

8-2-17 County Judge's Article

A MILAM COUNTY FRIEND

I saw a nice article in the Temple paper where Judge John Firth announced that he would not be running for reelection this coming term after 10 years as county judge of Coryell County.

I have had the privilege of working with Judge Firth as part of the Executive Board of the Central Texas Council of Governments and want to publically salute this man for the example he has set; I wanted you the citizens of Milam County to know something about him.

First of all, just so I can hopefully get your attention, he is responsible for steering Coryell County's inmate housing business our way resulting in well over two million dollars in revenue for Milam County over the past two and a half years. But there are more important things I want you to hear about him.

Judge Firth was asked to become county judge when Coryell County's judge deceased back in 2007. The other day when he announced his retirement he said, "When I accepted the job, I never imagined I'd be in office 10 years. I don't believe that career politicians are in the best interest of local government. As a result, I think it's time to pass the baton."

He quickly pointed out that he never considered himself to be a politician in the first place. He further stated, "It's been a great honor to serve the citizens of Coryell County, now qualified residents are encouraged to consider their interest in serving the residents of the county and filing to seek election."

Well said, Judge Firth, I would echo these words to all of you in our county as I also make plans to pass the baton.

Colonel Firth served 31 years in the US Army before retiring in 2006 after flying many combat missions as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, among other assignments in service to his country.

I watched as this man unselfishly served as his county's county judge, as president of the CTCOG Executive Board and the Hill Country Community Action Executive Committee, never hesitating to provide leadership when called upon by our county government group, always providing sound advice, always moving our meetings forward-- just a great guy to be around, and to have leading the group.

I am proud to have worked with him these past seven years and want to commend him to you as a man of integrity who in my view is a true American hero.