It’s the thought that counts

During this holiday season, if you received a gift and your facial expression confessed that you were less than pleased, we typically hear, “Well, it’s the thought that counts.” The origin of this phrase comes from, “It is not the gift, but the thought that counts,” penned by Henry van Dyke (1852 – 1933), an American author, poet, diplomat, and theologian. Van Dyke was a professor of literature at Princeton University, served as a U.S. ambassador in the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and was given prestigious positions and honors during his lifetime.

While none of us at Carmeuse Lime & Stone have Professor Van Dyke’s credentials or his ability to turn a phrase, we nonetheless appreciate the gifts we have in the talented men and women who work for our company and we want to share some thoughts that we have about them.

These are some of the same thoughts that we shared with our employees at the company holiday party on Dec. 8. The evening began with a moment of silence to honor Tom Adams, a dedicated employee who passed away on Dec. 6. The employees remembered the man who some were closer to than their own family. After all, many of us spend more time with people at work than any other place.

The evening continued as new hires and transfers were recognized and welcomed into the Carmeuse family. Employees working 40, 30, 20, and 10 years without a lost-time accident were recognized -- and for good reason. Among them were Hubert Nickoson and Jimmie Jones, who have worked more than 40 years without a single lost-time accident.

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The motivation behind why these employees intensely value safety in their workplace was revealed when newlyweds and births were announced at the party. “That’s why we work hard to keep our workplace safe, each of us have something precious to go home to at the end of the day,” said Eric Caba, Carmeuse’s Area Operations Manager for Kentucky.

Recognition of teams, such as the Mine Rescue Team followed, and all employees were reminded of all the thought that goes into being a valuable member of a team. The night ended with karaoke and dancing, which some employees put more thought into than others.

The Carmeuse holiday party helped us to shine light on our employees, who regularly put thought into their work, their loved ones, and their community, going beyond the call of duty to do such things as helping tornado victims clean up after the storm, conducting a toy drive to support the Women’s Crisis Center in Maysville, and many other charitable and civic gifts they provide to our community.

Henry van Dyke was also known for another famous quote: “Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love — time is eternity.”

Carmeuse North America is a leading company, specializing in manufacturing and supplying lime and limestone products for diverse applications in steel manufacturing, power generation, road construction and land development, the building industry, water treatment, waste treatment, oil and gas drilling, and chemical treatments. Carmeuse products benefit the environment in a variety of ways including cleaner air, cleaner water, and the preservation of land resources. Staffed by over to 2,000 people, Carmeuse has 28 plants that supply and serve most of the USA and Eastern Canada.

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