

Smith seals envelope on 44 years at post office

Written by Stephanie Groves

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DELPHOS — After 44 years with the United States Postal Service, Supervisor Dan Smith is retiring from a job he truly loved.

Delphos Postmaster Marilyn Mulholland said Smith began his “postal adventure” as a mail handler in 1970 after serving 19 months in the Army during the Vietnam War.

Smith’s career encompasses a multitude of management positions, including: Postmaster of Jackson Center and Waynesfield, Customer Service Manager, Transportation Dock Supervisor, Dock Foreman and General Foreman of third shift.

“He was my Supervisor when I was hired into Lima back in 1988,” Mulholland recalled.

Smith and his family have always resided in Delphos. In 1990, when the supervisor position opened in Delphos, he took a downgrade to work in town and spend more time with his family.

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“Rather than seeking upward mobility, I wanted to see my kids and grandkids grow up in the town I love,” Smith said.

Smith’s job as supervisor entailed running the floor, guiding carriers and clerks, seeing that the mail goes out, staff scheduling, payroll and handling customer complaints.

Clerk Janet Taff, Smith’s cousin, said Smith was an easy-going, knowledgeable supervisor and would always steer clerks and carriers in the right direction.

“He is a real jokester,” Taff chuckled. “At the end of every safety talk, he would say ‘and remember, only you can prevent forest fires’.”

“Somebody said that if you love what you’re doing, you never work a day in your life,” Smith said. “It’s bittersweet but it’s time to go.”

He joked that he couldn’t stay awake here anymore.

“It was never difficult to come to work,” Smith said. “The staff made my job worth coming to everyday. It’s tough to walk away.”

Smith said he will miss the people and the job.

What does the future hold for him?

“Antiquing down the coast and spending more time with my grand kids,” Smith summed it up. “Looking forward to a new life!”