Jerry Hankins, To Joe (Terry Johnson), Jeff Graves & Jack Hart, were inseparable for 7 years as he worked on the chop saw in Woodshop, did a little packing, before moving to the Bailer and now, he is our beloved Forklift Operator in Service Parts. His best buddy now has become Lead, Balinda Hairfield. And oh, oh, oh, you should hear their lively conversations over the radio as they carry out plans in the Service Parts arena. "Thank you Lord for my job and friends at Pierce Distribution, but my greatest accomplishment is my teenage son - a gift from God! Yes, God is Good! Congratulations, Mark - we are PROUD of you!"

**MIKE MOORE**



## Ripley Cont...

### P-E-R-S-E-V-E-R-A-N-C-E

On September 15th, Plant 7 in Ripley, Tennessee, recognized Ray Brown as he celebrated his 15 year of employment with Pierce Distribution. Presenting Ray with his certificate and gift was his Woodshop Supervisor, Tony Strawn. Tony had nothing but "praise & admiration" for his buddy, Ray. Together, these two guys provide the leadership to make the Woodshop Department a success as they work together as a team. Ray shared that "perseverance" is the key to his success as he enjoys all the guys in the department and considers them "brothers"! AMEN! Congratulations Ray, we are proud to have you as a member of our leadership team here in Ripley!



### MIKE MOORE



Plant 7 congratulates our "Mr. IT", Will Warren, as he celebrates his 5 year work anniversary on September 12th.





## Ripley Cont...

## YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!!



Janice Rice & Mark Strawn

### WHITE GOLD



In Lauderdale County in Ripley, TN (our western border is the Mississippi River), we see the beautiful cotton fields of our agriculture mainstay as we travel to and from work each day. Our locals are observant and allow our farm equipment "the right of way" as they travel from one field to the other as harvest season is upon us! What a sight!

You've come a long way Baby! Born in Forrest City, Arkansas and soon crossed the mighty Mississippi River to Brazil, TN, Janice Rice has seen a lot and learned a lot as she celebrates 15 years of employment at Pierce Distribution in Ripley, TN. Her journey began on October 30, 2006, when the plant was located in the Three Way community near Humboldt (Gibson County). Ms. Janice started in the Tokyo department, moved to Service Parts and then to Breakdown. She was the perfect fit in Quality Control and later became the QC Lead and later as Lead in Breakdown, all on first shift. In the middle of all this work she even found a husband - the love of her life, Todd Rice. (Todd was also employed by Pierce). I will never forget their wedding date of May 12, 2012, as I was traveling to their wedding as an invited guest, I was involved in a traffic accident that totaled out my vehicle. They got married without me! Janice & Todd have a son, Timothy, who is a Senior at Gibson County High School this year that keeps the couple busy. Janice loves all kinds of music, but during football season, she is cheering on her favorite team - the Chicago Bears! Janice is presently serving as our Back-Up Floor Supervisor on 2nd shift. She states working at Pierce has been interesting, she has learned a lot and met life-long friends. She is ready for the challenges of the next 15 years! Thanks Janice - We are PROUD of you!

### MIKE MOORE



MIKE MOORE



## Ripley Cont...

BECAUSE WE CARE!!

Ripley's Plant 7 observed breast care awareness day on Friday, October 22nd, with associates dressed in the appropriate PINK! Our associate, Stefan Curtis, proudly wears his "real men wear pink" shirt to the delight of fellow associates. A great day for all participants!



**MIKE MOORE**

L-R: Rachel Langley, Stephanie Gill, Misty Kirkpatrick, Stefan Curtis & Heddie Henderson





## Ripley Cont...



BECAUSE WE CARE!!



OCTOBER IS  
breast cancer  
awareness month  
Perform self-breast exams  
monthly and get screened!