

Hello everyone,

Thank you all for gathering today to celebrate what I'm calling my "grand escape from the daily grind." Retirement, they say, is when you stop living at work and start working at living.

I've been looking forward to this day ever since I realized that the concept of "vacation" could actually become a permanent lifestyle.

Remember that time I tried to convince the office to replace every meeting with an afternoon nap? It didn't fly, but hey, one can dream--literally!

Now, I know some of you are worried about how the department will survive without me. But let's be honest, the office coffee machine has been running my department for years. Also, I left behind a detailed manual titled, "What Would I Do?"--I'm particularly proud of the chapter on strategic paperclip usage.

Speaking of stories, who could forget the infamous elevator incident of 2018? For those who weren't around, imagine me--coffee in hand--stuck between floors for an hour. I thought about starting a new hobby right then: "Zen and the Art of Not Panicking." Turns out, screaming "I'm late for a meeting!" doesn't hasten elevator repairs.

I've had a fantastic career here, surrounded by fantastic people. But it's time for me to embrace the next chapter, starring me, a hammock, and probably too many mystery novels. I've even picked up golf, which turns out to be marvelous for discovering new ways to lose small white balls.

In closing, I'll say that working with you all has been a lot like a sitcom--plenty of laughter and a lesson at the end of every season. Keep laughing, keep learning, and maybe throw in a nap or two.

Thank you, and don't forget to write!

Cheers!