



Goodbye (and good riddance) to 2020!

By: Sheryl L. Loesch, Clerk

Well, 2020 is finally over! If I had been asked ten months ago if I thought we would still be dealing with COVID, I would have emphatically said, “no way!”

Looking back, 2020 not only brought us insurmountable sadness and challenges, it also brought us opportunities for innovation and inner strength. It tested our patience and taught us the importance of thinking outside the box. And it gave us the chance to spend more time with our families.

Looking forward, the start of a new year is typically a time for reflection—and for setting goals for the upcoming year. That reminds me of a quote by Yogi Berra, a catcher for the New York Yankees from 1946 – 1963 and 1965, who once said “if you don’t know where you’re going, you might not get there.”

Yogi was known for his wise and insightful “yogiisms” that include both humor and practical thoughts on life in general. I’d like to share a few of those with you:

“It was impossible to get a conversation going; everybody was talking too much.”

“Always go to other people’s funerals, otherwise they won’t come to yours.”

“This is like déjà vu all over again.”

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“We made too many wrong mistakes.”

Having made it through 2020, I hope we can find hope and encouragement in what we are facing in 2021. A vaccine is being made available for those who wish to take it. Hopefully life will return to some semblance of normalcy.

Our work life will likely be forever changed. The world quickly adapted to remote working and demonstrated that work can be effectively done in this fashion. While not completely replacing the benefits of meeting in person, the use of virtual platforms proved that much work can still be accomplished this way—with the added benefit of saving time and money.

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida has finished 2020 strong and stands ready to meet the challenges ahead. The Court has many tools in its possession to ensure that justice is timely and fairly served. This is because of the dedication and drive of the Judges and the staff with whom I am proud to serve.

I wish each and every one of you a safe and Happy New Year! And, to again quote Yogi, “If you come to a fork in the road, take it” because we never know what’s around the corner.