

## **Resignation statement to be read at Borough Council, Feb. 9, 2015**

"To every thing there is a season," the Bible says. That includes public service, and in this instance, it applies directly to me.

It is with some regret that I announce my resignation from the Borough Council, effective March 16, 2015.

My decision to resign is motivated by no one reason, much less a spur of the moment impulse. For some time now I've had difficulty juggling all my responsibilities, professional and personal. Something had to give. My work at Gettysburg College is challenging, rewarding, and time consuming. I cannot cut corners there. In November I was elected to a two-year term as President of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, and most recently I was elected to the executive committee of the Australia-New Zealand American Studies Association. To continue on the Council would mean either shortchanging those organizations or shortchanging the voters of Gettysburg. I have concluded that after nearly eight years service on the Council, I've brought all I could bring to Council service and it is time to move on.

This is not the time or place to list the experiences that have meant the most to me during these years, much less accomplishments that I'd like to take at least partial credit for.

That said, there are a few things I want to say before closing this statement.

First, I would like to take a moment to thank the voters in Ward 1 for twice electing me to Council and for their willingness to share their candid opinions about

the way the Borough is run. Getting to know the borough through interactions with voters across a wide spectrum of activities is one of the benefits of being on Borough Council.

Second, it's important to recognize that we have a superb manager with the skills necessary to do the tough job he has to do. I want to say how glad I am that I had a hand in bringing him to Gettysburg. The other denizens of 59 E. High St., from our professional staff and outstanding borough secretary on through the police and the public works employees give great service to this borough and deserve not just my grateful appreciation but that of the entire citizenry.

I want to thank our solicitor, Harry Eastman, who has been a great asset to the borough, and who I count as a friend. And I want to thank my colleagues on the Council, past and present, who I know share my commitment to making a better Gettysburg. They give of their time well beyond the modest stipend they receive for their service. We haven't necessarily been of one mind about the issues before us on Council, but we've generally found ways to find common ground where we could. And the state of the borough is strong.

My first impulse was not to single out any Council people, but on second thought I want to express special appreciation to Councilwoman Susan Naugle and Councilman John Butterfield, who were first elected to the Council the same year I was, 2007 and with whom I've shared a lot of happy and less happy moments over the years. Their expertise and consistent hard work has done more good than anyone outside of this building can fully appreciate. They have been great contributors to this Council's operations, and to this community.

Service on the Gettysburg Borough Council has for me been a learning experience and an enriching one. Service on the Council means the opportunity to help shape policy and budgets and, through those decisions, guide the direction the borough is heading. Helping make good decisions, fiscal and otherwise, and responding to constituents, is a pretty important responsibility. At times, the experience can be inspiring and even fun. I know I'm going to miss these meetings, or at least some elements of them. I have every confidence in the future of Gettysburg's governance beyond my service here.