

Good evening Ladies, Gentlemen and more importantly ... Friends,

Robert Half once quipped, "There are some who start their retirement long before they stop working." Well, every company is allowed to have one of those guys ... and it was me! So, no respite for the rest you - you are all going to have to work really hard until you retire!

On a more serious note though, I can't believe that I am standing here this evening with my retirement just days away. [Insert name of company] has played an integral role in my life for [insert number of years]. It is a time and experience that I will hold close to me in the future.

I consider it both a privilege and an honor to have been involved with a company such as [insert name of company]. Together, collectively, we have seen amazing things happen - visions have been created, goals were structured and aspirations that started out as ideals, more often than not, become tangible realities.

Our success is a testimony to each and everyone here. We have worked together, argued together, shared our problems and hopes together and established ourselves as a team - not always in agreement, but always together.

Today, I would like to pay tribute to your dedication, your commitment, your innovative approach and your professionalism. I count myself most fortunate. I have come to see you all, not only as business colleagues, but as friends too!

Thank you for the happy memories that I will take with me, thank you for the opportunities that were offered to me and thank you for the friendships forged over the years we spent together.

I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that await me in my retirement - I hope that they are many and varied and that they force me out of my comfort zone.

Yet at the same time, as I look back on my time here at [insert name of company], I see a time well spent, a time with few regrets ... a happy time!

Go well ... my thanks to you - one and all.