



“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

– A.A. Milne

To all my constituents in District Five, it is with a mix of emotions that I write this farewell message. As many of you know, I must leave the commission on November 17th due to term limits. As I look back over the last 30 years, I realize what a privilege it has been to work with and for the constituents in my district and all the residents of Palm Beach County (PBC).

My county career began in 1989 when I had just moved to PBC and applied for a job with the Clerk & Comptroller’s office. I was hired as a clerk to take minutes at commission meetings. A few years later, I was approached and asked if I would be interested in working for Commissioner Burt Aaronson. I was apprehensive because he was a powerhouse who really intimidated me but after interviewing with him, I accepted the position. For those of you who knew him, you know he could be tough on one hand but kind and sincere on the other. He worked hard for the County.

In 2002, a ballot question went before the residents of our county asking if they wanted to place term limits on commissioners. The residents approved term limits and far too soon, Commissioner Aaronson had to retire after over 20 years of service.

After many lengthy discussions with him, I decided to run for the seat. Once elected and for the next few years, he mentored me so that I grew stronger and more knowledgeable. I can still hear his voice guiding me and encouraging me. He was my adviser, my friend and I still miss him to this day.

I would also like to acknowledge my staff, Vivian, Meaghan and Janet, who have worked diligently with me to attend to the needs of District Five.

I wish I could thank every one of you in person. You have all helped me along the way and I am grateful to you all. I will miss you but I know myself well enough to know that I will still be active and involved. Please feel free to contact me by email at hellomarylou@bellsouth.net.



Yours in Public Service,

Mary Lou Berger