This summer marks 41 years since leaving Mizzou's J School. Man, how time flies! I've spent nearly 25 of those years as a news director in top 50 markets like Los Angeles, Dallas, San Francisco, Phoenix, Cincinnati, Louisville and now in St. Louis. In fact, I was just told I have the longest tenure as a KMOV news director in the past 40 years. I am beyond grateful to the many wonderful colleagues (many who are now close, life-long friends) I've met on this journey. Far, far too many to name here.

As a news director, I am so proud to have won a Peabody Award, duPont Columbia Award, a National Edward R Murrow Award, and numerous regional Emmys while managing local newsrooms. None of it could have happened without a whole bunch of dedicated journalists along the way who cared about what we do and how we do it. For them and me---true journalism is not just a profession—it is a passion.

But while I still have that passion and enjoy the daily chase, I came to the conclusion in the past year it is now time to pass the torch to a new generation of journalists. Simply put: July 4th will be MY Independence day.

Leaving daily journalism behind at this moment in time is a very difficult decision for me. Each day we must push back against a culture where lies have become truths and truths have become lies. And journalism is constantly under attack. My hope and belief is these low information viewers and users will start seeking out the truth through many independent sources, and this new generation of journalists will be there to bring it to them.

So why retire now? Since moving to St. Louis nearly nine years ago, I've lost my three siblings (two brothers and a sister) and my mother. Being the sole survivor of a family unit (my dad unexpectedly passed away 24 years ago this month) makes you put everything in to perspective. Family. Friends. Health.

So what's next? First---I need to spend more time with all the loves of my life: Jean--my beautiful wife of 30 years; my three sons Bradley, EJ, and Robbie; and yes, our sweet rescue dog, Zuzu. Like it or not—they are all going to see a lot more of me. (Careful what you wish for, right?) And then I plan to do more of the things I enjoy in life: Travel. Cook. Golf. Read. Write. Teach. Volunteer. Socialize. Live. Love. Laugh.

As I have told many people over the years, while it's important to work hard--- it is really important to play hard too. This is my "play hard" time of life while I am still physically able to do so. As my guardian angel reminded me some months ago "You see Scott, you've really [have] had a wonderful life." Indeed, I have.