

City of Rancho Mirage
Senior Inspiration Honoree
ROBERT E. SCHWARZ

Robert, 89, was born in Hamburg, Germany to parents from Hungary.

His family left Europe for India in 1939, where they lived until 1946. While living in India, Robert met Mahatma Gandhi on several occasions. At the end of World War II, the family left India to immigrate to the United States. They sailed for three months on a Dutch freighter before arriving in San Pedro and settling in Chicago.

From 1952 to 1955, Robert served in the U.S. Air Force, serving overseas in Europe, and stationed in San Antonio, Texas.

Robert studied in Detroit and earned his degree in Accounting from Walsh College in 1957 and continued his education to receive a B.A. in Economics from Wayne State University. This education led him to a career as an accountant in the insurance industry for 29 years.

Robert founded and served as the CEO of the Accounting Aid Society of Detroit where small businesses were provided with accounting assistance, particularly the African American community. This organization is still active today. Robert was also elected president of the Insurance Accounting and Statistical Association, an international organization, and held the position for two years.

In 1986, Robert decided to retire and then unretired after two years. He continued working with various businesses. One of the most fulfilling jobs he has had is one that he continues to do part-time.

For over 20 years, he has worked at the U.S. Trustee's office in LA, applying his financial background and working with attorneys and accountants as a bankruptcy administrator.

In 2012, Robert and his wife, Joanne, moved to Rancho Mirage.

Robert has volunteered with the Citizens on Patrol in Rancho Mirage over the past seven years. As captain, he runs the program, overseeing over 30 volunteers, and works closely with the city. In his volunteer efforts, he contributes to maintaining a safe environment for residents and visitors.

Robert has many interests including reading, movies, cooking, and music. His favorite movie is "Shawshank Redemption," his favorite opera is "Madame Butterfly," and his favorite dish to cook is goulash.

Robert and Joanne have been married for 67 years. They have three children, four grandchildren, and one dog.