December 2, 2014

Dear Friends,

As many of you may have heard, after 35+ years working with three different oil refineries I have finally hung up my "jersey". I doubt that any one of the three will be retiring my number any time soon but it was a pleasure and a joy working for all of them; **San Joaquin Refining, Foreland Refining and Lunday-Thagard Refining**. My last day with LTR was May 12th. I apologize for not sending out a notice earlier but the transfer of my email list was difficult to say the least; plus Marla and I have been busy remodeling, traveling and doing our best to spend our kids inheritance. (Plus now I won't have to send out Christmas cards!)

To all my customers and friends in the industry:

Thank you for working with me and especially for putting up with me all these years. I've enjoyed serving you and I hope each one of you feel the same. I tried to treat everyone fairly and I felt I was honest in my dealings with each one of you. I am leaving behind many good friends and I wish all of you the very best.

To my peers over the years:

Thank you for standing together with me to resolve any problems or working with me just to get the job done; many times late into the night. Working beside each one of you was a pleasure and a joy. I will miss talking with all of you and seeing you from time to time. I have developed many good friends that I have worked with over the years. I hope we can still stay in contact with each other as time passes.

To my bosses over the last 35 years:

Majid Mojibi, Elliot Smith, Richard Kent, Mark McSwain, Bruce DeMenno and Austin Miller; thank you for all you taught me and for giving me the opportunity to grow and develop. Each refinery is in good hands and is still working strong, so I guess I didn't do too much damage. My last employer, Lunday-Thagard is a great company and is in excellent hands with Austin Miller. He is very knowledgeable and a person that you can respect and one that will deal with you honestly and truthfully.

I am now doing all those things that Marla and I should have been doing for the last 10 years. Besides visiting our five kids and 13 grandkids and watching many of their activities; I

am also trying to get those jobs done (big & small) that I have put off all these years. In addition, something I have been promising my wife for several years; I was finally able to take Marla on a one month trip back East. This was a trip of a lifetime and is something that only retirement allows you to do. We toured the East coast going to fourteen states, following with a stop at Niagara Falls and then finishing up visiting all our kids and grandkids in Mesa, AZ.

The first stop was Washington D.C. including a tour of the White House. Then time in Pennsylvania seeing all the historical sites in Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love". In Boston we visited all the famous sites including a tour of Fenway Park. We followed up in New York City. We climbed to the Crown of the Statue of Liberty (more stairs than I can count) and went to the top of the Empire State Building (more stairs) and ice skated at Rockefeller Center. We ended with a tour of the 9/11 Memorial and toured the 9/11 Museum.

We made a stop in Hershey, PA and visited the Hershey Chocolate factory. I walked out with just a 'few' too many sacks of Hershey treats. After that it was a five hour drive to Palmyra, NY spending a few days enjoying the quietness of the small town. We visited the new Mormon Temple in Palmyra along with other historical LDS sites. We then finished up at the amazing Niagara Falls. The Falls are indescribable. The amount of water which tumbles over the Falls is breathtaking.

We saw so many beautiful colors with the changing of the leaves for fall. The sites and memorials in Washington, Arlington, Philadelphia, Boston and New York along with the City of Palmyra and Niagara Falls will never be forgotten.

We then flew to Mesa, AZ to spend several more days with our kids and grandkids.

<u>One thing everyone needs to know:</u>

RETIREMENT IS NOT EVERYTHING IT IS BUILT UP TO BE.....IT IS MUCH, MUCH BETTER!!! 😊

We hope all is well and good with each and every one of you. Marla and I consider all of you friends and want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year and a prosperous 2015.

Best wishes and cheers to all,

Bert

Bert Wootan