

KINS Community Comment to be aired in July 24, 2012.

Hello this is Duane Rigge, recently retired as the City Manager for the City of Fortuna. This is my first opportunity to provide a Community Comment on KINS radio. For the past 10 years, I was invited to discuss and share topics with Brian Papstien on “Talk Shop” each month. Community Comment is different and requires me to find a topic that I want to talk about. It sounded easy but I found it to be more difficult than I expected, I had never done this before. So I found a subject that I wanted to reflect upon. Retirement!!!

The day that I have been dreading and denying for most of my life has finally arrived!!! That dreaded day that loomed over me was

Retirement!

Since my youth, I have never looked forward to the day that I might actually have to stop being gainfully employed and retire. Over the years, when the question of retirement came up, I would adamantly state the “I don’t ever plan to retire”. I viewed retirement as something that was forced on a person when they could no longer work and contribute. Now that the retirement day has finally arrived I am looking at the subject of retirement in a completely different perspective.

I was fortunate to meet my future wife when we were young teenagers and we were married shortly after I enlisted in the Navy. The Navy became a 23 year career for me and my family including adventures of living in foreign countries as well as long separations. The Navy provided me with many opportunities to fulfill some of my dreams, including the ability to earn two college degrees and learning many work skills. I retired from the Navy 20 years ago and I am still amazed they appear to be doing so well without me. The retirement from the Navy

was not the retirement that I dreaded, that was merely shifting from a military life to civilian private sector career. I was still able to work and contribute. It was not the dreaded “end of the road” retirement. Well, I enjoyed my second career of working for private companies engaged in the construction of projects such as high-rise buildings, power plants and industrial facilities.

Subsequently, my wife and I moved to Humboldt County to experience and enjoy a more rural lifestyle. At that time I discovered my third career working for local governments, something I never thought I would ever do or enjoy. It has been a very rewarding experience and privilege to have been the “manager” of three local public agencies.

But looming in front of me was the ever approaching concept of Retirement. Several retired friends helped me look at retirement not as something to be dreaded but as another opportunity to apply my work ethic and make a contribution and do things that I have always wanted to do but was too busy to accomplish. My daughter helped me appreciate that this could be my fourth career and I could put as much effort into it as I wanted. I could do things that I thought I might enjoy and if not, I was under no obligation to continue to do something that didn't work for me. **Wow!!!** What freedom, it was like being back in high school and trying out subjects to see if they were exciting and matched by talents. I have learned to embrace the idea of retirement and the opportunities it brings. So I am off to the adventure of retirement, who knows where it may lead. My hats off to all you that already started this journey.

This has been Duane Rigge with a Community Comment.