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American Enterprise Group Unveils Renovation of Historic Headquarters with Official Ceremony

Event signals the completion of the downtown Des Moines building's \$30 million renovations and celebration of its 50th anniversary

DES MOINES, Iowa – American Enterprise Group, Inc. (AEG) today celebrated the completion of historic renovations to its headquarters at 601 Sixth Avenue in Des Moines with a special open house. The official ceremony included remarks by Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, Des Moines City Councilwoman Christine Hensley, Mary Cownie, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs director. The event marks a milestone in the building's 50-year history and signifies AEG's long-term commitment to remaining headquartered downtown.

"We are proud to share our newly renovated company headquarters and pleased to celebrate the successful completion of this project," said Mike Abbott, executive chairman of American Enterprise Group. "So many people have worked together to make this vision a reality, and I thank them for their dedication. The organization has called downtown Des Moines home for nearly a century, and with this renovation, we look forward to many years to come."

The iconic eight-story structure was designed by renowned American architect Gordon Bunshaft, a leading proponent of modern design in the mid-twentieth century. The building has been nominated for international architectural significance and is in the final stage of being added to the National Register of Historic Places. The federal designation will signify national recognition of the building's historic and architectural significance.

AEG and the project team worked with state and federal agencies to ensure the historical significance of the structure was preserved through the renovations. The 125,000-square-foot structure was renovated with advanced HVAC and life-safety systems integration. BNIM Iowa, the renovation design firm, and the general contractor, Ryan Companies, incorporated new systems while respecting the original design and unique characteristics of the building.

"Our goal in the renovation was to retain the building's historic features while bringing the interior workplace into the future," said AEG President and Chief Executive Officer Tom Swank. "We have succeeded in creating a more efficient and state-of-the-art environment that will allow us to expand for future growth and serve our employees and policy holders."

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The renovation upgrades and features of the building include:

- Full replacement of all building infrastructure from heating, cooling, and plumbing to elevators and lighting;
- The brand-new HVAC system was custom built with a unique design to not only match the look of the building's original ductwork but to accommodate for the new sprinkler system that sits right on top;
- Occupancy sensors throughout the building will turn off lights in offices and conference rooms and return HVAC to preset levels if no one is detected after 30 minutes to save energy;
- High-efficiency LED lights, which have a lifespan of about 50,000 hours, will adjust their brightness depending on the amount of indirect light is coming in from the windows;
- Custom designed mid-century modern furniture, original to the building in 1965, has been restored, refinished and reinstalled;
- Nearly 400 pieces of contemporary art—a collection started in the 1960s as a way to enliven the building's simplistic modern design—were stored offsite during the renovation. The collection has been reinstalled throughout the building's public spaces, conference rooms, employee spaces, private offices and AEG Sculpture Park.

AEG will showcase the newly renovated building and art collection to the general public with an open house on Sunday, August 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Art docents and informational handouts will be available. The open house event allows the public access to specific floors and to the majority of the art collection by Andy Warhol, Claus Oldenberg, Michael Pavlosky, Frank Gardner, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Ivan Chermayeff, Peter Chinni, Jack Youngerman, John Salt, Jean Arp, among others.

American Enterprise Group currently employs approximately 330 people in the Des Moines metro area. The building renovation provides more efficient space that will allow for the company's growth plans to add 146 new jobs by 2017.

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About American Enterprise Group, Inc.

American Enterprise Group, Inc. is an insurance holding company consisting of American Republic Insurance Company, American Republic Corp Insurance Company, Medico Insurance Company, Medico Corp Life Insurance Company and Medico Life and Health Insurance Company. American Enterprise is licensed in 49 states plus the District of Columbia and has more than 15,000 career and independent agents that sell and service its products. For more information, please visit: www.americanenterprise.com.