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**For Immediate Release**

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**News Release**

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**Kawneer Hits the Century Mark in March 2006**

Norcross, GA – Architectural aluminum products manufacturer, Kawneer Company, Inc. will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in March. It all started March 10, 1906, when an architect, inventor and entrepreneur named Francis Plym, working from a sheet metal shop in Kansas City, developed a new way to support window glass in construction. Since that time, Kawneer has been awarded more than 400 patents for its innovative product solutions. Over the years the company has experienced significant growth and is now headquartered in Norcross, GA with facilities in 23 locations throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Since its beginnings in 1906, Kawneer has balanced experience with innovation by listening to customers and giving them the tools they need to succeed. Kawneer products are used on a myriad of applications such as; high- mid- and low-rise buildings, stadiums and sports facilities.

From that small sheet metal shop in Kansas, Plym and his company, Kawneer, would go on to change the face of storefronts throughout the U.S. As modern design abandoned ornamentation for simpler styles, Kawneer's aluminum storefronts were embraced by architects nationwide. Plym's designs inspired his co-workers to continually tackle new engineering and architectural challenges. Among the projects that set Kawneer apart was its first curtain wall installation in 1932. The U.S. Post Office in St. Paul, Minnesota was a unique engineering challenge that led to many more successes.

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100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In the 1940s, months after Pearl Harbor, every inch of the Kawneer plant was devoted to making airplane parts. American soldiers flew into battle supported by Kawneer rib assemblies, fuel tank supports, flap controls and many other components.

During the 50s and 60s, Kawneer unveiled a string of innovations from its first standard unitized curtain wall to Dual Moment Corner Construction, the first of its type and a fabrication method that provides such exceptional strength and durability, it continues to be used today.

In the 70s and 80s the company would once again set a standard for architectural trends that would continue for years. Striking glass buildings began appearing utilizing Kawneer's Seamless Mullion Framing System, the first unitized recta-linear window framing system to provide a seamless appearance at the mullion line.

In the 80s and 90s, energy awareness and conservation became part of the national consciousness and Kawneer responded with products to improve efficiency. Beginning in the late 90s, and into 2000 and beyond, the company has increasingly committed itself to sustainable environmental solutions that look to a more earth-friendly future.

100 years after the first dreams and musings of founder Francis Plym, Kawneer continues to innovate and expand the boundaries of the possible. As the company looks forward to the next century, Kawneer will continue to provide the solutions its customers need to face the future. For additional information about Kawneer, refer to [www.kawneer.com](http://www.kawneer.com).

### **About Kawneer**

Kawneer North America is headquartered in Norcross, GA, and is the leading manufacturer of architectural aluminum products and systems for the commercial construction industry. Since its beginnings a century ago, Kawneer has been recognized as an innovator. The company is part of Alcoa's global Building and Construction Systems (BCS) business unit headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. BCS manufactures and markets architectural systems and products in North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Alcoa is the world's leading producer and manager of primary aluminum, fabricated aluminum, and alumina facilities, and is active in all major aspects of the industry.