



RDC

Press Release

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RDC Honors Retirement of Bill Duggan

PITTSBURGH, PA – William J. “Bill” Duggan has retired from his position of Vice President of Operations of Railroad Development Corporation (RDC) effective March 31, 2022, concluding a distinguished career in railroading which began with his first job as a motor car repairman’s helper on the Illinois Central in 1966 and was interrupted only by 2 tours of duty with the “Brown Water Navy” in Vietnam. Over the course of his career, Bill served with the Illinois Central and Iowa Interstate (IAIS) before joining RDC, where his many responsibilities included serving as President of Ferrovías Guatemala (FVG) and a board member of RDC Deutschland.

On June 30, 2020, IAIS dedicated the William J. Duggan bridge in honor of his contributions to the company’s survival and success.

[\(https://iaisrr.com/iowa-interstate-railroad-ltd-opens-the-william-j-duggan-bridge-for-rail-traffic/\)](https://iaisrr.com/iowa-interstate-railroad-ltd-opens-the-william-j-duggan-bridge-for-rail-traffic/)

RDC President Bob Pietrandrea commented,

“Bill Duggan had an impressive railroad career that spanned over five decades. His in-depth knowledge of railway engineering and operations allowed him to have an impact on numerous domestic and international railways. His skills and contributions to the industry will be greatly missed.”

RDC Chairman Henry Posner III added,

“RDC has benefited from Bill’s extensive knowledge, but more importantly his wisdom, in many environments and many cultures. His contributions include his service in Guatemala, his key role in the due diligence that led to what is now Peru’s Ferrocarril Central Andino, and his leadership in the structuring of RDC Deutschland. Perhaps most important was his time as Chief Engineer and then VP-Operations of Iowa Interstate; he kept the railroad running through tough times and this accomplishment earned him the respect of both his colleagues and the industry.”

RDC CFO John Hensler commented,

“Bill always placed RDC’s interests first, dropping everything to go wherever he was needed, whether it was Africa, South America, Europe, or spending almost 10 years as President of FVG. His willingness to go where others fear to tread helped to burnish RDC’s image as Railroaders Without Borders.”

RDC VP-Strategic Planning Ida Posner added,

“Bill Duggan has earned a place of eternal respect as part of the RDC Family. It has been a privilege to work with and learn from him, and we are all grateful for the decades of hard work, loyal support, honesty, and humility which have shaped the culture and success of RDC.”



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From Iowa, IAIS President Joe Parsons commented,

“Over its history dating back to 1984, the Iowa Interstate Railroad, another former Class-I route once considered to be unnecessary and starved of desperately needed capital, has been transformed into a safe, modern railroad providing consistent and reliable service to all of its customers. Bill Duggan was instrumental in beginning that transformation early in the railroad’s history when options were limited, and capital was hard to come by. Without his extensive industry experience and ingenuity in those formative years, I am certain IAIS would not be the railroad that it is today.”

Retired IAIS Vice Chairman Denny Miller added,

“In 1989 when the chief engineer at Iowa Interstate Railroad retired, I called Bill to see if he had an interest in leaving the Illinois Central and coming back to Iowa. Ironically, he agreed and thus began the adventure. He was just what the railroad needed at that time to make things work on a ‘shoestring budget.’ His ability in engineering and track maintenance was eventually expanded worldwide after moving on to IAIS’ parent company, RDC. When someone spends 55+ years in the industry, you know they enjoyed the work; now it’s time to enjoy the retirement!”

From Peru, FCCA Chairman Dr. Juan de Dios Olaechea commented,

“Bill taught me that every bolt, every angle bar, every bump in the track counts. When you are inspecting track there is no rest or distraction, no altitude sickness, no hunger; neither rain nor snow should stop you! You have a huge responsibility, and many people rely on your acumen.”

From Germany, RDC Strategic Advisor-Europe Dr. Alexander Hedderich commented,

“I had the privilege to closely work together with Bill Duggan in establishing a vital rail operator in Germany during the last six years. Bill’s contribution — based on his deep understanding of the nature of the railroad — was mission-critical for this successful effort.”

RDC Deutschland MD Dr. Markus Hunkel added,

“Bill Duggan’s advice and support has been a key to create RDC’s highly respected rail operation in Germany. His ultimate focus on Safety has become part of our DNA to serve our customers in passenger, freight and rolling stock.”

From Guatemala, former Ferrovías Guatemala GM Jorge Senn commented,

Bill was my boss, but after a short time and a couple of heated work-related discussions, our relationship turned into a respectful friendship. I consider him one of my mentors not only in railroad matters, but also in life overall. I was FVG’s general manager from July 15, 2002, through January 2024, so Bill was my boss for 12 years!

RDC (www.rrdc.com) is a family-owned railway investment and management company based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. Its business model is based on partnerships, including interests in the Iowa Interstate Railroad; Peru’s Ferrocarril Central Andino; UK Battery train manufacturer Vivarail; German passenger & freight rail operator RDC Deutschland; French first/last mile freight operator RegioRail; and Belgium-based multimodal logistics integrator Eurorail. In addition, RDC is now launching Pop-Up Metro in North America, an innovative approach to fast-start transit deploying battery trains on existing light-density freight rail lines.

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