

After 37 Wonderful & Rewarding Years at IIAV

It is Time to Say Farewell!

As I write this article, a flurry of mixed emotions is rushing through my mind.

- Appreciation – for all of those from whom I have learned so much and who have supported me
- Anxiety – for the unknown of what retirement life will be like
- Sadness - for leaving my co-workers who have been the source of many fond memories
- Pride – knowing that I have always given 100%
- Confidence – knowing I am leaving the insurance division in good hands with my replacement, Lisa Harmon, and her team
- Joy – knowing I will be able to spend more time with my family and friends
- Excitement – for the potential new opportunities that lie ahead

When I started working part time for the Virginia Automobile Insurance Plan as a file clerk while in high school back in 1970, I never dreamed I would go on to attain my insurance agents license and remain in the insurance industry my entire career. I have had several mentors along the way to help guide and train me in an industry that provides such an important service to our nation's people.

I have been able to work for insurance companies, agencies and ultimately for the past 37 years – the Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia. It has been incredibly rewarding working for the IIAV because I have been able to do what I do best...multitask. I have often jokingly said, "I am a jack of all trades and master of none" because I have worn so many hats at IIAV. From beginning my career at IIAV as head of the professional liability department to filling vacancies at literally every position for the IIAV, I have tried to perform whatever roles were needed to support the organization and keep it operating as efficiently as possible. I did this without reservation because IIAV has given so much to me and I have always wanted to give back all I could. While I don't profess to have mastered any of these roles, being able to experience all the aspects of managing an association of this type has been a great opportunity for me and one which I have enjoyed tremendously.

I would like to thank Ted Smith who put his faith and trust in me initially in 1985 and Bob Bradshaw who has continued since 2001 supporting, mentoring, and providing guidance.

It has been a true blessing to serve under Bob Bradshaw who is a remarkable man and has been an inspiration and a true leader. Words cannot fully express the depth of my appreciation for all Bob has done for me and for which I will be forever grateful.

Thanks to my fellow co-workers. We have had so much fun over the years; the memories will always bring a smile to my face. We supported each other through good times and tough times. I am truly thankful.

To all the IIAV member agents and company partners, thank you for your support over all these years. Many of you I have come to consider as close friends. Not everybody gets to say that.

You have made my career most enjoyable and rewarding. I will never forget that! I am sure I will continue to run into many of you during the next chapter of my life. Thank you all again from the bottom of my heart.