

In April of 1982 I began a journey in the infant Atlantic City Casino Business. Little did I know it would turn into a wild 35-year ride with casino busing and the growth of the gaming industry.

You can thank Gene McDermott for giving me my start in the business. What was my first casino job? Bus Greeter at Bally's Park Place! I just wanted to get my foot in the door and look for advancement opportunities. Gene thought that God had answered his prayers, a college graduate (Stockton University), applying for a bus greeter position! Little did I know that everyone wanted to get out of the bus department almost as soon as they began? I thought God answered my prayers; there was a free employee cafeteria! Promotions to Bus Supv, Asst Manager, Manager and Director quickly followed.

The Casino industry being new to Atlantic City and especially the bus component, presented many challenges. Where would they arrive, depart? How would they be scheduled? Where would the buses park? It didn't take long for government to create the Atlantic City Transportation Authority (ACTA), which today is part of the South Jersey Transportation Authority.

Casino Executives and the Motorcoach owner/operators realized that we would need to work together in order for our business to survive and grow. The Atlantic City Bus Operators Association (ACBOA) was formed; now known as your Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association.

Over the years we've built relationships, met the challenges of the industry, be it regulations (who can forget Intercept Lots), strikes, snowstorms, hurricanes, Super Storm Sandy, Casino openings/expansion and closings.

It is great to see that even with corporate mergers and consolidations, the bus business continues to have many generations of the same families actively involved in the business. I have learned much over the years from the bus companies, tour operators, support industries, regulators, for which I am eternally grateful. Special thoughts to those we have lost. I will always cherish their lessons and learning's.

Now the opportunity came that I could retire and spend more time with family, friends and charitable organizations. Well it is more like semi retirement. My wife Kathy gave me the Honey Do List.

We never quite know what the future will hold. As my dearly departed friend and colleague Michal Lesso used to quote from the Doris Day song "Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)"

Or as those of German decent like to say.
"Auf Wiedersehen", until we meet again.