

14. *Retirement Years*

After retiring from fulltime employment on July 1, 2002, I signed a contract with Graybar to consult on a part-time basis. Over the next 2-1/2 years I averaged 85-90 hours per month. Since I was able to do much of what was needed of me away from the office, I worked many hours while on trips.

In December 2004, I resigned from my consulting position with Graybar. In January 2005, we had to cancel our trip to Hawaii and Australia due to the purchase of our new home in Florida and necessity to sell our house in St. Louis. We sold the house in St Louis for our asking price of \$250,000 and purchased JoAnn's dream house in Winter Garden for \$434,701. It was more than we needed but it was what we had been looking for several years in St. Louis and Florida. We sold the house much quicker than we expected and had to make plans to accommodate the new schedule.

Since we leased our house to the developer until June and we had to move out of our Missouri house on March first, we decided to spend the intervening time on the road. We went from Creve Coeur to Niles, Ohio and on to Weston, WV and Berkeley Springs, WV, all to visit relatives. We then spent a week at Fairfield Glade, TN. We went from there for a week at Tidewater Golf Club and Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC. After that, we spent 5 weeks at three different resorts in Orlando sandwiched around a week we spent with Carol and her family.



In July, our kids planned a reunion to celebrate both our 50th wedding anniversary and our 70th birthdays. All our kids and grandkids were there. In October, we drove to Lehigh Acres, FL to visit with Antoinette and play golf. Our kids gave us tickets to the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Country Club in Atlanta, GA for our 50th anniversary. We drove to

Atlanta in November for the tournament and stayed at Fairfield Plantation at Villa Rica. JoAnn's Aunt Mary died 12/19/2005. We flew to Cleveland and drove to McKinley Heights for the funeral. While there, we visited with Rusty and David Brill, my brother Bud's sons who lived in Poland and Struthers, Ohio.

In January 2006, we flew to Kauai for 8 weeks. In May, we drove to Lehigh Acres, FL to visit Antoinette and play some golf. In July, we flew to Burlington VT and stayed at Mountainside Resort in Stowe, VT while visiting with Jon Jr.'s family who were all at a conference in Burlington, VT. In December, we drove to Tampa to attend the annual Graybar retiree's luncheon. We stayed at Celebrity resorts of Bellaire Beach overnight.

In February 2007, we flew to Las Vegas for our first gathering of the 10th annual Graybar Electric "Omega" retiree's reunion. I was awarded the prize for the retiree with the longest service in the company – 46-1/4 years.

Kaitlyn Danielle Brill was born 3/13/2007 and we flew to St. Louis to see her and Hannah.



Kaitlyn Danielle Brill and Grandad

In May, we drove to Lehigh Acres, FL to visit Antoinette and play some golf. In June, we flew to Las Vegas. We drove from there into Utah for a few days and then on to Indian Peaks at Winter Park, CO for a week. From there we went to the Royal Gorge on the Arkansas River in Colorado. We drove on to the Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, and Mesa Verde National Park. We went from there to Wyndham Flagstaff, AZ for a week, where we visited Grand Canyon for the 6th time as well as Sedona and the other sights near Flagstaff. During this time, we purchased additional timeshare allotments in Las Vegas (trading in our timeshare in Branson) to make all our properties in Hawaii fully bankable in the new Wyndham Points system. Spencer Reid Brill was born 12/26/2007.



Spencer Brill with Grandma

In February 2008, we flew to Kauai for 8 weeks with a side trip to Hilo on Big Island. About 10 days before our leaving Kauai, JoAnn hurt her back and was at the emergency room twice. She was so strongly medicated that I had to bring her home in a wheel chair. In May, we drove to Lehigh Acres, FL to visit Antoinette and play golf. In June, we flew to the west coast for 3 weeks which included the U.S. Open Golf Championship at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. We stayed at Worldmark Wine Country in Angels Camp, CA; Tahoe Seasons Resort in Lake Tahoe, CA; and Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort in Carlsbad, CA. In September, we drove to Fairfield Glade, TN. We, later drove to St. Louis to see granddaughter Victoria Marie Brill who was born prematurely on 8/25/2008.



Hannah, Victoria and Kaitlin

We came back to Fairfield Glade for another week. We proceeded to Pittsburgh to attend the 55th reunion of my High School graduating class. After that, we went to Jane Lew, WV to visit Emaleen and Harry and then to Beaverdam, VA to see Joe and Janet before returning to Winter Garden.

In February 2009, we flew to Las Vegas for the annual Graybar Electric “Omega” retirees’ reunion. We stopped in St. Louis on the way back to Winter Garden. In April, we drove to Lehigh Acres, FL to visit Antoinette in Fort Myers and play golf. Carol and David separated and she came to stay with us along with Jonathan and Benjamin. She later got an apartment of her own. In July, we flew to Norfolk, VA and stayed at Wyndham Patriot Place in Williamsburg, VA with Jon Jr. and his family who were attending a conference in Norfolk. In August, we flew to Spokane, WA to visit our friends the Breitenfelds; we went on to Stoneridge Resort in Blanchard, ID where we visited Glacier National Park. After that we drove up to Panorama Resort in British Columbia, Canada for a week. In December, we drove to Lehigh Acres, FL to visit Antoinette in Fort Myers and play golf.

On January 7, 2010, we drove to Wyndham Ocean Walk resort in Daytona Beach for a week. On January 15, JoAnn’s Uncle Ben died in McKinley Heights, Ohio; we were not able to go to the funeral. In February, we flew to Kauai for 6 weeks. We managed to get in 21 eighteen-hole and 6 nine-hole rounds of golf. On 2/27 an earthquake in Chile generated a tsunami that was projected to reach Hawaii about 11:00 AM the next morning. We were told to leave our hotel which was on the shore. JoAnn’s sister Emaleen called us at 4:00AM to warn us. We decided to pack all our belongings in our car and go to the golf course which was on top of a small mountain. There were, eventually, hundreds of people on that golf course waiting for the tsunami. When the time

came (at the 6th hole on our second nine), we could not see any change in the surf below us on the coast. The tsunami caused little damage on Kauai.

We flew to St. Louis, in June, to see Kenneth and family. We drove from there to Fairfield Glade, TN. From there we drove to Jane Lew, WV and Berkeley Springs, WV. After that we drove back to St. Louis to fly home. We flew to Albuquerque, NM in July to spend 2 weeks with Jon Jr. and family. They were in Albuquerque for a convention and we then spent a week at Wyndham Flagstaff, AZ, where we visited the Painted Desert and all the other sights of the Flagstaff vicinity. In September and October, we drove to Fort Myers to be with my sister Antoinette who was in the hospital. My sister Mary Bess stayed with us during some of that time and when we returned for Antoinette's funeral in November.



In February 2011, we flew to Kauai for 7 weeks. During this time, we played 30 eighteen-hole rounds and 9 nine-hole rounds of golf. On March 11, there was an earthquake in Japan with a projected tsunami to arrive in Hawaii at about 8:00AM the next morning. Again, we were told to leave our condo on the coast to get to higher ground. Since this order came about midnight, we left our condo to sit in our car all night at the Walmart parking lot in town. Walmart stayed open and provided coffee, etc. There was very little damage from the tsunami. In April, we drove to Wyndham Ocean Walk resort in Daytona Beach, FL where we visited The World Golf Resort and St. Augustine.

In April and July, JoAnn had operations for breast cancer. In June, we drove to Tampa for the annual Graybar retiree's luncheon. Later in June, we drove to Jane Lew, WV where JoAnn's sister Emaleen was hospitalized. Emaleen died while we were there, and we stayed to attend her funeral. We had left the previous Sunday as we had just learned that Emaleen was much worse than we had known. She had been in the hospital for a month with leukemia and internal bleeding. The previous week her daughter Judy had taken her outside and had sent some pictures. With the latest bad news, we were just hoping that we could make it in time for Emaleen to see her only sister. We went to the hospital on arrival Monday to find Emaleen soundly asleep or comatose. She seemed to respond to JoAnn's voice and touch and blinked her eyes a couple of times. We saw her twice more on Tuesday with little change. Emaleen passed early Wednesday morning, June 29th, a few hours after her daughter left for the night. We changed our plans to return so that we could be there for the service which was held in Weston on Friday evening. This service was attended by twenty-some close family members and over

100 friends and extended family. Another service was scheduled to be held Saturday afternoon at her burial church in Augusta, WV. JoAnn and I had to return for an appointment with her surgeon on Tuesday.

Mary Emaleen Saville was 79 years old and married to Harry Saville for 58 years on June 21. In addition to her daughter, Judy Loose, she has two sons, Harry Jr. and Timmy. For about the last 15 years she had lived in their big farm house in Jane Lew WV. She was a gentle soul whose biggest joy in life was caring for lost and damaged animals.



Emaleen and Harry's 25th Anniversary invitation

In October, we drove to St. Louis to see Kenneth and family as well as to meet with our financial advisor and financial attorney.

In February 2012, we flew to St. Louis to see our granddaughter Chloe Renee Brill who was born 1/13/2012.



Chloe Renee Brill

From there we flew to Las Vegas for the annual Graybar Electric "Omega" retiree's reunion. We flew from there to Kauai for 6 weeks. We played 22 nine-hole rounds of golf. We stopped off in Las Vegas on our way back to Winter Garden. In April, Jonathan Wolff married Emily Adams. In July, David Matthew Wolff married Mary Lopresti; we flew to Baltimore Airport and drove to

Ashburn, VA for the wedding. We drove to Lehigh Acres, FL in August for some golf. We flew to St. Louis to spend a week in September with Kenneth and family at the Silverleaf's Holiday Hills Resort in Branson MO. We drove to Fairfield Glade, TN in October for a week to golf. We took a river tour on the St. John's River and tributaries with a group from the Audubon Society in October.

In January 2013, we drove to St. Louis to see Kenneth and family; we stayed at Silverleaf Timber Creek Resort. Kenneth's family could stay with us most of that week at the Silverleaf Timber Creek Resort. In February, we flew to Las Vegas for the annual Graybar Electric "Omega" retiree's reunion. We spent a week playing golf in May at Lehigh Acres, FL where we put flowers on my sister's grave for Memorial Day.

In July, we made a down payment on a new home in Trilogy of Orlando. Since we had already planned a European trip, we did not put our house on the market. We flew to New York and took a city bus excursion and a harbor boat excursion. From there we flew to Frankfurt, Germany to spend 3 weeks at Residenz Mandelgarten in Deidesheim; Fierenclub Oberstau in Oberstaufer, and Gemuender Fierenpark Salzburg in Gemund Schleiden, Germany. During each week that we spent in a different area, we visited the local historic landmarks.

When we stayed in the area that our Brill family had emigrated from, we spent one day in the little village of Böckweiler that my fifth great grandfather came from. We encountered a local school teacher who went to college in Baltimore, MD and I searched a book that his mother-in-law had from a local church. There were many Brills listed for that period in the early 18th century, but no names that I could recognize as part of my genealogy. There was a small church that was built 1000 years ago and quite possibly could have been attended by my ancestors.

In October, we flew to St. Louis to see Kenneth and family; to discuss repairing his house; and to see our financial advisor and financial attorney. Since we had a clause that allowed us to extend the closing on our house in Groveland, we were able to put that move off until December when we came to an agreement to closing at a reduced price from \$245,596 to \$230,596. Shortly after we reached this agreement, we received an offer on the house that was lower than we expected but was acceptable. We knew that we had purchased the Winter Garden house near the top of the market, so we accepted with regret the selling price of \$370,00.

In January 2014, we flew to Kauai for eleven weeks, our longest stay in Hawaii. We were gauging our desire to continue our annual trips. We both stayed relatively healthy with only a couple of trips to urgent care facility. We played 47 9-hole rounds of golf. In April, I flew to St. Louis to check up on the progress of repairs to Kenneth's house. In July, we drove to West Chester to see Jon Jr. and family. We stopped in Virginia to see Joe and Janet Exline. In July, Rebecca Suzanne Brill married Donald McKinney.



Rebecca and Donald McKinney

In November, we drove to Tampa for the annual Graybar retiree's luncheon. We had a terrific reason to fly to Virginia in January 2015 to see our first great-granddaughter Rosie Nicole Wolff who was born on Christmas Day.



Rosie Nicole Wolff with Great Grandma

We drove down to Berkeley Springs to see my nieces Susan and Nancy Leigh. We wanted to look at the Greenway Cemetery for our final arrangements. We have discussed the possibility of both of us being buried in the same grave with one of us being cremated first. My sister Nancy had arranged for 6 plots in Greenway Cemetery and Susan suggested that we use one of those.

We flew to Las Vegas for the annual Graybar Omega Retirees Reunion in February. We stayed eight days there, mainly recovering from a stomach illness. From there, we flew to Kauai for our six-week vacation. We were only able to golf 12 times this year. JoAnn had leg and back problems that kept us from the golf course for the final three weeks. The saving grace of the whole trip was the fact that we were kept in the same condominium unit for the whole stay. JoAnn had knee replacement surgery in May followed by a 10 day stay at a rehabilitation center.

In September, my niece Nancy Leigh died in Berkeley Springs. We flew up to Dulles and stopped to see great granddaughter Rosie in Leesburg, VA before driving to Berkeley Springs for the funeral.

JoAnn fell in our bedroom on 11/1/2015 and broke her hip which required a partial hip replacement and a 3 week stay in a nursing facility. She was released on Thanksgiving.

Our second great grandchild, Nikita Connor McKinney, was born on 11/19/2015, while JoAnn was still in Lake Bennett Rehabilitation Center recovering from surgery. Circumstances prevented our meeting Nikita until 1/24/2016.

JoAnn's brother Joe Exline died January 10, 2016, at the age of 81 after a nine- year struggle with a burst heart valve. He had been in the army, had a master's degree in biology and a doctorate in earth sciences. He was a high school science teacher, the Director of Science Education for the state of Virginia and a Project Director for VA Quality Education in Sciences and Technology. We were not able to attend the funeral but were glad that we took the opportunity to see Joe and Janet whenever we were able.



Nikita Connor McKinney

Later, in January, we flew to Las Vegas for the Graybar Omega reunion. From there we flew to Kauai for 51 days. When we returned after JoAnn golfed 21 times and I golfed 23 times, we felt that she needed some therapy on her balance. We were in the middle of this therapy when she fell during a session on June 7 and broke her right femur at the shoulder. The surgeon felt that it would likely heal without surgery. After about a month she began therapy for her arm. She went through 12 office therapy sessions and many more at home sessions to get back the use of her right arm.

In June 2016, Hope Elizabeth Brill married Riley Vary. We attended their reception.



In November 2016, we flew to St. Louis to visit with Kenneth's family. We had Jon's family, Charles' family (less Ryan), Carol, Benjamin, David, Mary and Rosie for Thanksgiving Eve and the same group less Charles' family for Thanksgiving Day. Charles' family (less Ryan) was down again for Christmas Eve. Ryan was in Utah on his 2-year mission. We drove to Tampa in December for the annual Graybar retiree's luncheon.

We flew to Kauai January 5, 2017 for seven weeks. JoAnn injured her back, so we had to return 2 weeks early to Groveland on February 23. While we were in Hawaii Rowan Elliot Wolff was born 1/10/2017 in Tennessee. We would not be able to see him until later that year.



Rowan Elliot Wolff

JoAnn needed therapy for her back in April 2017. The first opportunity that we had to see Rowan was in August. After a wonderful 2-day visit with Jon, Emily and Rowan at Fairfield Glade Resort in Tennessee, we flew on to Las Vegas. Unfortunately, while walking to the airport baggage claim, JoAnn fell and fractured her left arm and we were in the middle of recovery again. In October we flew up to Virginia and drove to Berkeley Springs for the Annual Apple Butter Festival. Jon Jr. and Shannon drove over to visit with us for the weekend. We spent a lot of time with Susan and Pete Moss, my niece and her husband. On our way back to Dulles Airport, we had a couple of visits with grandson David Wolff, his wife Mary and our great

granddaughter Rosie. In the morning before our flight, we visited with Harry Saville, JoAnn's brother-in-law, his daughter Judy and son Timmy.

The rest of 2017 was spent in recovery for JoAnn. We were prepared to leave on 1/6/2018 for Hawaii but circumstances prevented this. JoAnn fell coming through the door to the screen house in early December. She didn't seem to have any immediate injuries or aftereffects but within a few weeks she started to have pains in her left side. It kept getting worse and on 12/29 we decided to have it checked out by a doctor at the urgent care center. They x-rayed and checked her over but found no obvious physical problem. They suggested having an orthopedic surgeon check her out. Unfortunately, we caught such bad colds at the urgent care center that we couldn't see the doctor for 2 weeks. During which we had to cancel our arrangements for the trip. The Doctor diagnosed the problem as spinal stenosis probably aggravated by the fall. We had to postpone plans for trips until she recovers.