

April 4, 2016

Hello Everyone

For 21 years I've written dozens, perhaps hundreds of "Fates and Fortunes."

This is the first time I've ever written one about myself.

After a lot of prayer, numerous conversations with Pat and Frankie, and many sleepless nights I've decided to leave KVUE. I've accepted the voluntary retirement being offered by the company.

I love KVUE. I love working with each and every one of you. I love working for Patti. This was a difficult decision I had not planned on making. I'm in my second rebuild here and hoped to see it through.

It has been a wonderful 15 ½ years. Together we won the station's first Emmy. First Peabody. Several years ago we won a national Edward R. Murrow award for Overall Excellence. For about a decade we won every newscast Monday through Sunday, morning noon and night. And we did so legally, ethically, morally. Never did we compromise our integrity. We did it with class. We became the gold standard in the market and indeed, the industry.

I have so many people to thank. My family for their support. I've been a news director for 21 years. Too many nights waiting to eat dinner at 8pm when I got home. A lot of phone calls in the middle of the night. (Usually from Tony Plohetski. And it was never good news!) A lot of long hours away from the family.

I want to thank my managers for their loyalty to me and to Kvue. I've put together a great management team and only wish we were able to see it through.

To my staff. You do a great job every day. You are dedicated to Kvue and to the craft of journalism. I am so proud to have worked with each and every one of you.

To Patti. I told Patti recently that God put me here for a reason 15 ½ years ago, and it was to work for Patti Smith. She's been my boss, a friend, a mentor, and at times even a spiritual advisor. I've learned so much from Patti. I learned that you can manage with a heart. That people should come first. And that adversity not only builds character, it reveals it. I knew that Patti always had my back, and she knew I had her back as well. I can never repay Patti for what she's meant to me and my family.

All I can do is simply say, thank you Patti for all you've done for us.

I don't know what lies ahead. I hope to stay in Austin. I don't know if it will be in TV news or another profession. I trust in God that I will be just fine. But I will say, that if I do lead another newsroom again in the future, there are people reading this now who I will call and ask to come join me.

My last day will be Friday April 22.