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July 10, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Walter Bennett Cameras will cease operations on August 23rd, 2008. This was not an easy decision, but it was clearly the correct one, from both a business and a personal perspective. I regret that we will not be able to continue serving the many wonderful people who have been responsible for our success for nearly 58 years.

Thank you for bringing so much joy into my life on a daily basis for the last 35 years. The relationships I have formed with so many loyal, respectful and supportive people have greatly enriched my life. It is those relationships that I will miss as I move on to new challenges.

My father, Walter Bennett, purchased the store then known as Ray's Cameras on November 13, 1950. I joined my dad in the business in November of 1973 when I came home to help out for the holidays. I had no intention of staying beyond New Year's Day, much less making a career of it. It is especially rewarding for me to now have my son working with me for the summer as we close out this chapter of our lives.

I am energized and excited as I explore opportunities for my next career. I am confident I will find a meaningful and rewarding occupation. But I will always treasure the time that I spent in that unique store, where we treated every customer with respect, and received the same treatment in return.

With my eternal gratitude,

Jim Bennett