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Ann Moody retires after 32 years with Levy County Clerk's Office



Pausing for a moment during the retirement part are (from left) Chief Deputy Clerk Sheila Rees, Levy County Clerk Danny J. Shipp and Finance Supervisor Ann Moody.

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BRONSON -- Levy County Clerk Danny J. Shipp honored one of his outgoing employees on Wednesday (Feb. 24) as she prepared to step into a new aspect of life -- retirement.

Ann Moody marked her last day in the Levy County Clerk's Office on Thursday (Feb. 25), after serving under three clerks.

Shipp, who is Levy County's clerk of the county court, clerk of the circuit court and clerk to the Levy County Board of County Commissioners, said Moody is the "onliest" (the most only) person to have served under Ernest Stephens, who was the Levy County clerk for 24 years; Douglas "Mac" McKoy, who was the Levy County clerk for 24 years; and now Shipp, who has been the Levy County clerk for 15 years so far.

Math wizards are bound to see at least 15 and 25 as being 40 years, because if Moody served with Shipp for 15 years and McKoy for 24 years, even one year of service with Stephens equals 40 years.

The clerk explained that Moody worked with Stephens for one year, but worked with her father for 10 years before returning to work for McKoy for a period. She has worked all of the past 15 years with Shipp, he said.

The Levy County clerk said this retirement is significant.

"This will be a great loss to my organization," he said. "And this is a great loss for the citizens

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of Levy County, because 32 years of knowledge is hard to come by.”

Moody has served in every division of the clerk’s office, Shipp said.

Moody was upbeat at the cake and punch portion of the retirement party on Wednesday at First Baptist Church of Bronson. She said this was a bittersweet point in her life, because she will be saying goodbye to so many workday friends, some of whom she has spent years with as a colleague.

While she will not be rubbing shoulders with her pals daily, this does open a new frontier for Moody. And so the sweet part of the story is her adapting to her “new job” as a retiree.

Shipp said there are 24 employees in his office. Faith Southard who has been working closely with Moody to accept Moody’s title as finance supervisor in the clerk’s office will take on that role now.

Among the staff members who helped Moody celebrate her retirement was Levy County Chief Deputy Clerk Sheila Rees. Shipp said Rees has been with the clerk’s office for 35 years now.



Deputy Clerk Chanda Jordan stands with the cake she made in honor of Ann Moody’s retirement.

Before the cake and punch aspect of the celebration, Shipp had all of the clerk’s office at the church for a lunch. As for the cake part of the event, Deputy Clerk Chanda Jordan, who currently serves in the County Commission aspect of the clerk’s many duties, is the office’s official cake-maker.

Jordan created a big sheet cake that said “Have A Happy Retirement Ann.”

Moody said she has enjoyed every day of her time in the clerk’s office under all three Levy County clerks whom she served.

“It’s been great,” she said. “There’s not been a time when I did not enjoy working with the clerk’s office. It’s new and different every day.”

There is not a single regret she has from her 32 years of public service, she said, adding that her life has been wonderful.

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McKoy and Shipp really have been the prominent employers, she said. Shipp and his wife Donna have been great friends as well, she said. And as an employer, she especially has appreciated Shipp understanding when something would require her to take time off.

“You couldn’t ask for a better employer,” Moody said.

As for her workmates over the 32 years in that office, Moody said that all of them were great to work with, and some of them became the best of friends.

When she was asked for a most memorable event, Moody pondered the question – no doubt because every day was an adventure and 32 years of days makes for a lot of memories.

The basement of the courthouse has been flooded twice. She recalled the flood from the 1990s that caused boxes and boxes of papers to have to be dried afterward.

“We came in Monday,” she said, “and wow! Everything was wet in the boxes on the floor. That was a lot of stuff to clean up.”

As for retirement, Moody said she has no particular or big plans. She does see it as a new job, and she plans to learn how to do it.

One of the benefits that retirement offers, Moody mentioned Wednesday, is that now she can spend some time with her 92-year-old father Bill Geiger.

Ann Moody is the wife of Levy County Coordinator Freddie Moody.