

**Brief Congratulatory Speech by Andy Gill. 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.**

Dad recently retired (in December) from professional practice after 56 years of working in the planning field.

From his early start in public planning, through the formation and leadership of well-known private-sector Planning Firm, Richard Gill Associates, I can say with certainty that Dad has always been passionate about Planning and the role that Town Planning should play in Barbados.

Together with wife Lynda (or Mum), he started building the company on a firm foundation of knowledge, respect, integrity, fairness and kindness first and foremost. My sister Carolyn and I witnessed these human traits every day while growing up and can certainly attest.

Next, he hired good staff members and mentored them over the years, including Wayne (for 35 years), Gina, Camille, and myself who are still with the company, and not to forget both Billy (>20 years) and Jason (>10 yrs) who are now on their own and doing their own thing. I am certain that those of us who are here tonight, as well as those who are not, will unanimously agree that it would be hard to find a better "boss" or finer example of human compassion, mentorship and patience than you, Dad.

So, as you enjoy your "fully retired" professional status at last, on behalf of all of us at your founding and namesake Firm, Richard Gill Associates Ltd., which will likely continue to bear your name indefinitely because no other name would feel right or do it justice, I offer our whole-hearted congratulations, well-wishes and thanks for all that you have done, and what we have achieved together.

Please join me in raising a glass to celebrate Richard...