

# Ross Wilour Profile

Ross Willour was born in Pryor, Oklahoma in February of 1942. The family was literally blown out of town on April 27, 1942 by a huge tornado that left just the wall standing at the head of the bed where Ross, his mom and grandmother were laying when the tornado hit. With brief stops in Colorado and Utah, the family settled in Manhattan Beach, CA. Ross was then raised in the San Fernando Valley, attending Reseda High School, and CSUN in Northridge. Ross began his JCPenney career as a stock boy at the age of 16 in the Van Nuys store in 1958. He will receive his 50-Year pin in Seattle this year.



By the end of 1960 he had become attracted to another young associate who worked part-time in the girls & infants departments while attending high school. That was his future wife, Marilyn Arndt. They began dating in 1961 and were married in February of 1964. Ross remained in the Van Nuys store until September of 1967 when he was transferred to the new store at Fashion Island in Newport Beach. Marilyn was transferred to the new Huntington Beach store and both stores opened on the same day, November 7, 1967.

While Ross was at the Fashion Island store, Mr. Penney made a visit to see his newest "flagship" store. Ross had the privilege of meeting and having a photo taken with Mr. Penney. From Newport, Ross went to the Huntington Beach store for a brief stay before going into operations training that led him to the Carson store. After operations in Carson, it was back to Huntington Beach as a GMM. His next move was a special assignment at the District Office in Buena Park working with the systems team in Atlanta and the local stores of the district that were going live on computer systems. He eventually moved on to District Operations for a few years, then went back to store level as an ASM in the Downey store. He was part of the VERP and retired from Downey in March of 1998.

The year 1998 was a busy year for the Willour Family. Their daughter, Candis, who was born in 1971, was married to David Brady. She and David met while attending Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana. David worked as a security agent in the Huntington Beach and Brea stores while he attended CSF before law school. Candis had worked for one of the GEO Districts making all of the signs for the stores while she too was attending CSF. Candis & David have two sons, Dylan age 10 & Gavin age 7.

In May of 1998 Ross was elected to the position of State Deputy for the California Knights of Columbus. He had been going through the chairs of his local Westminster Council, the Orange County Chapter, and some of the State Council positions during his JCP career. He was State Deputy for the year 1998-1999. In 2000, he was appointed Master of the Southern California District 4th Degree and remained in that position for four years. He served on the State Council as Program Director and Membership Director along with other functions too. In the fall of 2007 he accepted his current position of Vice Supreme Master of the 4th Degree over the Junipero Serra Province which is all of California and Nevada. He and Marilyn have both been active through the Knights with Wheelchair Distributions in Mexico City, Texcaco, Puebla, and the border towns of TJ, Mexicali and Ensenada.