

HONORING Commissioner Donald Polmann's PUBLIC SERVICE

After four years serving the public as a Commissioner at the Florida Public Service Commission, **Commissioner Donald Polmann's** term will expire on January 1, 2021. A tribute to his outstanding public service tenure was highlighted by his fellow Commissioners at the beginning of the December Commission Conference.

Chairman Gary Clark opened the honors by thanking Commissioner Polmann for being a mentor, saying, "Your knowledge about the utility industry is extraordinary, and you've been an inspiration and a true friend."

In her farewell to Commissioner Polmann, **Commissioner Julie Brown** presented him virtually with a plaque highlighting his PSC service and also touted Commissioner Polmann for his "inquisitive nature and being a compass and a supportive spirit" on the dais.

She said of Commissioner Polmann's intellectual prowess, "You are so intelligent and you confounded many experts with your questions and your profound statements." She also thanked him for dedicating his life to public service.

Saying Commissioner Polmann "was a friend before a fellow regulator," **Commissioner Andrew Fay** virtually presented Commissioner Polmann with an American flag that "has flown over the state Capitol," adding, "We wanted to do something a little more special to show our appreciation to you for your dedication to public service, to the Commission, and to the State of Florida."

Commissioner Art Graham, an engineer by profession as is Commissioner Polmann, said, "Doc, you've been an experience." He also pointed out the similar bonds of certain past Commissioners serving together--two who were attorneys and two former legislators, and said, "We have our engineering bond, and we saw issues a little differently than the others . . . maybe not better but differently. Commissioner Polmann, you took the reins from me for the NARUC Water Committee and brought it to a different level. Your water and wastewater is second to none."

Commissioner Polmann expressed his gratitude to his colleagues and former Commissioners, to the PSC Nominating Council and to Governor Scott, who "gave him the opportunity to serve." He also thanked the professional PSC staff, the Public Counsel's Office and, most importantly, his office staff, who "prepared him to do the job!"

In thanking his colleagues, Commissioner Polmann perfectly captured the essence of A.A. Milne's quote, "*How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.*" Emotionally, he said, "I'm grateful to you all. We're truly a collegial body, and it's been wonderful working together and conducting ourselves to accomplish what is true service to the public."

