

Ya'll:

Saying goodbye is meant to be hard when you genuinely mean it.

May 29th is my last day with 21Alive / NBC33 and Granite Broadcasting, ending a run of 9 1/12 years at 3401 Butler. As some of you know, Phyllis and I moved to Fort Wayne from Pensacola, Florida in January, 2006 in order to be closer to my wife's elderly mother who was living alone in Pendleton.

When Dorothy passed away three years ago, we began conversations about 'now what?' This past week while on vacation, I got a call while driving in Alabama that Randy, my closest childhood friend in California had passed away – the one seen pictured with me in that photo I've kept displayed in my office.

Lessons learned: life is a gift. Time is finite.

The decision to end a television news career that began in 1968 (yes, we had TV *back then*) is incredibly difficult. You know that I like to work hard and cherish working with each of you. I've never been unemployed, having worked in large, medium and small television markets – even building a station from ground up. My last two news director jobs spanned 31 ½ years. The work is incredibly demanding, unending and consistently stressful, requiring many personal and familial sacrifices.

It's time for my wife and I to decompress.

You are an incredible team – *all of you* – behind the scenes and in front of the camera in news and production – in traffic, human resources and business office, promotions, IT, the hub, programming, engineering, and sales.

I'll always cherish you and the work we did together as a team, and to make our stations and community better for those who follow. Thank you for your kindness.

I will miss you.

Peter

April 3, 2015