

## Phil Abromowitz

I invented post-its. Wait, that wouldn't pass the four-way test. Here's some true information. I was born in the late 40s in a rural town on the Jersey Shore. I was the only Jewish kid in our high school of 600. That attracted a few bullies and led to a few fights.

I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (with honors) from the University of Arizona with majors in both Real Estate and Insurance. I was in college during the buildup of the Vietnam War and joined the Navy's Reserve Officer Candidate Program. After my junior year, I was sent to a summer program at the U.S. Naval Academy. Although I was doing just fine in the program, after 10 days I resigned. I want to serve; but realized I did not want to be an Officer. I did not want the responsibility of other men's lives under my control. I remained an enlisted man; and was promptly sent to enlisted boot camp. After finishing my senior year in college I went on active duty with the Navy. However, rather than being on a ship, I served a tour of duty with the Navy on land in Danang, Vietnam.

After completing my military obligation I attended the University of Arizona Law School. There I was elected Chairman of school's Ethics Committee; and graduated with high honors. Before graduating I was recruited to be a criminal prosecutor in Phoenix, Arizona. After graduating, I moved to Phoenix and started prosecuting criminals. I then returned to Tucson where I maintained a law practice for 36 years dealing in eminent domain law (representing rich people whose property was being taken by the government); and consumer bankruptcy law (representing working poor people). Out of over 1,200 attorneys in the Tucson, the Pima County Bar Association and Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc. select an attorney each month to be honored as the Volunteer Attorney of the Month. I am the only Attorney in Pima County to have been selected for this honor twice. My selection was based on a tremendous amount of voluntary work on behalf of poor, desperate people.

After turning from Vietnam and starting law school I decided to get married to the first woman I met. That was a very bad decision. It led to a very painful and dysfunctional 23 year marriage. The only good part of it was the birth of my three children. During the marriage I had to assume most of the parental responsibilities for raising my kids. In the neighborhood they called me "Mr. Mom". Fortunately that marriage came to an end. Not too long after something spectacular happened. I met the woman who would eventually become my present Wife.

When I met Barbara my black-and-white world turned into spectacular living color. She is a fantastic person and my best friend. We honeymooned in the Seattle area and returned many times. That eventually led us to Edmonds where we purchased a condo.

Life in Edmonds is great. We enjoy exploring the Northwest and have a huge list of things we still want to do.

I really have enjoyed my time in the Edmonds Rotary Club. I truly look forward to getting to know all of the members much better than I know them now.