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RON CLUTTER (right), chief executive officer of Nordic Air in Harpersfield Township, welcomes Ohio Gov. Robert Taft to an expansion celebration.

Governor celebrates expansion

By **MARGIE TRAX PAGE**
Staff Writer

mtrax@starbeacon.com

HARPERSFIELD TOWNSHIP — Gov. Robert Taft and local, state and federal dignitaries honored Nordic Air Inc. owner Ron Clutter Thursday morning in a patriotic flag raising ceremony.

The congratulations come on the heels of the successful Joint

Economic Development District II agreement between the city of Geneva and Harpersfield Township. The agreement was brokered by local, county, state and federal politicians and area lenders and businessmen in response to Nordic Air's recently secured five-year \$45 million contract with the U.S. Marine Corps, a \$60 million to \$90 million contract with the United States Air Force and a \$800,000 contract with

the United States Navy.

The company secured the contracts with the help of Ohio's Procurement Technical Assistance Centers network, which provides assistance to Ohio companies interested in supplying products to local, state and federal markets.

"Ron Clutter, you truly are an Ohio success story. Nordic Air has experienced rapid growth and job creation

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and is a global, advanced manufacturing company," Taft said. "That is Ohio's future," he said.

Taft also commended the employees of Nordic Air, who celebrated with their employer.

"Thanks to the entire team at Nordic Air," Taft said. "Their commitment, hard work and dedication to get the job done has made this company a success," he said.

Nordic Air designs and manufactures heating and cooling units for the most extreme conditions from the deserts of Iraq to the frozen tundras of Antarctica.

Clutter said Nordic Air has grown with his personal mission statement in mind.

"Never say no until you know what it would take to say yes. I lead by that example and the JEDD agreement came from that," Clutter said. "(In finding ways to expand) we kept hearing no and kept finding yes. 'No' is a word I don't like," he said.

The JEDD II agreement links Geneva and Harpersfield financially and physically for 99 years

and will tax business owners to bring a \$1.6 million sewer system to Harpersfield. It will run from LaFever Road and under Route 90 to the JEDD. This sewer hookup will allow for Nordic Air's needed expansion.

"The only way we can succeed in Ohio in this tough economy is to work together. This JEDD is an great example of how government can make a difference," Taft said.

The audience, which included politicians, local officials, media, Nordic Air workers and family, and veterans and active personnel from all branches of the military, gathered outside the Nordic Air plant to watch the flag-raising ceremony.

Taft, Clutter, and Clutter's children, Veronica and Austin, raised the American flag as the Geneva High School Marching Band performed patriotic music. Veterans and active members of the military, including Clutter's brother, Brett, who is a pilot of the B-52 Bomber plane, raised flags honoring each branch of the armed services. The Geneva Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard performed a gun salute during the ceremony.