

BUSINESS

Posted Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009 [Comments \(0\)](#) [Recommend \(0\)](#) [Print](#) [Share](#) [Buzz up!](#) [Reprints](#)

ARTICLE **COMMENTS**

∨ A ^

Very longtime employee

So, just what do you give an employee celebrating her 60th anniversary?

At Fort Worth's Justin Boot Co., it's a pin with six diamonds set in white gold — one diamond for each decade.

That's what Elda "Eddie" Kelly received this month from Randy Watson, Justin's president and CEO.

"In an industry where authenticity is key, we have employees contributing longer than most companies have existed," Watson said of Kelly. "She tried to retire in 1991, but we just didn't want to let all her expertise and knowledge go."

Kelly began working for Justin Boots in 1949 in its Fort Worth plant, earning 60 cents an hour in the stitching department.

She eventually became head designer in the product development department, where she designed boots for such celebrities as Gene Autry and Nolan Ryan, the company said.

Kelly now works as the company's official archivist and handles outside inquiries for information on the brand's heritage.