



Sonoco Board Names New Director

February 15, 1999

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Feb. 15 /PRNewswire/ -- C.D. Spangler, Jr., Charlotte, N.C., has been elected unanimously by the Sonoco (NYSE: SON) Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term on the Board of Directors of James C. Fort, who has reached the mandatory retirement age of 72, it was announced today by Charles W. Coker, Chairman. Mr. Spangler's election as a director is effective February 15, 1999. He has also been nominated by the board of Directors for election at the annual meeting of shareholders in April 1999 to fulfill the remainder of Mr. Fort's unexpired term.

"We at Sonoco are particularly pleased that Dick Spangler has agreed to join our Board of Directors. He has played a major role in the growth and development of the Carolinas', both as a public servant and business leader. His business successes are well known and we look forward to the perspective and guidance he brings as Sonoco moves into its next 100 years of operation," said Mr. Coker.

"I am delighted to join the Board of Directors of one of the Carolinas' oldest and most prestigious companies. I have long been an admirer of Sonoco's record of continuous growth and its management team. It is particularly gratifying to be joining the Sonoco Board during their Centennial year," stated Mr. Spangler.

Mr. Spangler, Chairman of the Board of National Gypsum Company, Charlotte, N.C., is the former President of the University of North Carolina. He presently serves as a director of BellSouth Corporation, a member of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College and serves on the Smithsonian National Board. He has received numerous honorary degrees and public recognition for his community service.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mr. Spangler received his MBA at Harvard Business School.

Sonoco, founded in 1899, is a \$2.5 billion manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products with approximately 275 operations in 32 countries serving customers in some 85 nations.

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