



A Willing Spirit

[Edit article](#)

Published on February 14, 2017



Tony Wayne

President, Iron Horse LLC-turnaround, valuation, compl...



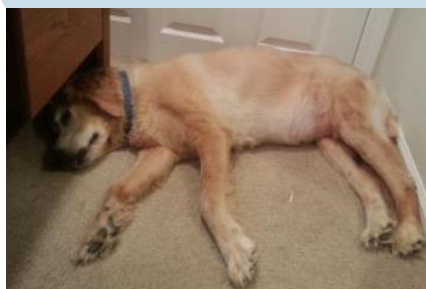
0



0



0



When I'm not at a client location or working from my office at JCCC, I usually set up shop in my office at home. I'm fortunate because the office is in the finished basement and it's a sacred place when it comes to getting work done. Meaning, when I head downstairs and walk in it's really no different than walking into an office on the 10th floor of a Corporate Woods suite in Overland Park, except the rent's a little better. For the past few months, I've bitten the bullet and decided we just need a place we can congregate and collaborate and as we add new members to the IronHorse team, this is particularly important through the "on-boarding" process. So, I have a realtor friend on the hunt for me to find a funky home in the "midtown" area somewhere in KC where the zoning is friendly and you can rehab it and use it as a small office suite if the exterior is "homey" and everything else is within code.

But, to be perfectly candid I'm truly not in a hurry whatsoever and the reason is LuLu. My right hand best helper for the past 12 1/2 years.

June of 2004, Molly and I freaked her mom out when we twisted her arm off and talked her into not one, but two precious golden sisters; Maggie and LuLu. Of the two, LuLu has always been the loyal IronHorse associate and for most of her 12 1/2+ years, you

would find her in the office at the feet of the boss. Some days when Maggie felt like making the trek down the narrow basement steps herself, you would find one on either side of the boss nuzzled right up against the wheels of his chair.

But make no mistake about it, LuLu's been that consistent, dependable, reliable and Willing Spirit who has always, always been there for me. Essentially most of the past 13 or so years. She was with me early on when we were not sure whether this IronHorse experiment would actually fly, and she's ridden both the calm and sometimes quite choppy seas with grace, calm and lots of steady reassurance for the boss.

In May, sadly we had to say good bye for now to her sister and constant companion for all those days when the boss was at a client locale-frequently for long out of town stretches when he was out making the cash register ring for the whole team. Maggie and LuLu ended up being one of the absolute best and sure-thing investments IronHorse has ever made and the immediate void in LuLu's life was powerful when we said bye-bye to the Baby Magpies.

The other thing that happens to those veteran long-timers with a Willing Spirit-the moving parts, the wheels start to pile on too many miles after awhile. The steps become too daunting, too dangerous to navigate. And so, our company was faced with our own HR crisis-how to accommodate the boss's right hand and best helper.

Our solution??

We simply moved the HQ up to the kitchen table. As we've learned at IH over the years, we can and do literally work anywhere; a dilapidated conference room, a trailer, a table by a CNC lathe grinding away. Even the men's room, if duty calls us there and we're tight on time. Accommodations are pretty darn easy for the most part and the last 8 months have been some of the best we've ever had.

And yet, we now face an even larger and more emotionally trying hurdle.

LuLu's wheels are having trouble simply getting her up and moving but 2-3 feet forward. Steps, any steps are just not in her cards anymore and just the effort of picking herself off the floor is just too much for the equipment.

But not the Willing Spirit.

Yesterday morning shortly after sunrise, we faced the extraordinarily sad but inevitable reality that it was likely our last one with LuLu. We've made that 6-7 minute final drive before and those lasting memories are burned into our DNA and they come rushing back again. Every few seconds, you look back over your shoulder in the car wanting that glance to go on for an eternity.

We helped LuLu out of the SUV for what we were pretty certain would be the last time. And yet, by every single possible indication otherwise she was telling anyone and everyone she wasn't quite ready yet. She jumped up quickly in the back as she always does, tail thumping loudly, huge smile on her face ready to just jump right out the back as she's done countless times before.

We waited for Dr. D and what we were resolved would be the inevitable. Again, stealing every single second to soak up every possible remaining ounce of love she could give us. But, Dr. D felt around, checked the wheels, watched her take a few hobbles, looked at the films and said to us:

"The wheels may be failing, but her spirit is definitely still willing"

To be absolutely crystal clear, Dr. D is for sure the last one to ever prolong a great dog's suffering-Willing Spirit or otherwise. He's simply the best there is at being sensitive to the emotional pain of mom and dad, but let's you know with total clarity when it's, "time". LuLu was letting us all know that SHE wanted one more shot-figuratively and literally. She wasn't ready yet to join Maggie, Sam, Prince and the rest of her furry family again. She wanted a little more mom and dad.

And maybe, just maybe a little more IronHorse, too.

The power of a Willing Spirit is extraordinary to experience. It befuddles us financial types who want to put a number on it, and yet it's possible that there is no single asset more valuable in the entire world.

That's a Willing Spirit in really cool shades on full-display getting her cold-laser treatment yesterday AM. If you need a little boost, a little shot in the arm today to keep you moving, please take a moment and think about Laser LuLu today.

Maybe that just might keep the new IronHorse HQ on ice for a little while longer.

Tony Wayne is President & co-founder of IronHorse LLC. IronHorse is a special-situation consulting firm specializing in complex litigation support/expert witness valuation & forensic engagements, as well as turnaround consulting.



Tony Wayne

President, Iron Horse LLC-turnaround, valuation, complex commercial litigation consultant/expert wi...

[4 articles](#)

0 comments



Leave your thoughts here...

Top stories from Editors Picks



Fearless Media - Taking Action In Our Digitally Transformed Media World

Peter Csathy on LinkedIn



Warren Buffett's Best Investment

Bill Gates on LinkedIn



It might surprise you, but Bill Gates believes the world is getting better

Daniel Roth on LinkedIn

Looking for more of the latest headlines on LinkedIn?

Discover more stories

[Help Center](#) | [About](#) | [Careers](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Talent Solutions](#) | [Sales Solutions](#) | [Small Business](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Language](#) | [Upgrade Your Account](#)

LinkedIn Corporation © 2017 | [User Agreement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Ad Choices](#) | [Community Guidelines](#) | [Cookie Policy](#) | [Copyright Policy](#) | [Send Feedback](#)