









When you wish.....

This year marked with great celebrations the closing of an illustrious career for a long time St. Luke's partner: Dwight Dorr.

Dwight retired from the Walt Disney Company, Walt Disney World and the ESPN Wide World of Sports August 31st. In the end he had been employed for 55 years giving him the distinction of the longest running employee on the east coast for the company. Many studio artists held longer records on the west coast. It's a record he never sought in the beginning. Like so many California youth, hoping to work at Disneyland while attending high school and college was a dream of Dwight's. He was hired in May of 1961 to work in the parking lot at Disneyland.

As college graduation from Long Beach State University commenced, he was given a supervisory position in park operations but Uncle Sam drafted him in 1968 for service in the United States Army which included deployment to Vietnam.

Returning to California after two years service, Disney asked Dwight if heading to the Florida project would be of interest. So an exploratory trip was scheduled and with great anticipation he accepted their offer of relocating to Central Florida in 1971. During construction he oversaw show

installations for *Its a Small World and The Haunted Mansion*. He also met a Preview Center hostess, **Joanne Sanders**. When the park opened that fall Dwight was the Area Manager in Operations for Frontierland and Liberty Square. He married his Preview Center Hostess in 1972 and while his family was growing other opportunities were placed in his path. Dwight was the first manager to establish consistent training programs throughout the attractions moving over to become the General Manager of the Polynesian Village Resort. When a beloved manager of transportation passed, Dwight returned to Operations to oversee the ever expanding transportation department. After many years of building and bridging transportation services for new theme parks, hotels, and entertainment complexes another 1st was on the horizon. Disney was looking for someone to run the newly built Walt Disney World Speedway. This included working with the leadership from Indianapolis Motor Speedway and being flexible enough to learn the racing business. That chapter would bring him an opportunity to transition to the sports complex. His years of volunteering with Florida Citrus Sports announcing West Orange Football games and being part of the Tampa Bay Bucs announcing team transitioned nicely with his great love of all things sports related. He was excited to coordinate many events

coming to the complex including Atlanta Braves spring training, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers training camp, the NFL Quarterback Challenge and Orlando Magic Training Camp. In addition he was involved operationally with many of the Amateur sports events.....The Pop Warner Super Bowl, NCAA team sports, AAU championship events and the Invictus Games just to name a few. Dwight filled a room in their home with memorabilia collected during those years.

Another opportunity which would be his final achievement was becoming the project manager for the new 8,000 seat Arena that opened this past year. There were many other community associations along the way including Leadership Orlando, fundraising for the YMCA, attending a newly developed management course at Rollins and participating in Living History presentations at area schools bringing Civil War history to life. When asked about his career and some of the highlights, Dwight fondly recalls the interaction with incoming college interns arriving at a job they were excited about. Focusing on Disney Heritage and traditions, the company's pursuit of excellence was a critical foundation to all things Disney and to share that love and passion in his job was an honor.

And so one milestone builds upon another all while working for the "Mouse" for 55 years plus. The plus

is added because he had also worked for UPT concessions selling ice cream on Main Street at Disneyland while in high school...so a few more years could be tacked on but whose counting? Oh and let's not forget that during this journey **Dwight and Joanne were blessed with four great kids...David, Douglas, Darren and Robyn** all of whom have carved out lives that have included a touch of Disney, of community and most importantly the Faith of a loving God. They have enriched Dwight and Joanne's lives with great spouses and 10 terrific grandkids. Rounding out their lives were their parents from California and Pennsylvania along with sister Karen Stuart(St. Luker), and her family relocating to Florida adding to their circle of love.

The next chapter has taken them on a journey to Franklin, North Carolina where they are loving and learning a new way of life, a retired life! If St. Luke's could have just made the move with them it would have been the perfect ending to their **"When you Wish Upon a Staryour dreams come true" life**. Blessed indeed and Thankful that St. Luke's was the dimension that made the circle complete.