

Subject:

2017 Thanksgiving Missive: One can never truly anticipate where life will lead ...

From:

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I did something in 2017 that I NEVER imagined I would do. My wife Susan and I sold our Indianapolis home of 20 years and last month moved – *permanently* – to Denver, Colorado. For many people (including ourselves!), this was a **very** surprising decision. This 2017 Thanksgiving Missive to friends, family and business associates around the world is intended to share what I've learned, and what can happen when you are open to change. I'm thankful that I was open to this change, and my hope is that sharing this with you may help you ... inspire you ... and perhaps make you chuckle ... : -) ... :

1. **Pulling up deep roots is no small matter.** I was born in Indiana, lived my entire childhood in Indiana, completed all of my schooling through undergraduate training in Indiana, and with the exception of one summer internship in Chicago and a 2-year Lilly stint in San Diego, worked my entire professional career in Indiana. I met and married Susan in Indiana, all four of our parents lived their lives and died in Indiana, and both of our two sons were born & raised in Indiana. Until this summer, our Indiana roots were so deep that I could **never** have imagined permanently living anywhere but in Indiana!
2. **No house is your ‘forever’ house.** I told countless people over many years that when my time came to leave this earth, I aspired to “die peacefully on the screened porch” of our now-former home in Indianapolis. Until this June, I thought that our Indianapolis home was our ‘forever’ house, and I looked forward to living out my earthly years there. But I discovered otherwise.
3. **What prompted us to make the decision to move to Denver?** Our two grown sons have lived in Denver for several years now. Although their being here in Denver (and telling us this summer that they expect to stay here permanently) was a reason for our move, it was not the **only** reason. There was something deeper – perhaps even Divine nudging that we still can’t explain – that prompted us to make the decision. What was unique about it all was that Susan & I can’t remember precisely when or why either of us felt the urge to move, yet each of us decided about the same time to do this, and we both felt as if it was the perfectly natural thing to do. Plus, I can operate my little business from most anywhere, so I can be geographically flexible as far as where I live.
4. **Be sure to ask your kids if they moved away from home to get AWAY from YOU!** I was **really** impressed that Susan asked each of our two sons: “Did you move to Denver to move to Colorado, or did you move to Denver to get away from us??!!?” They both replied emphatically that no, they did not, and that they would LOVE to have us living closer to them.
5. **We did NOT move to Colorado because pot is legal!** Many of you may know that marijuana and cannabis products are legal in Colorado, but that is NOT why we moved here!!! Funny thing is that neither Susan nor I have ever smoked pot / consumed any cannabis products, but we have been laughingly toying around with the thought of smoking pot on Susan’s 70th birthday! Not sure if I’ll inhale, though ... : -)

6. **Susan reminded me recently of the dramatically different places we've lived over the years.** We lived in married student housing at Purdue University when we were first married; then in an efficiency apartment in my small (population ~10,000) home town that next summer; in a farm house that was about 1/4 mile away from our nearest neighbors; in a small-town neighborhood; in a high-rise Harvard student housing apartment with a view to the Atlantic Ocean and Logan Airport in Boston; in suburban neighborhoods in Indianapolis (three different houses over the years); on the West Coast in San Diego with a view of the Pacific Ocean; and now at ~6,000-foot elevation with a view of the Rocky Mountains! What I've learned from all of this is that you can "bloom where you are planted", and there are wonderful people everywhere you go! I also learned that each time of 'home' had its own advantages, and your home is where you make it.
7. **If you thought Indiana weather was variable, come to Denver.** Our moving truck arrived at our rental house in Denver for two days of unloading beginning on Monday, October 2nd, and those two days were sunny with high temperatures near 60°F. Fast forward a week – on Monday, October 9th, the Denver area had 4-8" of snow, and two days later, Susan and I went for an afternoon bike ride with sunshine and 60°F Denver weather! On November 15th, we went for a 30-mile bike ride in 70°F weather!
8. **300 days of annual sunshine and breathtaking mountain views are wonderful.** Denver has more sunny days than San Diego (where we lived while I worked at a Lilly medical device business for over two years), and we will be able to see the mountains from the new house that we are building. My prayer is to never lose the sense of awe when looking at the snow-capped mountains to the west, and thus far, I always make it a point to look at the mountains when I can.
9. **Babysitting your 'grand-dogs' is a joy.** We don't have any human grandchildren (yet), but we've already had the pleasure of keeping Luna (one of our 'grand-dogs') for a week while our youngest son was gone from Denver for business. Luna (1-year-old) and our 9-year-old cat Romeo are still working on getting acquainted, but we see light at the end of the tunnel and I am optimistic that someday, they will be friends.
10. **Being here for 'everyday moments' has already been a delight.** A dear friend of ours in Indianapolis told us that being near our children would allow for what she called the 'everyday moments' – and we've already experienced that by way of several brief and enjoyable face-to-face interactions with our boys that we ***never*** would have had if we were still living 1,000 miles away in Indianapolis.

Today, I'm thankful for my new life in Denver, and as the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday approaches this Thursday, I'm thankful for you – my family, friends and business connections around the world. My warmest wishes to you for the upcoming holiday season, and may you have a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2018.

All the best.

PAS.

2017 Thanksgiving Missive from Paul A. Stewart

PS – if for any reason you would prefer not to receive my annual Thanksgiving e-mail missives that I have now done for over 20 years (and the **only** uninvited communication that you will receive from me each year), please reply to me with the word REMOVE in the subject line of your reply and I will remove you from all such future communications. I understand the desire to reduce e-mail clutter and will graciously accept your wishes.

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If you'll be attending one or more of these upcoming events, or in that city during that time, let me know so we can connect ...

- > **February 15-16, 2018 / Phoenix (Arizona Biltmore)**: Licensing Executives Society (LES) – IP100 Executive Forum.
 - > **February 18-21, 2018 / Phoenix (JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa)**: Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) Annual Meeting.
 - > **April 29 through May 2, 2018 / San Diego (Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego)**: Licensing Executives Society International (LESI) Annual Meeting.
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