



For Immediate Release

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Longtime United Supermarkets Team Member Decides to Call it Quits – at Age 86

LUBBOCK, Texas ó Some years ago, Melvin Childs was working for another retail grocer, and one of his best friends at the time was a store director with United Supermarkets. He would often tell Melvin to come on over to United if he ever wanted to work for a good company.

“Several years went by after that,” Childs recounted the other day. “But one day I finally called him up and said I’d like to come on over. He told me to call Mike Young and let him know. I called Mike and told him I wanted to come to work there.”

And Childs stayed. In fact, he spent more than 32 years with United and just recently announced his decision to retire ó at age 86. Childs was thanked for his decades of service to the company during a retirement ceremony last week.

“Melvin is a great example of what United Supermarkets stands for,” said Chris James, regional vice president of United Supermarkets, LLC. “It’s not every day around here that we have someone 86 years old who decides they might as well retire.”

Although he has served United in a number of positions over the years, including store director at United’s old location at 34th Street and Avenue Q in Lubbock, he was working three times a week handling the ordering and maintaining the spice displays at four Lubbock locations when he retired.

“When I started handling spices, United had nine stores in Lubbock,” he said. “I used to make them all, but as our business grew, I wound up with a few and shared a few.”

“I can’t think of anyone else who was always, always guaranteed to make me smile,” Co-President Matt Bumstead wrote in a letter that was read during the ceremony. “It did not matter what kind of day I was having, seeing Melvin Childs always made me feel great. Melvin not only wore joy around like a set of clothes. He glowed with it, radiated it, handed it out wherever he went.”

When James finished reading Bumstead’s letter, Childs broke into a wide smile and said, “That’s really nice. Can I have a copy of that letter? When I get down low, I’m going to read that again.” Childs left United once to work in the insurance business, but he wasn’t gone long. “It was

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1984,ö he said. öI was gone three months, and I came back in 1984. Iöve never run across a nicer bunch of people. Even when I left, I couldnö stay out of the stores, and I wanted to get back as quick as I could.ö

The ceremony was attended by his wife, Norma, with whom he celebrated 65 years of marriage in November, and by a number of friends from his Sunday School class at Lubbockö First Baptist Church. öItö been a great honor to work for United, and itö great to look around here and see so many of my friends,ö he said. öThank you very much.ö

Childs wasnö the only one to express his thanks, though. öThank you for all you have given to United,ö Bumstead said. öTo its mission, to its people and to its Guests. You have made us a better place to shop and a better place to be.ö

öMelvin, you touched my entire family,ö said Tony Crumpton, the companyö executive vice president of facility, fuel and supply. öYou watched me grow up, and we grew up watching you, whether you knew it or not. You not only had an influence on my life, but you had influence on a lot of lives.ö

Childs was presented with an Ultimate Service Mission Statement Award for providing 32 years of dedicated service to our Guests.

öThere is a great bunch of people here that Iöve known and loved,ö he said, looking around the room. öThis is one organization that gets in your soul, boy.ö

About United Supermarkets

Now in its 95th year of operation, United Supermarkets, LLC, is a Texas-based, family-owned grocery chain with stores in 30 markets across north and west Texas. A self-distributing company with its headquarters in Lubbock and distribution centers in Lubbock and Roanoke, United currently operates 51 stores under four distinct formats: [United Supermarkets](#), [Market Street](#), [Amigos United](#) and United Express.

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