**RETIREMENT SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ROTHMOND TERO**

Hello everyone!!! I want to acknowledge you for being here and for joining me as I celebrate my retirement from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you all for making the effort and taking the time, even on short notice, to be here, even with your tight, unpredictable schedules. Before I get all sentimental and start to go down memory lane, thanking all my colleagues, friends, and family, and before we **ALL** get misty eyed thinking of how much we will miss each other, there’s some **GOOD** news!!! While I will technically be retiring, I will still be coming in a bit here and there….i mean… **REALLY**…. **How can I leave this behind?**?? (**Say this with enthusiasm and wait for the laugh**).

Working here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years has been one of the great experiences of my life. Throughout my time here, I have had the gift of learning…… the privilege of making a difference through the work we do…… the honor of meeting, mentoring, brainstorming and encouraging wonderful partners and colleagues…..and really experiencing the blessings of having such a rich and fulfilled life. As each one of you came into my life, I treasured learning, sharing, collaborating. I once heard an expression, “I am part of all that I have met.” **WOW**!!! I am one lucky man to have you be a part of me!!

There are so many people who, throughout the years, have been there, along the way, providing support, friendship, advice, and opportunities to view situations and challenges in new and beneficial lights…. people who have been there when a helping hand or a laugh, or maybe even just a kind word or gesture was needed….. and they knew how and what to provide. Sometimes, we find out who the greatest friends are in between words and gestures. Those people just **KNOW** you and know what to do and say, even through unspoken communication. I’m lucky enough to know a few people who fall into that category. Joaquin…. I’m proud to say that you are my best friend. You’ve always been there for me, and I hope you can say the same about me. I knew, and still know, instinctively, where to go for good advice…of course it was and is, to Joaquin. You’ve always managed to lift my spirits when I’m down…. Thank you for knowing me so well… and for **STILL** being my friend!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I may have more time in the future to relax and find new “mischief,” but you **KNOW** that I know that I will always make sure you’re the one who will continue to help me figure out the “mysteries” of life. To Ruth…. I’m **DOUBLE** blessed to know you!!! I was lucky enough to have you as my sister…. I’ve been even **LUCKIER** to have you by my side in our work lives too. Ruth…. Sister… co-worker, thank you for always being there when I needed help. To Elsa, Wendy, Jude, and Sebastian….. I want to thank all of you for making this event possible…. even though we ALL know that at first, I didn’t want a party…. In the **true** spirit of friendship, they **DIDN’T LISTEN** (**Wait for the laugh**) and here we are. And let me tell you now… after the past year or so and all we’ve been through individually and as a professional team, I’m **GLAD** you didn’t listen!!! It feels so good to have a reason to come together, enjoy each other’s company, and celebrate!!! So thank you all!! I have another special friend, in the oncology unit, who has always managed to lift my spirits. While we all know that work can be quite a challenging environment, but you, Christian, have always managed to lift up my spirits, especially when I needed it most. When I think of all of the people that are a “part of me,” I’m happy to know you’re there… Thank you!!

Lots of people throughout the world work because they have to. They make the best of a situation in order to survive. While we all worked in sometimes difficult environments, one thing for sure is that we also had some good times outside of work because we wanted to be together, to bond, and to have even greater understanding of each other. Who will ever forget how the staff would get together after work, to go bowling and hang out,… we had some fun times!!! I may not have total recall on my bowling skills, but I will never forget the feeling of sharing the energy that only comes when a group of people truly click. Once again, I am so grateful for all of the experiences we’ve shared both in and out of work, and I am so thankful to have had the gift of working with all of you wonderful people, even through the challenges we have endured. While I am technically leaving, my wishes for all of you still run deep.

To my wife, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and my kids, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for being the constant inspiration in my life. It may sound a little dramatic but it’s true. Everything I do, I do for **YOU**!!!…. Even retire!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). I’m looking forward to having more time in life to spend with you… to have new adventures and to make many new memories…. When do we go to family bowling??? (**Wait for the laugh**). All jokes aside, I can’t wait to spend more time with you… **REALLY**!! To my brothers Roderick and Robert…get ready…. We’re going to **REALLY** work on our golf games on the weekends!!!

So, in conclusion, I want to say thank you again…. Know that my gratitude runs deep. Here’s wishing all of you a happy, healthy, productive future at work, and someday soon, may we all experience the end of the Covid pandemic and a return to more normal lives…. Also know that this is not “good-bye….” It’s more of a “So long… see you later.” Thank you all!!