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A Serious Retirement Speech

Twenty-seven years ago I walked into Challenge Corporation ready to change the way things were done. Yesterday I walked out of Challenge Corporation knowing that, without a doubt, I am the one who is changed.

I gave my best years to this company, and in return, you all gave me opportunity, challenges, and friendships that will remain intact long after I've forgotten the joy of walking into our weekly meetings to see a box of donuts on the table.

Challenge Corporation has a bright future ahead of it. Even though I won't be a contributing member to that future, I take solace in knowing that I had a hand in making it the corporation it is today – just as you all had a hand in making me the man I am today.

I'm forever grateful for my career. Life could have taken me in so many different directions. As a young college graduate, I knew I was going to change the world. I knew I would do great things. Now as I stand here many years later, I can say that I did the best I could to be a good person, a good employee, and a good boss – and maybe that's enough.

Before I hang up my professional hat and put on my relaxation hat, I have some advice for my colleagues: what you do matters. Who you are matters. You may not change the world, but you bring your own special uniqueness to the table and you're the only one who can do that.

I hope that one day when you're up here saying your goodbyes after a long career, you feel the same peace I feel in this moment. I'll miss seeing you all every day, and I'll miss the intellectual challenges you provided. Thank you for twenty-seven years of fun, camaraderie, and life-changing moments.