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Lansing Branch Wins EMC Challenge Cup for Best Operating Performance

DES MOINES, Iowa (July 1, 2014) — The EMC Lansing Branch has been presented with the Hynes-Gunn Challenge Cup, which recognizes the EMC branch office with the best operating performance.

Resident Vice President and Lansing Branch Manager Gary Pingel accepted the 2014 Hynes-Gunn trophy at the EMC branch managers meeting in Dallas. "Hearing Lansing named as the recipient of the award was a thrilling moment and one I will never forget," he says. "I only wish each branch employee could have stood beside me as the award was presented. It's only through their dedicated effort we were able to be recognized as this year's honoree."

Recognizing a Long History of Underwriting and Claims Teamwork

This recognition represents the profitable partnership between underwriting and claims and is awarded annually to the branch office with the best operating performance based on a calculation of the previous one-year and three-year results. "Successful branch offices are vital to the success of our organization," says Bruce Kelley, EMC president and CEO. "We believe very strongly in recognizing the branch office staff that does the best for the year."

The Challenge Cup was named after John A. Gunn, the founder of Employers Mutual Casualty Association of Iowa, and John F. Hynes, one of the first executives in the company who established EMC's strong claim reserving tradition. Together, Hynes and Gunn represented the spirit of cooperation and teamwork behind underwriting and claims necessary to be a successful insurance company, thus the name Hynes-Gunn Challenge Cup.

While with the Iowa Manufacturers Association, Gunn was instrumental in getting EMC chartered, organized and up and running. Gunn's roles within EMC included president from 1911 to 1940 and a board of directors member from 1930 to 1941. John A. Gunn was succeeded by his son, John W. Gunn, who served as president for 13 years and chairman for more than 10 years.

John F. Hynes, an attorney, began his EMC career as secretary of the company in 1920 and ended it when he retired as chairman of the board in 1962. Hynes served the company for 44 years: 37 years as a director, 20 years as secretary, 7 years as vice president, 10 years as president and 5 years as chairman. In his entire career, he never missed a board meeting.

About EMC Insurance Companies

EMC Insurance Companies is among the top 50 insurance organizations in the country based on net

written premium, with assets over \$3 billion and more than 2,100 employees. The company was organized in 1911 to write workers' compensation protection in Iowa. Today, EMC provides property and casualty insurance products and services throughout the United States and writes reinsurance contracts worldwide. Operating under the trade name EMC Insurance Companies, Employers Mutual Casualty Company and one or more of its affiliated companies is licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit www.emcins.com and www.CountonEMC.com.

Photo caption:

Left to right: Kevin Hovick, executive vice president and COO; Ron Jean, executive vice president for corporate development; Gary Pingel, resident vice president and Lansing Branch manager; Bruce Kelley, president and CEO; Jason Bogart, senior vice president/branch operations.

