

Press Releases

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OTS 98-41 - OTS Approves Thrift Charter for Hillenbrand Industries

Office of Thrift Supervision

NEWS

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FOR RELEASE at 1:45 p.m. EDT

For further information

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OTS 98-41

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OTS Approves Thrift Charter for Hillenbrand Industries

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 22, 1998 - The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) today granted a federal thrift charter to Hillenbrand Industries, Inc. and Forethought Financial Services, Batesville, Ind., with powers limited to providing certain trust services and taking deposits related to the trust services or to the sale of burial insurance.

Hillenbrand is one of the nation's largest funeral supply and health equipment leasing companies, and Forethought is its financing arm. Both become thrift holding companies with the approval.

The new institution, Forethought Federal Savings Bank, located in Batesville, will offer pre-need funeral trusts and will market the trusts nationwide through funeral directors who are independent of Hillenbrand. The trusts will be marketed as an alternative product to burial insurance, which will continue to be offered by Forethought Financial.

The thrift will not solicit or accept deposits from the public. It will engage in deposit taking activities limited, under the terms of the order, to acceptance of deposits of commission income earned by funeral directors and agents of an affiliated life insurance company or through the sale of the funeral trusts.

As a condition of granting the charter, OTS requires Forethought Federal to obtain its approval before engaging in any business activity beyond that covered in the current order. OTS will

consider any application to engage in any new activity under the procedures, standards and tests required of a new federal thrift charter, including, but not limited to, the public notice and comment procedures for new institutions.

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The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), a bureau of the U.S. Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS' mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of thrift institutions and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. For copies of news releases or other documents call PubliFax at 202/906-5660, or visit the OTS web page at www.ots.treas.gov.