

**Mayor Brummel Acceptance Speech
DMMC Presidency
May 21, 2010**

Fifteen years ago I was living a quiet life on Forest Lane in unincorporated Warrenville, contentedly focusing all my energies on family and my cabinet business. I invested scant energy in the City of Warrenville or its issues, keeping a low profile, just minding my own business, not particularly inclined to civic responsibility.

Then, out of nowhere, there came a Disturbance in the Force. A developer purchased the ten acres immediately adjacent to us on the north, and change was about to be inflicted on Forest Lane. What was being proposed didn't sit too well with me, so I decided to get involved.

That was my first mistake.

It took many months of engagement and meetings with neighbors and the City, but in the end, a plan was worked out to accommodate both new neighbors and old. The result was positive, but we were now within the corporate limits of Warrenville, and my efforts caught the ever-vigilant eye of then-mayor Vivian Lund. A few months later, she called my home, talked to Mary, and asked me to return her call, which I did.

That was my second mistake.

Many of you know Vivian. She can be persuasive. Long story short, I accepted her suggestion that I become a member of the Plan Commission. Did that for the next two years, and then upped the ante, and spent the next six years as Third Ward Alderman.

Sometime in 2004, Vivian decided that five terms was enough, and announced that she would not seek another. Someone would have to be our first new mayor in 20 years.

That was when I made my third mistake.

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As a result, I have spent my last five years as Mayor of Warrenville. So, that totals up to 13 years of public service. Thirteen years of laying awake at night worrying about stuff I never even knew anything about before.

Thanks a lot, Vivian.

Fortunately, as you know, and I know Vivian knew, there are many compensations for public service that not only mitigate the effects of the stress, but grace your life in ways you couldn't have imagined as a civilian.

One of them, for me, has been participation in DMMC. Besides getting to know and work with some great people whom I never would have met, I have been mentored when I was uncertain, encouraged when I was hesitant, educated when I proved ignorant, and accepted as one of a group of truly dedicated elected officials and professionals. The members and staff of this conference practice and foster good government, so if you want to learn how to do it right, the DMMC is the best school around.

Two years ago, I returned a call from the Nominating Committee Chair and said "Yes" once again.

That would be my fourth mistake. You'd think I'd learn.

But of course, I have learned.

I have learned that public service as an elected official in your community is indeed a privilege and an honor, with many rewards. I have learned what a valuable instrument DMMC continues to be in promoting and facilitating good local government.

And I am honored to serve as your President for the coming year. Thank you.