Dear Mark:

I sincerely appreciate your invitation for the gala event this evening; I would have enjoyed the opportunity to see everyone again after so many years. Our daughter Olivia is competing in her first varsity lacrosse game in Chicago this weekend, which, due to our earlier team commitment, precludes the trip to Avon tonight.

I am very impressed with the perseverance of the DataCAD team over the years against formidable challenges on so many fronts. To survive at all represents a large measure of success, but to survive with such a dedicated core team and a large following of loyal customers is truly a great accomplishment by any standards.

There is no finer testament to that spirit than that shown by Dave Giesselman. Since his first day on the job (I recall him showing-up in a coat and tie), Dave demonstrated his professionalism and enthusiasm for the task ahead. Those early days were quite fascinating as we worked on the most basic elements of DataCAD's layout and operation.

All of that early work was done in Pascal on the Corvus Concept operating system, where we quickly learned that neither the Corvus nor Pascal were designed to handle the level of graphical sophistication required by a CAD system. Nevertheless, Dave and Eric quickly divided programming responsibility, with Eric working on most of the graphic subroutines (like nearpoint), and Dave trying to stitch all the code together and keep everything running. We did not know of the existence of AutoCAD at that time (no PC CAD system market, no Internet), nor were we looking at other CAD systems for inspiration as we worked.
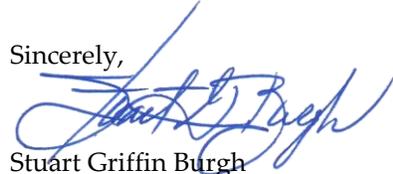
It was not until we were persuaded by the AIA (recalling Mr. Leonard Bain) to migrate to the IBM PC that DataCAD began to resemble its current form. We moved to the "C" programming language, where we painstakingly selected one of the few available code compilers (Whitestone?).

During those days we were demoing a new version of DataCAD almost daily. I was always giving Dave the latest bug list, and asking for a new compile. It was on one of those many occasions that I first saw Dave's eyes "bug-out" as he thought about telling me what he really thought of my micro-management. Fortunately, Dave's patience and professionalism persevered and no fireworks erupted – if they had, would DataCAD be here today?

Dave is the key driver of DataCAD's stability and durability over the years. More so than any other person associated with this two-decade saga across many offices and several organizations, Dave has <u>always</u> been there, problem solving and moving the system forward – no matter what the daily challenge.

Dave – we all thank you for your innumerable contributions to DataCAD. Very few people create the opportunity to beneficially impact the lives of others while helping to shape an industry and a profession at the same time. With literally thousands of architects using DataCAD each week, you are one of those people. My heartfelt congratulations for all that you have accomplished (and a round of applause from me)!

Sincerely,

Stuart Griffin Burgh