

I was naturalized as a citizen of the United States in the United States District Court in Honolulu, Hawaii. I was a Sergeant by that time. I rose in the ranks. I was stationed in Japan. I flew all over the world.

Then Congress passed the GI Bill of Rights. And I decided, when my enlistment is up, I've done my duty and everything else, I want to go to college on the GI Bill.

So I decided to come back to California. And I went to school at California State University and UCLA in Los Angeles on the GI Bill. I got my degree, Bachelor of Science in accounting.

Let me tell you how I got to be in accounting, if I have time.

Sure.

When I came to Los Angeles-- now listen carefully about this, what you all, you know we're talking about Jews. I was a kid. How much was I when I came back from the service? I was-- no I wouldn't say a kid. By that time I was 24, 25. And I came back. I didn't know exactly what to take-- what to take up.

I was told to go to the Jewish Federation in Los Angeles on 590 North Vermont. And they'd give you counselors. I went to the counseling center, and I get through it. I just get out of the service. And so they give me a bunch of tests.

And the guy looks at me and he says, you want to go to college? University? I said, yes. A refugee kid like you, a guy in the service? What do you know about university? [INAUDIBLE] your life. Go out, get a job.

I looked at him, and I said to him like this, sir, just because my family was murdered-- just because my family was murdered by the Nazis, and I'm all alone, doesn't mean I'm inferior. And then I looked at him. And those yahoos can go to university. I have just as much on the ball as those yahoos that are over there. Well, suit yourself.

When I walked out of the Jewish Federation in Los Angeles, I was so mad. I was so mad. I said, I'm going to show him.

I went to UCLA and took another test. And it was a nice gentleman, so much different. Non-Jewish, a gentile who gave me the test. And he says-- he looks at me and he says, well, you scored on this test so much and so much. This is pretty good. The highest rate, a mechanic you will not be, because you scored low on mechanical ability.

However, you scored very high-- 9 out of 10 or something-- your highest would be 10, and I scored 9-- in numbers, mathematical numbers. So I looked at him and I said, what do you think that means? Can be a bookie?

He says, well, a bookie, yes. But you know you should consider accounting. You should consider it. That makes sense.

I enrolled at a university with a major in accounting. You got to take 15 units the first semester. I took two accounting courses, one economics, one English, and one history. I got, on the first semester, in both in my accounting courses, business, I got two A's, and another one I got an A. I got three A's and two B's my first semester.

I graduated college with a degree, Bachelor of Science in accounting, with a point average of 3.3 or 3.4-- something like that-- out of 4. A B or better.

Wonderful.

When I graduated from college-- I went to college on the GI Bill of Rights. While in college, in the library, I met a girl. She was studying there too. Marion.

And in 1957, while in college, in '57, I married Marion. I graduated from college in 1959 with a bachelor's degree. I worked for an accounting firm. Then I studied for my CPA examination and also for my master's degree.

In the '60s, I studied for my master's and a CPA. In 1964, I became a CPA in the State of California. And in 1966 I got my master's degree from California State University.

I was employed by public accounting. I was in the IRS for several years, [INAUDIBLE] taxes. I was director of taxes for Capitol Industries, director of taxes for Memorex. And I lived in California. Did very well indeed, until 1973, '74, when I came to Arizona.

By the way, 1961, thank God, my first son was born-- Steven. And in 1964 my second son was born. I have two sons. And I came to Arizona in 1973, director of taxes for Talley Industries. I stayed with Talley for 11 years, took early retirement. And now I am in my own practice, Samuel Hilton CPA, PC. And I have my own business and my wife has a little business.

I did it all on my own. Nobody gave me a nickel, other than the GI Bill of Rights, which I'm entitled to because I was in combat in Korea in 1950. Did it all on my own.

That's wonderful. What kind of business does your wife have?

She has a little shop, like antiques and resale items and so forth on 19th Avenue and Camelback called [INAUDIBLE].

And your sons live on--

I have two sons, wonderful boys. My oldest son is now 27. Born in '61. He is a developer. He builds homes in Scottsdale, in Scottsdale Country Club. He builds nice homes.

I put them both through college. Both of my sons went through college, University of Arizona. Both graduated, one in '83 and one in '86. My oldest son, the one who graduated in '83 with a degree in accounting and real estate is a developer. He builds homes. The company is named Monterrey-- Monterrey Homes, a corporation which he owns 50%. He is the owner of 50%, secretary, treasurer, and vice president.

My youngest son graduated in '86, and he is managing a pretty good-sized RadioShack store in San Diego. That's what we wanted to do. As a matter of fact, he's coming for Thanksgiving the day after tomorrow.

Are they married, your sons?

My older one just became engaged to a nice Jewish girl here. My older one. My younger one, not yet. My younger one's only 24 or 25. But the older one just got engaged.

So thank God the way it turned out. But you see what happened in my life.

Yes. It's wonderful to hear a success story born out of the ashes of the ghetto and the Holocaust. It's wonderful to hear it. And we appreciate you telling your experiences, and your history, which will go on record-- on record for the purpose that--