

All –

I've written dozens of messages like this during my tenure as news director, but for this one, I'm struggling to find the right words. That's because it's about me. As John announced above, I've decided to retire.

My decision has not been a quick or easy one. I truly love our mission to inform our viewers and serve our communities. And I'm so proud of the content produced out of this newsroom each day. We set the bar high and you deliver.

That said, retiring at this age – which shall not be mentioned 😊 – has been a goal of mine for some time. My husband Stephen and I have spent the past year carefully considering what's next and we've decided that now is the right time to embark on our proverbial next chapter.

It's been a wild ride! When I first walked into 190 North State in 1992, I didn't dream I'd be here for more than three decades. I've literally spent more than half of my life in our newsroom and the memories I have will last a lifetime. From the Loop flood in my first months at the station to glorious sports championships, from the eerie quietness of our newsroom during COVID to raucous and energizing election nights, it's been the honor of my career to work with you. Most gratifying for me throughout these years has been watching you come together each day to produce top notch content and, in the process seeing your careers flourish.

I still have a couple of months in the newsroom to wrap up some projects and help our management team plan for the busy second half of the year. I'll look forward to connecting with you and continuing to cheer you on.

With much appreciation, Jennifer