

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 so the family landed 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. That was 1958. 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. It was while at the Fashion Island store that Mr. Penney made a visit to see his new "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 Assistant Store Manager. It was during his second time at Huntington Beach that he met a young man from Cuba who was working in the shoe department stockroom. Little did they know that in time they would be working together again, in a completely different place. 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, after a few years went back to store level once again as an Assistant Store Manager, this time in the Downey store. He was part of the Voluntary Early Retirement Program and retired from Downey in March of 1998. He joined the JCPenney Retirement Group at that time and his years of service have carried on enabling him to receive his 50 years of service pin last year at a JCPenney Convention in Seattle.

Ross & Marilyn have a daughter, Candis born in February of 1971. Candis was married to David Brady in April of 1998 and they have two sons, Dylan who is 12 and Gavin who is 7 1/2. Both boys attend Catholic School at Serra School in Rancho Santa Margarita. Candis & David are very active in the school and with the boy's sports. Both boys play soccer and baseball. David is a lawyer at a firm in Whittier, and Candis has been able to be a stay at home mom, keeping busy as a volunteer at the school, soccer coach and team photographer for the baseball league.

Ross became a Knight in 1981. He went through the chairs of his local Westminster Council in Orange County. Now it's time for that young man from Cuba to meet up with Ross once again. His name, Emilio Moure, he was welcomed as a new recruit to the Westminster Council, the rest is as they say history as he went on to become the Supreme Secretary. After being the Grand Knight Ross became a District Deputy then went through the chairs of the Orange County Chapter as well as chairs of the 4th Degree in the San Juan Capistrano Assembly. He was on several committees for the State Council before being elected as State Warden in 1994. In May of 1998 Ross was elected to the position of State Deputy. 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. In the fall of 2007 he the 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, & Ensenada. Since moving to Palm Springs full time in 2005, Ross has been a leader in getting the Coachella Valley Councils and Squire's Circles involved in the March Special Olympic Regionals in La Quinta.