

Nelson closes the books on 40-year career in banking

By **CALEB NELSON**
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Greenfield banker Paul Nelson is closing the books at the end of this month on his career of 40 years in banking.

A well-attended reception was held at Union State Bank Wednesday, June 14 in Nelson's honor. He has most recently served as President there.

"It has been really good to help people over the years with their finances. It's a touchy subject at times with people, but yet you can help people buy a house, buy a vehicle, buy a farm, start a business," Nelson said. "It makes you feel good when you can help people with what they're needing."

Nelson explained that beyond helping people, his working in banking has been all about relationships you form through the years. The conversations that were shared at the open house

reception were a testament to that.

"It's been a blessing to get to know people and in some cases work with three generations, because in some farm situations I've worked with grandfather, father and son, and it's neat to have that longevity in an operation," Nelson said.

Growing up on a farm five miles southeast of Greenfield, his father raised hogs, cattle, chickens and grew corn, soybeans and hay. As a kid, he would work on the farm and enjoy it. During his junior year of high school, in 1977, his father had a very poor crop and advised Paul to not go into farming, though he wanted to.

Nelson attended Iowa State University after graduating from Greenfield High School, pursuing an agricultural business degree. His first banking job was in the northeast Iowa town of

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Paul and Jina Nelson greet

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