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Since January 1996

A few months ago I caught up with June Wolfe, President of the South Florida Manufacturers Association (SFMA). Ever the perky cheerleader, June was at an SFMA social event and greeting everyone because, quite honestly, she basically knows everyone in South Florida's manufacturing community and essentially everyone in South Florida's manufacturing community knows June. I have known June for 15 of Katzscan's 19 years in business.

There are manufacturers associations in Florida's major metropolitan areas, but at 40+ years old the SFMA is probably the grand-daddy of them all, and may be the largest too.

Recent articles point out that millennials are not gravitating towards manufacturing jobs because they believe them to be "dirty". Manufacturers are also on the verge of losing critical knowledge as their baby-boomer employees retire and, based on surveys, have little to no plans on replacing these employees and the knowledge as it walks out the door. With all of the efforts being made to re-shore manufacturing and bring back pride in "Made In The USA", who is going to make all of these products if there is no one to fill the employment gap?

My professional career was entirely in manufacturing companies and I absolutely loved it! Film processing, food processing, apparel manufacturing, and industrial textiles represented the companies I worked for before starting Katzscan in January 1996. I have always had a fascination with how something was made, and seeing it first-hand has given me a much greater appreciation. Many Katzscan clients are manufacturers.

Yes, manufacturing can be and traditionally has been a dirty industry. But modernization has cleaned it up tremendously, and current manufacturing is very cool: it is process driven and automated. The machines used today are some of the most advanced robotics around, and the operators that enter the parameters and ensure their calibration are as technically skilled as any information technology professional. Factories are no longer health-hazards and instead can be as wondrous to walk through as a theme park. My shoe manufacturing client's factory in China was more meticulously clean than many manufacturing facilities I have visited in the United States.

Katzscan is an official endorser of Manufacturing Day: [www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com)

I firmly believe in manufacturing, I love manufacturing, and I support manufacturing. It is the backbone of our economy. To keep manufacturing going strong we have to show the next generation that it is clean, it is cool, and it is high-tech. Manufacturing is how everything we enjoy using is made. Between the advanced robotic machining and fast-growing 3D printing, manufacturing today is nothing like the assembly lines of yesteryear.

If you believe as strongly in manufacturing as June and I do, go to [www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com) and, if your company is able, learn how to host an event. Let's not just re-shore jobs: let's make sure manufacturing will not slow but also grow.

Thank you.

**Norman Katz**, CFE, CFS, CCS, MOS  
 Katzscan Inc.

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