

Ed Tessaro Bio (2016)

Ed began his Retail career in the 70's, following his service in the *Army Air Defense Corps*. As an ROTC graduate (University of Dayton) and 1st Lieutenant, he commanded the 4th Training Battalion for Missile-training in Ft Bliss, Texas.

As a Buyer and Store Manager he held management positions in *Sears* in Boston, and then moved to his favorite city, Chicago in 1974 with *May Company*. A move to Atlanta followed with *Federated Department Stores (Rich's)* in 1981. He ran the South DeKalb, Southlake and Perimeter Mall *Rich's* stores until 1990, when he assumed the *Regional VP Stores* role for *Rich's* and *Macy's* with responsibilities in 3 states. Ed retired from *Macy's* in 2003, and spent two years as an HR Software consultant for the *Dovetail Group* in Atlanta. Since 2008 he has served on the *Windward Community Services* Board. Judy founded the *Andover Country Day School* in 1989, one of the first Accredited Pre-Schools in Atlanta.

Ed & Judy have been involved for 8 years with the *Muscular Dystrophy Association*, and the *Emory ALS Clinic* where Ed has been a patient since 2009. Today they Co-Chair the Annual *MDA Night of Hope* gala for ALS research, helping to raise \$6.4M to date for MDA Regional Clinics across the country. Ed was one of the initial 30 Phase I patients to participate in the first U.S. ALS Stem Cell Trial in 2010. In addition, the Tessaros support the CF Foundation, VET groups statewide, and the Boys & Girls Clubs. Both say this is the work that's most rewarding.

They have two children - Lauren is the VP Merchandising for Full Beauty Brands in NY. Jordan is a Sr. Manager for *Accenture* and lives in Atlanta. Ed's interests include the Arts, mountain climbing, wilderness trekking, photography, and cycling. Judy loves the Arts as well, reading, and a good round of golf.