Albert Berner Celebrates His 80th Birthday

Künzelsau, July 13, 2015: This morning businessman Albert Berner celebrated his 80th birthday in Künzelsau with an emotional ceremony. In a small circle his family, friends, and acquaintances as well as representatives from the worlds of politics and administration congratulated him on eight decades of his life’s work.

About 80 guests enjoyed a stimulating, entertaining program on July 13 together with Albert Berner, celebrating the businessman’s 80th birthday at the company headquarters at Garnberg. Rather than having a grand gala, it was important to the jubilarian to have others share in his success. By now the children’s festival that takes place on the entrepreneur’s big birthdays has become a tradition. This year he even invited guests to children’s parties at all European locations of the Berner Group.

Honoring a special lifetime achievement
Albert Berner, chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Berner Group since 1998, was at the helm of the business group for many decades. In October 2012, he passed on a billion-euro corporation with about 9,000 employees to the next generation. “I wanted to hand my children a sound company,” was how Albert Berner put it today, visibly happy. His life’s work started very small. And so his son and successor, Christian A. W. Berner, honored his father’s work in an emotional speech and with a very special present: a
film took the jubilarian, his family, and the guests on an exciting journey through the most important stations in the life of Albert Berner. Without realizing it he had become the authentic narrator of his own eventful life. “We had Mr. Berner interviewed, leading him to believe that it was a radio report,” revealed Thomas Zimmerling, press spokesman of the Berner Group.

Ursula Berner provided a special surprise: she gave her husband a piece of Europe. The “Dein Theater” group with Ella Werner as Europe and Gesine Keller as Calliope guided the spectators across the continent in an entertaining way – with a unique repertoire of European folksongs, impressive pictures, and a brief tour of the continent’s past and present.

Aside from the family and the Hohenlohe County Commissioner, the congratulants included the president of the Rotary Club Künzelsau-Öhringen and the mayor of the City of Künzelsau. The latter brought a very special present: employees of Berner and BTI congratulated the jubilarian along with the City of Künzelsau and Stefan Neumann in a film lasting exactly 80 seconds.

**Children’s party in Künzelsau and all of Europe**

Honorary citizen Albert Berner let the entire city of Künzelsau, but especially its youngest residents, share in his success: on the occasion of his big birthday he organized a large children’s party on Wertwiesenplatz in Künzelsau on July 18. “In the old days there used to be a consul who organized such a party every few years. I wanted to revive that. At my children’s festival I was 14 years old,
it was a big event,” the businessman recalls. Jointly with the pre-
schools and schools of Künzelsau and surroundings, which were
actively involved in organizing the event, visitors were in for a col-
orful mix of education, fun, and games.

However, the entrepreneur invited not only children in the town in
Hohenlohe County: the individual companies of the Berner Group
are organizing children’s festivals in the spirit of their sponsor at all
of the corporation’s European locations. They range from social
barbecues to visits to amusement parks, to family and children’s
parties. The little ones may celebrate Albert Berner in many differ-
ent ways throughout Europe. Some children’s festivals already took
place at the end of June, and others have been scheduled for the
fall.

About Albert Berner
Albert Berner, the founder and chairman of the Supervisory Board
of the Berner Group, celebrated his 80th birthday on July 12. On
April 1, 1957, at age 21, he opened a small screw store in a gar-
age on the banks of the Kocher. His seed capital: an old car and
3,000 deutsche marks. Today the Berner Group, which includes the
Berner, Caramba, and BTI Business Units, is one of the major
players in the European MRO (maintenance, repair, and opera-
tions) market, with about 9,000 employees throughout Europe.