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Kathleen Blair Retires After 25 Years with PFS



*“Another door opens and I walk into retirement
My life is changing again, I must look forward, not back
I have time now to write the stories I have in my heart.”*

These are the opening lines of a poem Kathy read at her retirement luncheon given by PFS on October 31, 2005, celebrating both her 25 year career at PFS Corporation which began October 6, 1980, and her retirement. The PFS corporate staff and many colleagues Kathy had worked with through the years were present to wish her well.

“I am grateful for the friendships I have enjoyed and the opportunities for growth my career at PFS has given me,” Kathy said. *“I’m taking many good memories with me, and I do plan to keep in touch.”*

Mike Slifka, President of PFS, told Encore, *“Kathy has served the PFS Presidents, former and current, well as their right hand, sometimes their right arm, and many times their memory. And due to Kathy’s longevity with PFS, she had become the institutional memory for the entire company. In her many roles with outside organizations and outside boards, Kathy had become the positive “face” of PFS to the many that she interfaced with. It will be hard to find an equal, let alone better, image as PFS moves forward. Kathy will be missed.”*

Kathleen began her career in the manufactured housing industry in 1970 with Kenwood Homes in Stratford, Wisconsin, moving to Wick Building Systems, Marshfield, in 1972. In 1978 she and her family moved to the Madison area where she served as Executive Secretary in the Wick Corporate Office.

Since joining PFS Corporation in 1980, she rose to the position of Vice President of Administration in 1994. Kathleen was named a member of the PFS Board of Directors in December 1991, serving as Corporate Secretary-Treasurer. She wrote and published the first PFS newsletter *INSIGHT* and publishes the current newsletter *ENCORE*. She authored several articles that have appeared in industry trade journals.

Kathy served a year on the NIBS (National Institute of Building Sciences) Consultative Council, two terms on the SIPA (Structural Insulated Panel Association) Board of Directors, and five years on the Board of the Modular Building Institute (MBI).

Kathleen, a widow, enjoys close bonds with her seven children and their families. She delights in her fifteen grandchildren ages 18 months to 27 years.



As of November 1, 2005, Kathy Blair is gone from PFS — but not really. She will continue to serve in a consulting role publishing Encore and managing the PFS website, www.pfscorporation.com. She can still be contacted at:

kblair@pfscorporation.com

(left) Sons Ron and Todd Blair joined in their mother's celebration. They are her eldest and youngest children, aka, the "book-ends" of the family.

(below) The PFS Madison staff, Ed Starostovic who hired Kathy in 1980, and colleagues at the retirement luncheon.



Photos by Roselyn Hamilton

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