

Congratulations on Retirement George Giroux:

George Giroux, Business Director for Chicago Testing Laboratory, has been working with CTL for 55 years. Now, at the age of 76, he is stepping out into retirement to start a new chapter in his life.

George started working full-time at CTL in 1960 after working at the laboratory in Chicago for three consecutive summers.

George said, "I started full-time in 1960 but I worked three summers before that. So I did that for about three years, and then I got out of school and they said 'Do you want to stick around?' and I said 'Alright!' so I stuck around!"

After graduating from Saint Mary's University in Minnesota with a Business degree, George accepted a job with CTL.

"The first three years I did nothing but stand at a bench and run viscosity tests on liquid asphalt," said George. "At that time we mostly tested liquid asphalt from suppliers around the country. They were still shipping a lot of asphalt in by rail car, so they would take a sample, send us the sample and we would get it tested and approved/not approved before it reached its destination."

After running asphalt tests for the first part of his career, CTL thought George would be a good addition to their office environment, so he began to split his time.

"In 1960 they said 'You know, we may need a little more help in the office' so I started doing a little of each and gradually started doing more and more in the office. As the business grew, there was just a lot more overseeing because it was a small place so we did everything."

During this transition George first met his wife Dorothy in the CTL office, because she was hired to work as a summer secretary out of DePaul University.



Throughout his time with CTL, George has moved around to five different offices and labs across the Chicagoland area. Most importantly, each facility provided a position where George could support his growing family over the years.

"It was a good living," George said. "To my family and me it was a good job but it was a job it wasn't a career, because family was just more important than that. As long as it took care of the family well."

If there was something that made a lasting impression on George throughout his time, it was the relationships he built with people through CTL over the years.

"We were always working with and associated with nice people. It was always a group combined effort kind of thing. We always had a good group of people and things always worked well that way," George said. "It was always a comfortable place. We always liked the idea of helping somebody solve a problem. If anyone came through the door with a question or a problem, our question was 'what can we do to help?'"

Something George valued most was the real sense of community that always existed within CTL. The heartfelt, genuine relationships are something that have stuck with George, and he will miss the caring environment that has been created between other CTL employees.

George said, "You cared about somebody, and right away they really cared about you back."

Looking into the bright future of retirement, George said he and his wife don't have a set plan and want to spend their time with family in the area.

"The calendar is something that we won't be using much anymore," George said. "I would say that we will have the freedom to do whatever we want, but we can pretty much do that now. We're going to give it a year and just see how it goes. Just taking it day by day!"

George enjoys spending his time reading biographies, as well as public service and political news. He reads two to three newspapers a day just to look through for the political articles that interest him the most.

George Giroux has been an undeniable asset to CTL over the past 55 years. His hard work, sense of humor, perseverance and loyalty are all traits that make George a one-of-a-kind member of the CTL family. Thank you so much for everything you have done, George, it has been an absolute pleasure.