



*A "Sputnik moment" in Manitowoc.*

## Obama: Manitowoc Plays to Win

It was fitting that President Barack Obama chose Manitowoc as his first stop after his State of the Union address to Congress.

During his speech, Obama coined the phrase "Sputnik moment" as the next innovate leap forward for America. Was it simple coincidence he chose a town where a 20-pound chunk of Sputnik in 1962, burning up upon entry, landed in a busy Manitowoc street? Right next to the Rahr-West Art Museum, voted in *USA Today* as one of "10 Great Places to See

Art in Smaller Cities." Today the museum and the Manitowoc Visitor Information Center displays an exact replica of the Sputnik fragment.

Indeed, *Forbes.com* ranks Manitowoc second best small city in the nation to raise a family. We're an area that bounced back from old industry closures; replaced by innovate firms visited by Obama like Orion Energy Systems, offering replacement solar energy; Tower Tech, producer of wind turbines and Skana Aluminum, ready to expand its work force; helping Manitowoc shave four points off its unemployment rate.

The Manitowoc-Two Rivers area offers low taxes and cost of living, affordable homes, quality education and health care, and short commute times to work. Borrowing the president's words, Manitowoc plays to "win the future through investments in innovative technologies and research, strengthened educational opportunities and cutting-edge approaches to manufacturing and modern infrastructure."