



Farewell

BY: ROBERT BOYER, MD

Many years ago, I heard a lecturer say that there are only five things in life that are really important, and they all begin with “L.” They are love, labor, laugh, learn and leave.

My recent 68th birthday reminded me that it is time for me to “leave.” Nagging health problems and a new interest in geology, anthropology and being a granddad have filled the place of my waning excitement for health care. Thank you, and the NRHA, for faith and trust in me. I appreciate you and your efforts on behalf of rural health.

Respectfully, Bob Boyer

When the NRHA decided to again publish a human-interest magazine, I was frantic. How would I ever get this off the ground with little in the way of support staff? It was about the same time that a colleague forwarded me a recording of a presentation by Dr. Robert Boyer to some medical students at the University of Nebraska. He was brilliant! I laughed, I cried, I was excited. This man knew rural health, and I had to have him help me in some way with projects here at the NRHA.

My excitement level shot to a ten when I contacted Dr. Bob and he agreed to meet with me on his next trip to Kansas City. Over breakfast,

I was grilled. Bob was retired, would we really be able to use him? Could we make a difference in rural health care? Bob didn't want to build his hopes again only to have them pushed aside. If we wanted him, then we needed to prove to him that his time spent with us would be worthwhile.

I don't know for sure if Bob feels his time here was well spent, but from the bottom of my heart I thank him. Bob's articles were always a big hit and the first positive feedback I received on the magazine was from one of those. I have enjoyed his humor in our communications, learned from his articles and feel like I have a friend who resides in

Durango should I need him. I appreciate the insight Bob has shared with us in providing care in rural areas. But most of all, I'm glad that he has the time to spend on the things that matter the most to him in life now, and we at the NRHA wish him all the best.

So, Dr. Robert (Grandpa) Boyer, Thank you! Thank you for being a friend to the NRHA. Thank you for your presentation at our Annual Conference in 2003. Thank you for helping us get Rural Roads off the ground, and thank you for your years of dedication to rural America — you HAVE made a difference!