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50 Years with Graystone Eye

Hickory, NC (June 5, 2024):

On June 10th Graystone Eye employee David Killian will celebrate his 50-year anniversary with the practice. David joined Graystone as a licensed optician when he was 19 years old after graduating from Durham Technical Community College in 1974. At that time Durham Tech was one of only four institutions in the nation offering the program. He had been planning to attend NC State and study agriculture but was advised that a career as an optician could be promising. Being a lifelong glasses wearer also contributed to his career path decision.

David is well known by patients and in some instances has been working with the same family for four generations. He remembers the first Graystone office and how it was a big deal to have water fountains in the lobby. He's experienced massive amounts of change and growth since then and credits Graystone with being able to maintain its family-like atmosphere for patients and employees. When asked about the things that've kept him at the practice he speaks to the support of the doctors and how they've allowed him to expand his capabilities as a healthcare provider.

Graystone has many employees with long tenures and David is the ultimate example. With the national average being just over four years, 50 years with one organization is truly an incredible career milestone. He feels his work ethic was instilled at a young age, having grown up on a farm in Hickory. Regarding his plans for the future David says "I still enjoy the job and taking care of patients. As long as I feel useful, I'll keep working." Graystone has benefited immensely from David's dedication to preserving the gift of sight and improving lives, one patient at a time. David also feels incredibly grateful that Graystone has afforded him the opportunity to have such a rewarding career in his hometown and be close to his family.