

Brothers and Sisters,

As I sit down to write my last update, it's a surreal experience. I have been reflecting on the different positions I've held and opportunities I've had to represent NATCA members. There have been highs and lows, but it has been a truly rewarding experience. Throughout my career I have said thousands of times, "call me if you need anything." My goals since my first day as an area rep at Washington Center have been to help anywhere I can and make our work lives and profession better.

During my term as NATCA president, we accomplished some remarkable things as a Union and changed the future of our profession together.

My career has been fruitful and successful not because of my accomplishments, but because of the people who have been a part of it. It would take too long to thank all of them individually, but I want to specifically thank Paul for his support and counsel and Drew for his friendship and advice. Most of all, thank you to the NATCA members for the robust debate and subjecting the leaders of our great Union to scrutiny. It is through that process that we improve as individuals and better serve our Union.

As I move on in my career, my plan is to return to Washington Center. I love air traffic, and I never wanted my last transmission to be my final transmission. If I can still do the job, I'd like to certify on some sectors and proudly retire as an active air traffic controller with currency. If I no longer have the skills, or am a burden on the facility, I will gracefully retire.

In closing, I will say one last time - call me if you need anything.

In Solidarity,

Rich Santa NATCA President



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