

Résumé for Bill Roberts

Bill was born and raised in Los Angeles. He attended and graduated from the Public School System (K-12). He attended East Los Angeles and El Camino Community Colleges earning 72 units of credit. His college career was cut short by two industrial accidents, both of which resulted in back surgery and rehabilitation. Bill was married to Jewelie for 43 years and they had two children who are both educators. Their daughter, Cari, is a middle school English teacher and their son, Rob, is a high school principal. Bill was also a loving and supportive grandfather to: Chelsea (21), Ryan (17), William (10), Matthew (9), and Emma (7).

Involvement in Workers Compensation Vocational Rehabilitation Service Delivery, Long-term Disability Insurance, Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Welfare Reform, State-Federal Vocational Rehabilitation, Job Training Partnership Act, One Stop Career Center Systems and School to Work are the many areas where Bill provided services for 30 years.

In April of 1965 Bill began his career at the California State Compensation Insurance Fund as a Claims Technician and advanced to the position of Claims Manager. Bill joined the Claims/Rehabilitation Staff at the State Compensation Insurance Fund and was responsible for implementation of the first computer assisted claims system in the 12 Southern California District Field Offices. In 1974 Bill represented the State Compensation Insurance Fund at various employer association meetings to present them with information on the new mandatory Vocational Rehabilitation Law that was to become effective January 1, 1975.

Bill founded Vocational Rehabilitation Associates, a private for profit vocational rehabilitation service-provider company, at a time when there was no business model for private for profit vocational rehabilitation companies. He developed a successful multi-office service operation, which continued until 1990. At this time the California employers led a successful campaign to reduce vocational rehabilitation costs and benefit utilization and therefore VRA was put on the inactive list.

In connection with his involvement in vocational rehabilitation Bill was active in various professional organizations. He was co-founder of the California Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (CARP) and was the first Chair of the legislative committee that developed a political legislative action plan to serve people with disabilities. Bill was co-founder of NARPPS and served as President for two terms. He also held positions with NARPPS as a Contract Government Relations Consultant, Assistant Executive Director, and the liaison to the Social Security Administration. As President of (NARPPS) Bill testified before Congressional Committees in support of the Americans with Disabilities Act that was signed into law by President George Bush Sr. Finally Bill's leadership in NARPPS was greatly responsible for membership of the organization growing from 1200 to 4000 members in a six-year span.

During his latter career years, Bill developed a Human Service consulting business and began monitoring various Federal Education, Training and Employment Programs to identify business opportunities for the Private Service Delivery Sector. Bill also spent much of his personal time doing "pro-bono" work for human service organizations that aid in health research and care, like: the American Liver Foundation, American Diabetes Association and most recently the FAIR foundation.

Bill's professional and personal goals always focused on service and improving life for individuals stricken with unforeseen misfortune.