



**ST. PAUL, May 23/For immediate release/--** Leroy Zipko of Smyth Companies, Inc. has been honored with Hormel Foods' "Partner in Quality" award. This award is given to employees of Hormel suppliers who demonstrate a quality attitude in their relationship with Hormel Foods, and who go "above and beyond" to help Hormel achieve its quality goals.

Mr. Zipko has provided sales and customer service to Hormel on behalf of Smyth for over 25 years. He began his relationship with the Hormel when he worked for Mower House Color Graphics, a division of Smyth, located in Austin, Minnesota very near the Hormel corporate headquarters. Mower House produced labels and other printed materials for Hormel. "Zip," as he is affectionately known, became a fixture around Hormel, always making sure the company was being served well in its relationship with Smyth.



*Brad Lindberg, Leroy Zipko, and Kathy Hines*

"It has always been a pleasure to work with Mr. Zipko," said Kathy Hines of Hormel's purchasing department. "He has provided services over and above the scope of his job in many circumstances."

Hines cites an example of Zipko's willingness to go the extra mile to make sure Hormel received product on time. "A couple of instances involved him loading labels into the trunk of his car and driving them to our plant in Beloit, Wisconsin so they could meet their schedule."

Brad Lindberg of Hormel's Corporate Purchasing department presented Zipko with a plaque and a gift during a ceremony held April 14 at Smyth's Blazer facility in Austin. Zipko is the latest in a line of Smyth employees who have won the award, including John Giuliani, VP Sales, Julie Wollenberg, Sr. Customer Service Rep., and Jesse Medgaarden, Mgr. Print Services.

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