Our sixth in seniority Body CAD Designer to retire is Victor Kapla, after 19 years of working for Ford, Visteon, ACH, and Ford again. Vic has over 45 years of experience in the drafting and CAD field. Luckily, he is also old enough to receive full Social Security, which he will need since the Ford-Visteon spin-off took away retirement eligibility at Ford.

Vic lived in the Metro-Detroit area all of his life. He graduated from Our Lady of the Lakes High School in Waterford. Soon after, he earned a certificate in drafting from a trade school on the west side of the state. His motivation to be a draftsman was sparked by ads, such as “Earn big money - - be an electronic repairman, appliance repairman, draftsman, etc.”; and “Learn at home through correspondence,” which appeared on matchbook covers.

Vic was contracted to Ford through Pioneer Engineering in May of 1991. He was offered a direct position in June of 1998. He accepted the offer because of the benefits, most importantly, the retirement. Back in 1998, the Interior CAD designers worked directly for a program engineering supervisor, not an Interior CAD design supervisor. Vic’s first supervisor, a program engineering supervisor, was Hank Fritz. When Vic returned to Ford in 2012, he worked for Laurie Wagel and then Jim McNamara. His current Body CAD supervisor is Paul Schryer.

Vic has three sisters and is a middle child. He never married in America, and has no children. His current and only marriage, however, is to a Thai lady. Their wedding took place in October 2016, in Thailand. His plans for retirement are to relocate to Thailand in late 2017, to be with his wife of one year. Life in Thailand will be easy and very inexpensive. Vic plans to voluntarily teach English on a part time basis, do some gardening, and work out at a gym. Once a year, he and his wife plan to vacation for three weeks to nearby places like Tokyo, Sydney, Munich, and so forth. Good fortune for Vic - - his wife is a Thai government school teacher and self-sufficient, with great benefits that she can share with Vic.