

# Republic

From A11

Borrowing \$5,000 from his two librarian sisters, he moved from Ohio to Davenport and opened his distribution company.

During the early years, the company installed more than 12,500 Delco generators across the Midwest. The Delco Light Plants were a 32-volt system for rural electrification. In fact, one of the original generators is on display at Republic — alongside a Frigidaire, with sign that says the generator had been installed on a farm near Manlius, Ill., in November 1916.

Back then, “there was electricity in the larger communities but no power out in rural America,” Kilmer said.

Republic’s business flourished from the sale of Delco Light Plants until the creation of Rural Electrification Act in the 1930s made the light generators obsolete. Republic shifted focus to and selling and pioneering mechanical refrigeration and air conditioning in the Midwest. It became a distributor for Frigidaires, and other small kitchen appliances such as the iron and mixer.

With its proximity to the Mississippi River, Republic found a market in equipping steamboats with commercial refrigeration, and then introduced mechanical refrigeration for the home. In the 1950s, with the advent of window air conditioning and later central air, the company became the largest distributor of residential heating and cooling equipment in the region, Kilmer said.

The company moved to its present-day location in the mid 1940s. Its main headquarters is the former Gordon Van Tine warehouse — painted the company’s signature red, like its truck fleet. Over the years, Republic expanded to



JEFF COOK, QUAD-CITY TIMES

Charles Jones, getting equipment from a warehouse is one of the 82 employees of Republic Companies.

neighboring buildings, including the former Standard Oil warehouse across the street from its headquarters at 737 Charlotte St.

## Leadership changes

Joe Kimmel Jr. joined the company in the late 1940s after serving in World War II as a pilot, flying in the Hump in the China-Burma-India theater. He assumed the company’s presidency in the late 1960s.

During his tenure, the younger Kimmel was very active in the Quad-City community, serving on the Davenport Bank board and doing many “good deeds under the radar.” He was part of the group who brought an Aerorama air show to the Quad-City Airport on its 50th anniversary in 1972. The event was a precursor of the Quad-City Air Show.

Kilmer joined the company in 1984 when he and his wife returned to the Quad-Cities from San Francisco, where he worked for Standard Oil. He was named Republic’s president in 1998. Joe Kimmel Jr. died in 2002.

Kilmer, whose late father, Forrest J. Kilmer, began his journalism career in 1939 at age 18 as a cub reporter for the Morning Democrat and retired in 1986 as

## A year of celebration

To mark its 100th anniversary, the Davenport-based Republic Companies has a host of activities and charitable efforts planned in 2016.

President Mark Kilmer said the milestone will include a “big charity push” for Handicapped Development Center, or HDC, a nonprofit that is near and dear to Republic. Company founder Joseph Kimmel Sr. launched what first was known as a sheltered workshop to provide work for the handicapped. It evolved into HDC.

The company also plans to designate other 100-year charities for support, including Make-A-Wish. In partnership with its contractor customers, it will make a few wishes come true.

In March, Republic will host 150 to 200 mechanical dealers for summit in Bettendorf.

editor of the Quad-City Times, said the company has grown to include satellite offices in Cedar Rapids and Dubuque. In 2014, it expanded to Peoria, with the acquisition of HVAC distributor Yoemans.

## Family nature

Maintaining the family culture at Republic is paramount to Kilmer, who proudly showed off a Wall of Fame featuring photographs of the employees’ children at the headquarters.

At each company annual meeting, the presentation shows a Biblical passage from Luke 12:48: “To whom much is given, much is expected.”

To encourage volunteerism, Republic offers flex time off for employees. “We want them to be involved in the community and their children’s activities,” Kilmer said. He proudly points out that at one time Republic had three of Assumption High School’s head

Kilmer said the company will continue to promote wellness and fitness among its employees. Republic pays the entry fees for its employees to participate in any local runs and walks.

A customer celebration is slated for mid September at the iWireless Center, Moline.

Employees also will conduct a couple of food-packing events to assist Riverbend Food Bank with its backpack program, which sends food home each week to schoolchildren who are in need. Next fall, it also will continue its Coats for Kids program. Partnering with Burke Cleaners, it collects coats from its offices and customer’s locations to donate to area charities.

“Giving back is so important for the culture here,” Kilmer said.

coaches on staff, including the girls’ soccer coach who led them to three titles.

Kilmer said the company is a strong supporter of a number of community organizations, including Handicapped Development Center, Make-A-Wish, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Quad-Cities YMCA, Camp Hand-in-Hand, Junior Achievement, Figge Art Museum, Putnam Museum, Special Olympics and Kiwanis. He serves on the board of Quad-City Bank & Trust, St. Ambrose University and Genesis Health System.

The family atmosphere is one of the reasons that employees like Linda Martin stay with the company. Martin has spent her entire career at Republic. With 40 years at the company in June, she is the longest-serving current employee.

Now in accounts payable, she has worked in many positions over the years, including billing. “I was in charge of the first computer we

## Top Ten tenured Republic employees

Longevity is not a rare occurrence at Republic Companies, which itself is celebrating a century in business.

The longest tenured employees are:

Linda Martin, Accounts Payable, 40 years

Tom Wagner, chief operating officer, 34 years

Mark Kilmer, president, 32 years

Chris Pinkerton, administrative assistant, 30 years

Clark Reese, Receiving and Inventory Control, 29 years

Rick Cudd, vice president, Commercial Products, 27 years

Dave Riese, regional operations manager, 23 years

Guy Pauley, vice president, 22 years

Ray Burroughs, Delivery Services, 21 years

John Schlader, Electrical Sales, 19 years.

ever had,” recalled Martin, of Davenport. “It didn’t take long before it got way beyond me.”

“It’s been a great place to work,” she said. “You are not a number. You are a person.”

Although she was considering retirement, she said it would be difficult to leave and not see her friends each day. “I care about these people, I’ve known some of these people 30 years.” In fact, she met her late husband, Bob, when they both worked there.

The family culture “comes very natural to us,” Kilmer said. “The whole culture is pretty unique — to have a third generation business today with how competitive (the industry) is. Through my father-in-law, I learned if you take great care of your employees, they’ll take great care of the customers. It seems to be a winning formula.”

# Achievements

## Ruhl&Ruhl Realtors Announces Sales Production Achievements

Caroline Ruhl, President of Ruhl&Ruhl Realtors, is pleased to announce that **Jane Bauman, Diane Nelson and Lonna Woods** of the Nelson/Woods Team and **Sharon Tahere** of the Bettendorf Office, **Dan Dolan** of the Davenport Office and **Candy Shamsie** of the Moline Office have achieved Bronze Club.

For more information, visit [RuhlHomes.com](http://RuhlHomes.com).



Jane Bauman



Diane Nelson and Lonna Woods



Sharon Tahere



Dan Dolan



Candy Shamsie

## Mark E Mayeski of Edward Jones Receives Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor® Designation

Mark E Mayeski of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Rock Island has achieved the professional designation of Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor®.

Mayeski successfully completed the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor, or CRPC®, Professional Education Program from the Denver based College for Financial Planning. Those who complete the program, pass a final exam and sign a code of ethics and disclosure form earn the CRPC® designation.

This advanced training program focuses on the pre- and post-retirement needs of individuals. Study topics include principles of retirement planning, sources of retirement income, employer-sponsored plans, deferred compensation plans, plan distributions, investment strategies during retirement and planning for incapacity, disability and long-term care.

The Edward Jones office is located at 2524 18th Ave Suite 2, Rock Island, IL 61201-4735. Visit us at [www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com).



Mark E Mayeski

## Wintrust Mortgage Announces Retail Recruit of the Year

Senior Mortgage Loan Professional, **Christy Schnackel**, NMLS #152401, was recently named Wintrust Mortgage’s Retail Recruit of the Year. 2016 marks Christy’s 30th year in the mortgage business.

A lifelong Quad City resident, she grew up in East Moline, IL and now resides in Davenport, IA with her husband, David Schnackel. Between the two of them, they have 5 grown children and 2 grandchildren. They love spending quality time with the family as well as traveling in their spare time.

Christy is a past President of the Iowa Mortgage Association (IMA) at the State Level and was one of the first to receive her ICMP (Iowa Certified Mortgage Professional) designation from the IMA. She was also the first Business Partner (non-Realtor) in the Quad Cities to receive the Community Service Award from the Illinois Quad City Area Realtor Association in 2011.

Congratulations Christy on a job well done!

To recognize accomplishments at your business, please email us at [classifieds@qctimes.com](mailto:classifieds@qctimes.com) or call 563-383-2417

## Local 25 Plumbers and Pipefitters 2015 Apprentice of the Year

James Greer

### 2015 Honor Roll (+94.5%)

Devin Bearbower, Tyler Betcher, Chris Bowman, James Greer, Jared Gugeler, Jim Pacha, Mike Paulus, Matt Petit, Greg Stigner

## New Employee at MindFire

**Brianna Aust** has joined MindFire Communications as a Marketing Arsonist. Bri is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa.



Brianna Aust

## Dr. Nicolas W Shammias, MD, MS, FACC Elected as Next American College of Cardiology Governor for Iowa for the 2017-2020 term.

Congratulations to **Dr. Nicolas W Shammias**, MD on this accomplishment of being elected as the next ACC Governor for Iowa for the 2017-2020 three-year term. As of 2016, Dr. Shammias will be considered the Governor-elect through March of 2017. “This is quite an honor”, Dr Shammias said. “It signifies the respect and high trust of my colleagues in me. It is a great but awesome responsibility and I am sure I will be ready for it”. Serving the Iowa community has been Dr Shammias’ passion. For over 20 years in the Quad Cities as part of Cardiovascular Medicine, PC he has brought state of the art technology and education to his peers and the public. Dr Shammias brought the first PFO Closure for stroke prevention to the Quad Cities over 14 years ago, performed the first LARIAT procedure for stroke prevention in Iowa in patients who cannot tolerate anticoagulants, and did the first EKOS assisted treatment for pulmonary embolus in Iowa. With his experience in structural heart disease, he was able to bring Transcatheter Valve Replacement (TAVR) to the community along with several other CVM team members and Genesis surgeons. In 1996 he established the first cardiovascular research program at Genesis to complement existing electrophysiology research and later established the Midwest Cardiovascular Research Foundation in 2012, an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit research and educational foundation. The Foundation, now nationally recognized has participated in over 200 national clinical research trials, published 3 books for the public to educate them about heart and vascular disease and general wellness and initiated Cardiovascular Interventions and Practice Guidelines, a regional cardiovascular educational conference in 2004. Along with other conferences, the Foundation educated thousands of health care professionals over the past 14 years. Over 150 publications in scientific journals have appeared from MCRF, including 7 chapters in different books including the Bhatt Endovascular Companion of Braunwald Heart Disease and the Raket Textbook of Medicine, both considered major references worldwide. Dr Shammias has been a reviewer and served on the editorial board of numerous medical journals and has been the section editor of Advances in Vein Therapies of the Journal of Invasive Cardiology. He also has an Executive Juris Doctor degree from Concord Law School with a focus on Health Law. He is Board certified in Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology, Vascular Medicine and Endovascular Medicine. “I am looking forward to work with the cardiology community in Iowa and represent their needs and opinions at the ACC national level,” Dr Shammias noted.



Dr. Nicolas W Shammias

“My interest has been in guidelines implementation, education and research to enhance patients’ safety and quality of care. Preventative care and access to cost-effective medicine are crucial for optimal population health.”

The American College of Cardiology is a medical specialty society comprised of 39,000 members, with local chapters in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and the US Uniformed Services. The ACC is a leader in the formulation of health policy, standards and guidelines. It provides professional education and operates national registries for the measurement and improvement of quality care used by healthcare professionals around the world. For more information, visit the American College of Cardiology website at <http://www.acc.org>

## Sauk Valley Bank Announces New Vice President

Sauk Valley Bank announced that **Dean Kraus** is now the Vice President of Commercial Lending. Dean will be working primarily in the Bettendorf community where he is responsible for negotiating and coordinating the closing of equipment, building and business loans. Dean appreciates working with businesses to help them grow, become more efficient as an operation, as well as assisting them to overcome challenges that face their business. Dean also has knowledge in home mortgage and likes helping people find the best loan that meets their needs when it comes to refinancing or purchasing a property. Dirk Meminger, President and CEO of Sauk Valley Bank, “Dean’s experience over the last decade in various facets of banking has positioned him to be an ideal addition to the Commercial Lending team.” An active community member, Dean currently is involved in the Bettendorf Rotary, Quad Cities Chamber and Junior Achievement. Dean and his wife and two kids live in Bettendorf.



Dean Kraus

## Local Kunau Implement Recognized with Kubota Premier Award of Excellence

Kubota Tractor Corporation is pleased to honor Kunau Implement, located in Preston and DeWitt, Iowa with Kubota’s Premier Award of Excellence as part of the company’s prestigious dealership certification program. The certification program was created by Kubota’s senior leadership team in conjunction with its National Dealer Advisory Board to recognize dealers around the country that are providing customers with the “ultimate Kubota experience” from top quality equipment, to sales and financing, customer satisfaction and best in class service.

“Whether it is landscapers, contractors or large property owners, today’s customers expect equipment dealers to be top-notch, full-service partners. Kubota’s Award of Excellence program recognizes dealers that are already there, meeting and exceeding customers’ expectations,” says Todd Stucke, vice president, sales, marketing and product support for Kubota. “Simply put, they are our very best, and they’ve set the bar high. For that, we thank and applaud them.”

Unique to Kubota’s Award of Excellence program is its designation criteria. The advisory board and Kubota worked together to narrow down the criteria to core elements related to customer sales and service support excellence, that are the absolute most critical for longevity, segment growth and overall business success.

In order to be recognized with a Kubota Premier Award of Excellence a dealership must meet all requirements and achieve at least an 80 percent compliance percentage of the all the core elements.

“This is the inaugural year of Kubota’s Award of Excellence program and it is already setting a high standard that will pave the way for sustained growth and market segment leadership,” Ray Villarreal, Kubota director of dealer development adds. “We have built a strong reputation for top quality on the manufacturing level and this award recognizes that Kunau Implement is delivering on the Kubota promise before, during and after the sale.

## About Kubota Tractor Corporation

Kubota Tractor Corporation, Torrance, Calif., is the U.S. marketer and distributor of Kubota-engineered and manufactured machinery and equipment, including a complete line of tractors of up to 170 Gross hp, performance-matched implements, compact and utility-class construction equipment, consumer lawn and garden equipment, hay tools and spreaders, commercial turf products and utility vehicles. For product literature or dealer locations, contact: Kubota Tractor Corporation, 3401 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503 or visit [www.kubota.com](http://www.kubota.com).



Todd Kunau and Staff