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Maureen Beal's National Van Lines giving employees a stake in the family business



Maureen Beal, chairman and CEO of National Van Lines Inc., will begin to roll out an employee stock ownership plan, giving 100% of her company to employees.

"If I were to kick the bucket, I wouldn't want them worried about whether they would have a job," she told me for my [Taking Names](#) column in this week's [Crain's Chicago Business](#).

Ms. Beal, 69, inherited the Broadview-based moving company from her father, the late F. L. McKee, who before taking over the family business was known as

"Hollywood's Romantic Irish Tenor" — he performed with Bing Crosby and Shirley Temple.

Ms. Beal is a name in her own right in Chicago, where she's a sought-after speaker at networking events. Crain's lists her company as the 11th-largest woman-owned business in the Chicago area, with \$86 million in revenue.

But employees know her for her accessibility — partly because she lives right above her office.

"It's nice to just come right downstairs and get to work," she says.