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30 Years of Service

by Josh Rittenberry

On October 13 our own Laurie Curtis will celebrate an impressive milestone: 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to Mid-Continent. To honor Laurie and this special achievement, we are proud to re-run our August 2022 article featuring Laurie and all of her successes.

Although Laurie Curtis is one of the backbones of Mid-Continent, she and her accomplishments are rarely seen or heard. Unlike her co-workers, few of you have the good fortune of knowing Laurie, so let me introduce you to this unsung hero of ours.

Laurie was raised in Caruthersville, Missouri, just a few short miles from our base in Hayti. The second youngest of ten children, the Tillman household was rough and tumble, and also devoutly Catholic, whether they liked it or not. Mrs. Tillman made certain of that.



Just a few years removed from high school, Laurie first came to Mid-Continent in 1986 landing in the accounting department. But after a short time, she left to pursue an opportunity with a local CPA. With an offer from Larry Cookemboo, Laurie returned to Mid-Continent soon after to assist him in the parts and maintenance departments. More changes occurred within the company and Laurie found herself back in accounting. She had come full circle and has never looked back.

In Laurie's absence had come the arrival of new treasurer and CFO Chris Cobb. Her return meant that she and Chris would be working closely with one another. As it turned out, the pair were no strangers; both had been raised together in the same neighborhood for most of their childhood.

"Working with Chris on a daily basis is like working with a brother," Laurie says.

Among Laurie's critically important duties are accounts receivable, accounts payable, and managing payrolls from our location as well as three satellite locations. In addition, Laurie is a corporate officer and essentially a walking-talking human resources department, not to mention a reliable listener, good friend, and one of the best

cooks this side of the Mississippi. More than a few of her co-workers owe the start of their careers at Mid-Continent to Laurie and her recommendation, including this grateful writer.



When asked about the key to her long tenure, Laurie credits the friendship of Chris Cobb as well as the influence of Dick Reade, whom Laurie says took her under his wing, like he did for so many. The two became so close that Mr. Reade chose Laurie as his “best man” at his 2018 wedding to wife Linda.

Laurie has been married to devoted husband Kevin Curtis for 33 years. Together they share three children, two granddaughters, and six grandsons, all of which are the light of their lives.

“Most people head off to work dreading it, and that is something that I don’t do because when you are happy with what you do, that’s nothing to dread. I love all of my co-workers and they really have become family to me.”



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