

Edward Atiyeh Interview on Governor Vic Atiyeh

An interview of Edward Atiyeh on the topic of his brother, Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh, recorded on April 14, 2015. Edward Atiyeh had been a co-owner of the family rug business, Atiyeh Bros. The interviewer, James Moore, was a professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer. This was the first of two interviews they conducted; see also PUA_MS161_005.

Notes on the recording and transcript: Edward Atiyeh (1921-2017) was about 94 years old at the time of this recording, and his voice is faint for much of it. This affected the quality of the transcript, which was made through AI in 2025 with some manual corrections. It has been provided in order to facilitate research, but the text does contain errors and inaccuracies. Users should check the transcript against the recording before quoting the speakers.

Edward Atiyeh 0:00

The gift offers and still Sylvia, yeah, having Yeah. You know, when Vic became governor, actually in the Senate, we had a company policy that we would not accept or work with the state government anyway, at all.

Unknown Speaker 0:19

Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Edward Atiyeh 0:23

We never did much for them anyway, but whenever they periodic, contact us, for, for, for, that's, that's

James Moore 0:34

clearly the safest thing that you can do in those situations. And but you know, it's, it's not written in stone. It's kind of, kind of, what you decide that's right, and so that's where kids have getting in trouble. And it's, it's still not clear that the laws were violated, but certainly it's in a gray area. Oh yeah, it's just crazy. Just crazy like

Edward Atiyeh 0:57

that. Yeah, I can't believe we're running her business out of that,

James Moore 1:03

out of the governor's mansion,

Edward Atiyeh 1:05

the mansion, yeah, yeah, that's a thing that makes it more troubling, too. Yeah, exactly. Why does he have an office somewhere else? Yeah,

James Moore 1:16

yeah, it's, it's a well, especially since there was one. The last time I saw your brother. Was the beginning of June, and then I was off on a vacation. We were talking because I was going off to celebrate my 25th anniversary, and he was going to celebrate his 70th sword and trade anniversary stories when I got back. But just before that is when there was a story in The Oregonian about Governor Kitzhaber, basically living up here. And Vic was was quoted in that and say, No, the governor should live in Salem, where the government is. And when I saw him, I said, so, you're famous, you're in the paper. He said, You know, I should have been a lot more angry in that,

like, okay, yeah.

Edward Atiyeh 1:59

Well, you know also about that, that mansion too, when Vic was governor, they wanted to buy back. Yeah? I mean, they want one open up. And Vic said he didn't want to live there. He said it was too expensive to maintain, yeah. And he

said, For the amount of time you're going to spend there, he says, I don't believe it's a good idea to put all our money into something like that. Yeah,

James Moore 2:21

yeah. And it didn't happen until goldsmiths, and there was the money that came in and things like that. But yeah, and, and, you know, thinking about it, several the governors didn't really live there because it's, it is too big, yeah, it's too weird. And so they put Vick in a rental house where they kept raising

Unknown Speaker 2:43

his hand, yeah, the thing where the town will call out,

James Moore 2:45

yeah, yeah, exactly, exactly. So that the

Edward Atiyeh 2:49

one that they, that they that he

had, and it was a nice house and very comfortable, yeah,

James Moore 2:57

Jerry Thompson says it was very nice, except that you could only heat half of

it only had he didn't have the house. Yeah, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 3:10

okay, now, just

trying to fill in, and I don't give me any material need or anything. Just just talking,

James Moore 3:21

yeah, just talking, um, so what happens is, I'm, I'm recording this. This is archival quality, okay? And so eventually all this is going to go to the Pacific University Archives, okay? And what I do with it is, I do the so the archival one, I take it home, and then I convert it into because archival quality, turns out, takes, it's a big, big, big file, huge. And so I take it and I convert it into a file that's more easy to work with. And then as I ask questions and we talk, then I actually use a piece of software that allows me to edit it, and I don't take any words out, but I if it's a conversation, for instance, about, you know, you guys growing up, then it'll be that part will be over here. And I then put it into a file, so the book is being organized as I listen to these things. So I've got personal stuff, management of the governor's office, state legislature, politics has gotten too big, so I'm going to be cutting that.

Turns out there's a lot of Rajani shoes that show up in there.

Yeah, yeah. But it's great because in talking to people, and the first thing, the first person I talked to, was I did four of these with Vic, and so that was great. And you know, now there are little questions. I wish I could go back and ask him, but you know that that doesn't happen. You can't cover everything exactly, exactly, um, and so. So talking to him was great in kind of laying out where he felt the important things were. And now I'm talking to other people, getting another perspective. Perspectives, and then beginning in January, I have sabbatical, and so that's when I'll do, be doing a lot of interviews, but also be spending a lot of time in the archives, reading things and really putting things together like that and finding documents. It's a lot of, for instance, talking with Jerry Thompson. She's willing to talk to me about things that she's never talked to anybody about Marvel and things that, like there's some things that she never told Vic. And so it's like overhearing people talking about how they were going to get Vic to do what they wanted now that he was governor, and she never told them that, but, but, so lots of really good things as well as just all these, you know, like your book, you know, oh, here's, here's, these five folders that I have that were this, this, this, and this, they're yours. And so that kind of thing you

Edward Atiyeh 5:55

know, anything about Vic though, too, is that

he never let anything bother him. Yeah. In fact, even in business, Richard and I, we would go home. And lot of times we take some of our problem home with us. Vic was just the opposite. He would go home. We forget everything, yeah, and I really admired him for that. He was, yeah, he thought things out pretty well though, before, though, and he was

very,

very synonym about other people's feelings

James Moore 6:36

too. Yeah, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 6:38

but, but,

like I say I was a minor because I can see he was entirely,

entirely, very complacent. Uh huh, very good.

James Moore 6:52

Yeah, one of the things that I was asking Denny miles and Jerry about is there's and he Vic mentions it too, because he did a, he did 65 hours of an oral history with their Oregon Historical Society in the early 1990s and so he talks about it a bit, but it comes up in other things. He would occasionally get very angry, yeah, and so, but, but very occasionally, and talking to Denny and Jerry, they, they, he never lost it. It was very instrumental, very focused, but it made the message very, very and those kinds of things, whatever it was, never happened again,

Edward Atiyeh 7:35

too, because in business, because all three of us were in the business, right, too, and our whole career is working together. We always got along. We never we'd accept each person for their strong points. And yeah, and if we don't agree with them, we would express it, but then we drop it. Yeah, and, and, but you don't find that very much in family businesses like that.

James Moore 8:00

Well, especially the second generation, and now you're the third, yeah, and it's the fourth generation coming along. Well, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 8:10

David, about five years he's worked in 18 plant, and he's worked at a retail store, he's worked with a cleaning plant. Now he's getting more involved in management, so he'll be the fourth generation, yeah? So yeah, we're real pleased about that. Wow.

James Moore 8:29

That's amazing. Just amazing. Yeah, so I wanted to ask you growing up kinds of questions I have the 1930 census from when you guys lived over in your house. And one thing that Vic talked about, especially when he became governor, and he was the one who helped create a black commission, a Hispanic commission, you know, appointed people who, you know, women and all sorts of things. He said, you know, where we grew up, it was, there were all sorts of different people from different places, and that was just the way it was. And so I had the 1930 census, so you're eight or nine, and Vic is seven or eight, and Richard's eight or nine, obviously. And you look at the census, and it's amazing, you know, Where are the parents from? Or where are the kids from? And there's Oregon, Sweden, Oregon, Germany, Syria, Syria, Syria, you know, people from Maryland. This was just people from all over the place, some Canadians, yeah, just in your neighborhood, yeah. I mean, it just just pointed out. So, what was it like growing up in that neighborhood?

Edward Atiyeh 9:41

Well, of course, we, we, we never saw much about that. I mean, we, we figured that just the way things are right. And in fact, in grade school too, we had we had Japanese we had Afro Americans. We had all. Different nationalities. It was a very mixture. And, you know, they always, is still in public school, but we never thought much about it. Uh huh. We're all we're all Americans. You know, that's Yeah,

James Moore 10:17

we didn't dwell on it. Uh huh. Was there an Arab American community here with anybody besides you guys? There

Edward Atiyeh 10:24

is one, but they were mostly in other areas of Portland.

Okay, well,

most of them were in in Southeast Portland and up in Mount, Mount Scott area through that area, but, very none around where we were

James Moore 10:42

and was there, for instance, a church where people went, where there was, like, you know, like, there's a Greek church. Now,

Edward Atiyeh 10:48

they had a certain Orthodox Church, stuff like that too, but we went to just a regular Episcopal Church. Yeah, in our neighborhood, yeah, and, and, mother and dad. Most of their close friends were not Syrians, right? They were other nationalities and things like that, but very well. I mean, we had, Dad had good relations with everybody. Belong to a Syrian American Club, right? But he never really participated very strongly, yeah,

James Moore 11:20

yeah, it's not like he was a royal Rosarian. For instance,

your dad was a Republican.

Most immigrants become Democrats, yeah. So why do you think he was a Republican? Well, I think

Edward Atiyeh 11:40

because of his business philosophy, okay, I think he was very strong, oriented to work the business, and

he didn't agree with

socialism

or the way, particularly Rosa was taking their country right on it too. In fact, he had a lot of lot of

anti democratic things in

his office. He never displayed him, yeah, but he was a very, very, very, very strongly public, uh huh.

James Moore 12:23

Because when in political science, if you want to predict what party someone belongs to, you just look at their parents, yeah. But at some point it has to start. And so you have to, it's fun to figure that out. And with with an immigrant family, you can see a start, yeah? Because, you know, back in, in, in with that point, with the Ottoman Empire, these are not the political parties, because

Edward Atiyeh 12:47

every every election, dad would always have a party, but hoping the Republicans get in and after, because they didn't have two but I think we did all the radio have a party set up and had all the Republican friends there, and then after a few hours, we go landslide.

James Moore 13:07

Alf Landon didn't make it again. Yeah, so

you guys go off to college, and then did you and Richard join the military before you went to college, or you've been in college and then joined, well,

Edward Atiyeh 13:23

back rich Vic and I all started college together, okay? And was

James Moore 13:27

that because you guys were working or no?

Edward Atiyeh 13:31

When we were in grade school?

You have graduation classes, yes, a year, yeah. And then pick with 18 ways younger. But then big skip the grade okay. And in grade school, they moved him up fast, yeah, and so. So Richard and I graduated in January, and then pick graduate in June.

James Moore 13:53

Okay, so you go to college that fall.

Edward Atiyeh 13:57

We all three went to college together, yeah. And I remember my dad said to he says, he said, When you go to college, you can, you can do, do what you want to do, to take, take what you want to study, and what you will finally finish to you have to make your own own decisions about what you want to do. And he can even force it to come in the business at all. But then we all ended up in the business,

James Moore 14:22

yeah, well, and I saw it was great when you and your brother finally got back. You know, one worked, and the other went to school, and then you switched.

Edward Atiyeh 14:30

Well, we got back, because the big, big drop down to college, yeah, and, and then we came back to then I Richard went to school right away, and I worked, work a year, and then when he finished, and I went, because we then one year left, yeah, because we have some, some educational about a year education in the army,

James Moore 14:55

okay? And they counted that for that. They call

Edward Atiyeh 14:59

a. CP program, officer

training, yeah, and and so so we have. We were at Auburn, Alabama. Oh, great for all year. And so then we just had one year, because when we went to a certain end of our second year. Yeah, yeah. So then we all just had one more year left to pay, so that's why then we came back.

James Moore 15:26

Uh, huh, um, you know, book isn't about you, but there is going to be just a bit, because you're you, and your brother's world war two story is just amazing. And actually, I've been talking a lot with Dana Tims. I read The Oregonian pieces,

and Dana Tims is the reporter, and I've been talking to him a lot, and I was telling him, as I was going to see him, he said, Oh, he's such a nice person. They just, you know, that's an amazing story. When you came back, was it hard to go back in the business? Or were you just happy to be back in the United States

Edward Atiyeh 16:01

because we knew we wanted to do okay. We know we wanted to. We wanted to be in the business, yeah, because summer times and everything, they would take turns. And we worked out the store, oh, yeah, okay. Winter High School, yeah. And so we used to take turn down, take one was down there were from direct to us down there to do it with doing every job, both stock boys and cleaning up and everything like that extent of it, just filling in or needed. But no no sale, we didn't get involved until we're graduating, right?

James Moore 16:43

Yeah, that's great. So talk about the period after your dad died, so Vic is comes back, and just kind of suddenly you're running the company. Then you guys come back and your mom is still there until the early, mid 1950s she dies in 1959. 1950, okay, yeah, okay. So talk about, how did you decide how to run the company? Did you? Did you? Had you talked about it before? Did it kind of naturally fall into place?

Edward Atiyeh 17:17

Basically, the

so Vic had been in a bit longer than we had finished that term school and dropped out. And so we accepted Vic as as the head of the company, Richard and I. But like say we, we all made decisions together, I mean, and we would always discuss that before we make any decisions. And so we

add to that too, but, but we always, we always accepted the other person. Yeah, just raise them and why they want to do things certain ways, and we have differences at the time, but yet we accepted each person

went on from there. Yeah,

James Moore 18:12

so what was the division? So Richard ended up being the cleaner. No,

Edward Atiyeh 18:20

well, we have to clean the basement of the store. Yeah, to start out, yeah, we started out cleaning. This is ridiculous. We were doing anything by hand, exactly, and so, so I went on a tour throughout the country, uh huh, and look at different rough living plants. Oh, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, all over all the big plants over the country. And then I came back and then we, then we're gonna work. We're gonna build a plant. And because it wasn't anything in Portland, everybody was doing the same. We were doing other retail stores, yeah, dealers, yeah. And so then, then, then we, we, we build a plant. We borrowed, we borrowed money from our trusted data set up from Eva do and we put the plan up, and then about 10 years later, we double the size of it. Yeah,

that's right, yeah,

James Moore 19:30

the picture in the in the book is really impressive. Yeah, it's pretty amazing.

Edward Atiyeh 19:36

You know, kind of a funny story, along with lines too. That not funny. But, I mean, it's kind of interesting that we first opened the plant. We had some automatic equipment, but not complete, like we do now. But anyway, in fact, we could make out all the deliveries. We had somebody washing the rug for. We didn't want to. We're making all the deliveries and pick up. And we did most of the servicing work on the rugs too. And then, but we that first thing we did, we go pick up a rug and bring it, bring them into the plant. And then, and then Richard Vick and I, and we

had another Parker name, Norman Parson,

James Moore 20:26

yeah, yeah. His name comes in Yeah. And

Edward Atiyeh 20:29

norm was independent, along all of us, because he's the caddy from my dad. Oh, that's

James Moore 20:34

right, because your dad, yeah, he graduated.

Edward Atiyeh 20:36

He graduated. He decided not to go to college, yeah, and so my dad hired him, so he would have been as longer than we were. He was like a fourth brother to us. And so anyway, when we came back, then norm, Norm, Richard Victor and I, we'd all go down after dinner, and we'd lay the rugs out and check them over, and measure them, stuff like that. And this went on for quite a while, and then one day, Vic said, you know, Sunday, so one after evening, he said, you know, this is ridiculous. He said, we're picking the rugs off the customer's floor. Why don't we measure them in a customer's home? We were so busy trying to do stuff that we were invisible. I think which Vic did, right? They like the easier way to do things, yeah, yeah. And so we didn't, it was our measurement. We eliminated all like night work we had to do,

James Moore 21:40

yeah, yeah, exactly which you can definitely see when he's being governor and things like that. He's thinking that exact same way. Do this, you know, the same thing, but do it better, yeah. How can we try to do this thing? Yeah. So what was it like when Vic ran for office and won is, you know, so he's basically gone for 456, months while the legislature's in session. Is there a shift in what happens in the company when that happens? Well,

Edward Atiyeh 22:12

not, not too much, because we'd always keep in contact with the Vic and then and Vic would come back at the end of the week and he work on Saturday? Yeah, yeah, at the store, yeah, and he did this there. And we always, we always consult him when he was a legislator, and if he had ideas to he talked to us about it while he was in there. But, but he, we never, he never let the politics

bother, bother his

involvement in the business.

And then, of course, then later, when he got in, particularly in when he got in the Senate and minority leader, he got more involved there too. So he was spending less time, but, but it didn't bother us. We accept, we accepted that because that's what he wanted to do, and we're pleased that he was doing it, working, trying to better the state. Yeah. So, so we accepted that,

James Moore 23:17

yeah. Did he have a reduction in salary while that was happening, or

same salary, we all kept on the same salary,

okay? Because there

Edward Atiyeh 23:29

was no resentment on our part that we were doing more work than he was. Yeah, yeah.

James Moore 23:36

Partner together, yeah, exactly, yeah. I can see why the shares of the company and that would say the same but, but the salary kept up the same as well. Okay, no, no, okay,

so did he consult with you?

Edward Atiyeh 23:49

Then governor, too. Then he didn't get it. He dropped out.

James Moore 23:55

Yeah, yeah, salary, yeah, from

Edward Atiyeh 23:57

the company, yeah, yeah. We didn't want any, any conflict, yeah,

James Moore 24:02

exactly. And legislators don't get paid anything, that's right, they don't. The governor doesn't get paid that much, but they get a salary. Yeah, yeah. So it's a, it's a different, different, different thing. Um, so did he consult with you guys when he decided to run for governor in 74 Yeah? Well,

Edward Atiyeh 24:22

he, he told him, and he said,

Can you we support me and help me? We said, We'll do all we can help you. And so we, and we were actually kind of proud that he was going to do that. Yeah, yeah, of course, he ran that first phrase against Rob, yeah, and he was, but he worked hard to be. He had a good organization,

James Moore 24:48

yeah, yeah. It's amazing how that organization of volunteers stayed the same through this the 78 and the two campaign, yeah and i. I'm there was a whole bunch of cards that had people's information on them. And I'm still trying to figure out if any of those still exist, because I'd love to see those. They kept the names of all their volunteers in every city and area around the whole state. They had big, big boxes filled with them. I never knew that. Yeah, there was at one point where a, I think it was in 78 a reporter was challenging something that one of the campaign people said about, you know, you didn't, you can't tell me that you have these volunteers ready to go all over the place. And they opened a door, and there was a table filled with these cards, and the reporter said, can I just take six of them and just call them and see what's up? And person said, Sure. And the reporter picked up six cards, and he went off, and he called them all over the state, and all the people knew they were on the cards, had a tea of things planned. Were talking to the campaign staff, and the reporter came back and said, I believe you. And so they to this day, no one knows if he just picked a lucky six cards or what, but it was an amazing an amazing organization. Yeah.

Edward Atiyeh 26:16

Well, one thing

Vic was good at, too was picking good people. Yeah, I think that the whole key to everything, yeah, staff. And then also, when became governor, people to run into Merck and stuff. He always being in business, you know, the people, people don't give retailers enough credit because, because, when you're in the retail business, you're facing different types of problems, and you have to learn how to deal with all kinds of people. You could pick out right away who are the good people that are going to be working with you, and who the people you aren't going to give me their 100% right? And pick was good at picking out good, good people. I think I was just part of his business experience.

James Moore 27:04

Yeah, did you see that grow over time? Did you see him get better at that by the time he becomes governor, he's very clear. He's going to pick good people and he's going to leave them alone. That's right. He's going to say, Okay, this is what we want to accomplish. You figure out how to accomplish it. And if you need me, you just let me know. But did you see that? Was he like that from the beginning? Or did you see the Kim learn how to do that? Oh, no,

Edward Atiyeh 27:28

definitely. In fact, when we even in business, he gave somebody a town to do. He called mom to do and then he left

them alone, because everybody capable, they couldn't have any, he would give it something else. Yeah, but, but he, he was very astute about about people wanted to work, work, work. People weren't right, and our benefits were the same way we have, we have really great, great people in the business. Fact, with most of our employees today, still, we've got people are still in the work of the company. Have been there almost 40 years. Wow. We've got about six or seven or eight that have been there over 35 years. Yeah, yeah. And the retail and the cleaning and yeah.

James Moore 28:21

So whatever that management style is has gone from generation to generation too, so people are really picking up on it. So when he's elected governor, he, you know, he's separated from the business he's been governor, and at some point, he decides that he's not going to come back to the business.

Talk about that conversation with him. Well,

Edward Atiyeh 28:53

I think vara was he said he'd been out of it for so long that he felt that we were capable of doing it, and he just wanted to explore other opportunities for him, because went to college. He original attempts were to be a lawyer, yeah, yeah. And in fact, he never did begin to involve it, because he was it there for two years, yeah, and so, but he always had the desire to do that, but then that, he said he wanted to do more consulting work, and he wanted to carry on law the projects that he had as a governor and make sure they were still going forward. And so he wanted to concentrate on that, they opened up his own office upstairs, upstairs,

so that was fine with us. We didn't have any any calls, but basically, but. He still consulted with us. We consult with him because we always value his opinion on

James Moore 30:06

Yeah, yeah.

One of the ways that he puts it is that, when he became governor, he decided that oftentimes it was better to be the sole person making a decision. I mean, what the sole person making a decision? Oh, yeah, yeah. So, you know the you're describing a really good working relationship. But then after, you know, at that point, it's, it's almost 40 years, well, it is 40 years and and he's ready to make decisions by himself. Yeah? Yeah.

Edward Atiyeh 30:42

No. That's about

James Moore 30:45

the time. This is, you know, mid 1980s it's about time you guys are heading towards retirement and that kind of thing as well. So that makes sense, yes, because

Edward Atiyeh 30:58

for a while, big son was in the business. And then, then my son, David, he graduated, and he did graduate work back at Dartmouth, yeah, and and then he, then he worked for 10 years at Price Waterhouse. And then he decided he wanted to make a career of being a CPA, right? And so he wanted to join the business. And then, I think one of the toughest governance issues I ever had of me, but I don't want, I don't want any publicity on it. But my son, David, and and the Vic son Tom, they never got along very well. And the reason was that Tom, Tom was very, very brilliant and very, very astute about promotion and stuff like that, and, but he wanted to do everything himself. Yeah, and David realized David was used to working with people, so we know it wasn't going to work out, yeah, to have them. And so we finally made the decision, and we talked both of them and and then we thought that David was going to stay and Tom was going to start his own business, and he was very successful, been real successful work with his wife, and I'm really proud of what he did. But yeah, because he kept making rug, he started in China, yeah, yeah, because his wife spoke Chinese. Okay,

James Moore 32:43

that's yeah, Wesley, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 32:48

teaching, yeah, teaching English a Chinese student, which he spoke Chinese and so, and they had their own wounds over there. And then my uncle died, and

then they closed up their import.

He started, he bought a lot of all the designs Eva manufacturing over in China. Yeah, it was very successful with that. Yeah, that's great. But then when China started Martin modernizing, more do then they didn't want to get involved. Yeah, they wanted to rug. So that's why the business started falling off, yeah, so they went to India and Pakistan, other places

to get their rugs, yeah, and develop the rugs. Yeah,

James Moore 33:35

absolutely. That's an intriguing part of the the ATIA story that I don't think is very well known, is that your your uncle, Aziz, actually started some really innovative techniques and opening up his own plants in Persia, his own his own manufacturing facilities, and adapting old designs to Modern tastes. And I love the different size thing, yeah, you know,

Edward Atiyeh 34:04

it was one of the first ones to develop oriental rug to the column of program he had, he hired a designer because most of the most the design, the rumor Weaver, they made up their own designs. They went wrong, and then our uncle had the foresight to to hire designers and make make rugs by following the design, yeah, and then he has this one line was called Kerma Deluxe, and was very successful, very successful and and then during the war,

all the designers were

were interned, and

particularly when Aaron. Man broke away doing, but we

he was able to keep all the time, but they closed the

plan, all right, within Kerman, within Persia, but Kerman ran,

Unknown Speaker 35:17

yeah, that's where it was, yeah.

James Moore 35:21

What do you remember of the trip that you took in 1929

and one? I mean, I've talked to Vic about it, because then he was able to go back as governor afterwards. But I have the passenger manifest of all of you coming back. Yeah. And so there's, it says Aziz was disease along, or was your dad was

Edward Atiyeh 35:48

Aziz?

Or uncle was

he ran it? He run the operation back, back, okay, yeah. And in fact, they had two different companies. We had the, we had a retail store in Seattle, yeah, yeah. And we had a retail store in Seattle, and retail store, and then we were back in so that they had a, we had a corporation out here, and they had a partnership for the import business. And so, so uncle was back back east, because they were mostly wholesale, yeah, there was all retail, yeah. And so we went, so, Uncle, uncle, my uncle, my dad, went back to New York to oversee that part of the time be that important. Uncle was overseas because he was carrying the the plants and over there, but went over with mother and I was boys, okay, and then, and

then, when we got to Alexandria, I think it was Alexandria, Egypt, we went on to Syria, and Uncle Aziz went over to Persia, right, too. And that was separated, yeah, and then we came along separately, yeah,

James Moore 37:14

yeah, okay, so it's a combination family trip and business trip,

Edward Atiyeh 37:19

yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, because he was with us until we were in France for a while. Then we went from Mercedes to Egypt, and then uncle broke off and went to Syria, yeah, we went to visit all the roads, yeah. He went to Iran and we went to Syria to visit relatives, yeah, yeah, ever see that the family Book our daughter put together,

Unknown Speaker 37:46

no, No, kind of interesting.

Unknown Speaker 38:00

Okay. Thank

Edward Atiyeh 38:22

you. Just talking to Suzanne Pixar. She just had surgery. Oh yeah, she was she's in season.

San Francisco right now.

But here's the, here's the book our daughter did for us. Well, that's great, yeah,

James Moore 38:59

yeah. Actually, I'll do a little picture taken here too. Okay,

Edward Atiyeh 39:05

you want to see the cover, sure? Because the one side later,

James Moore 39:12

that's great. That's

fantastic. If you want to take that look, oh,

that would be lovely. That would be lovely, and I can just scan it at home. Yeah, yeah, that would be lovely, glad

Edward Atiyeh 39:22

to do that, yeah. And then, yeah, there

James Moore 39:25

they are. And then, oh, it's a great picture. It's funny because it's amazing how much

Edward Atiyeh 39:32

Tom looks like. Yeah, yeah, Tom does and and this little mom and dad got

James Moore 39:38

married. Yeah, I've seen that picture, but that's a good quality and

Edward Atiyeh 39:46

citizenship, yeah, and fantastic and this other honeymoon

James Moore 39:57

house, yeah? So the. They met here,

right? No,

they met over there. They met over there.

Edward Atiyeh 40:05

I don't know how they ever met, too, but Mother, mother went from Beirut, yeah, yeah. And so damn went over there, and, I don't know, before they got married over there, huh? Yeah,

James Moore 40:19

it was, you know, it's all because, you know, Syria didn't exist yet. Yeah, you know, Lebanon didn't exist, yeah, that was part of Syria, yeah, but it was, but it was, there's the old Syria, but it was Ottoman Empire, and it was focused on cities. So Homs was important. Beirut was important. In between, not so important, yeah. And so it's always just be fascinating to look at later

Edward Atiyeh 40:48

on when you see it here too, that's Richard Victor, exactly what he looked like his whole life and then there was only 18 months different. So yeah, they had all of us. Mother used to dress as all those triplets, so you'll see all of us dress the same way, like here.

James Moore 41:13

And Victor was always bigger, yeah, so that the size looked

Edward Atiyeh 41:21

and then that mother without three boys.

James Moore 41:24

Now, did you call him Victor?

Edward Atiyeh 41:26

Yeah, we call him Victor or Vic, okay,

Victor, uh huh, yeah, but I'll get it here, but there's a whole deal, yeah? But here's, here's about the trip to Syria, yeah? Talking about that.

James Moore 41:41

Oh, brain, yeah,

that's in says, probably a port of call in Egypt, yeah.

Edward Atiyeh 41:52

And then also, dad had a car shipped over. Oh, great, with a Franklin, uh huh. And we got it for brain and Graham here. Oh, wow. And back to David, our son, David, we took over. Took over the these pictures. And brother Braley, yeah, a copy there, but they shipped the car over there, so we had our own car over there. Fantastic. And we got there, we had it, yeah. And you're talking about the car,

James Moore 42:25

yeah, the car goes from here to here and there to there. Yeah, wow.

Edward Atiyeh 42:29

And the cost of the car, those were 2100

James Moore 42:34

Yeah, 2100 bucks, which, it's a huge amount of money, though, that

Edward Atiyeh 42:37
time, yeah? And then this is a Syria, yeah,

James Moore 42:44
is that all you guys? Yeah,

Unknown Speaker 42:47
that's great. And

James Moore 42:52
then Vic goes back, yeah, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 43:01
this is up the mountains. But and I are in the boy scouts together, and then we went in the sea scouts. But Richard never did get involved in that.

James Moore 43:16
Yeah. Victor has a funny story of being in the sea scouts and going down the Columbia River and all of a sudden smelling a barn because they had on the islands, they had the horses there to pull in salmon. Yeah? So, something that we just wouldn't think of today, but

Edward Atiyeh 43:37
experience yeah and picture,

Speaker 1 43:39
yeah, there's your story, right there, right there.

Edward Atiyeh 43:45
And then so we came home,

and then here and here the stores,

James Moore 43:52
yeah, that's fantastic. But

Edward Atiyeh 44:00
then here, here, here, here's all the children. Oh, great, fix

children, right, son and his

daughter, right? And then that was a rich Richard 90th birthday, and these are

our children's

grandchildren, and that's our daughters. They're all marked who they are. Yeah, yeah,

not the one that lived up in Alaska now. And

then, this is Richard, yeah, he had a lot of kids. Yeah, he had 18 or 19 great grand,

James Moore 44:51
my goodness. So he gets an old page. And

Edward Atiyeh 44:53
then here the generations. Oh, wonderful,

James Moore 44:56
wonderful. Oh.

Yeah, one reason I had the documents and the census is just to keep track of things. Yeah, I started in the TIA family tree on ancestry.com so I have, you know, pieces here, and I actually got because yours goes back into Syria, and then the records just aren't there

after that. But

for Vic's wife,

it goes way back into

England. I have heard her stuff way back in England, which isn't really relevant for the book at all, but all of a sudden it's just like, that's fantastic. Thanks. Go

Edward Atiyeh 45:42
see her just when I leave, when you leave her, they've got her in a in a in a place where we're not working out very well. For Is

James Moore 45:51
she still in a rehab place or she

Edward Atiyeh 45:53
was over the marquee? Yeah, Vermont hills and but for Medicare and Medicare and stuff like that too, that she had to handle Eva, right, yeah, so that they had her, have her in a in a place over by Washington Square. And, but she's not in dementia, yeah, and, but they got into place, which is bad. It's because it's a people too far. They're too far along in Alzheimer's, yeah, yeah. So now they're, they're the process of moving into a foster home temporarily, yeah, because they want to get her into where Richard was, uh huh, over, over there, but she had to walk in, yeah. Yeah. And so, yeah, working with therapist to get her, get her back right, yeah. So then the process now trying to get, get her out of where she's now moving so, yeah, moving on, absolutely,

James Moore 46:54
yeah.

So Did you know her in high school? Oh, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 47:00
because in fact, VIX, if she wasn't big in high school, they went together so we could see him, Vick were behind us, and we know, in fact,

two of the closest friends there was Jim camel was Tom Galt. And in fact, Jim's wife, Jim passed away, but his wife Donna still in Coronavirus as best friends, okay,

James Moore 47:33
yeah. And in

Edward Atiyeh 47:37
fact, Tom Galt still still living and his wife are in a sense of living place right now too, but I see him. I saw last

Thursday again too, but we see him periodically too, but we've always been real close. But they were big closest friends, yeah, yeah, in high school and gone back, we were on the same fraternity together. Oh, great,

James Moore 48:01

great. Did you stay active in the fraternity afterwards? I know Vic would go down to Eugene all the time.

Edward Atiyeh 48:08

Richard stayed more than I

did, but we'll go to the alumni meeting dinner.

Speaker 1 48:19

Then once a year. Yeah, that's fantastic,

James Moore 48:22

fantastic.

So after Vic retired, or after Vic left the governor's office, and he's in his his his own business, you were saying that you, you and Richard would consult with him, you know, if there were things that came up, but you know, he's, he's, it's a separate thing at that point. How happy Do you think he was in his in his consulting years?

Did he like that? Well,

Edward Atiyeh 48:52

Vic never did express himself to feeling very much. Uh huh. He never, never did.

Laura. He used to. Dolores

bothered by because a lot of times he wouldn't be feeling good, but he never say anything about it. Yeah. And in fact, back in July, on the fifth of July, was there seventh anniversary, and so Karen, I went over there to see him, and they could fall down that that that morning, and he was in a horrible pain, but we didn't know it, yeah, I couldn't believe it, yeah, he broke, he broke a rib and cracked, yeah, yeah,

James Moore 49:33

but

Edward Atiyeh 49:34

we didn't know he never told us

James Moore 49:39

the way Yeah, yeah. Well, that kind of makes sense Denny miles, because Denny didn't know any of this until, like, the 12th or the 13th Vic didn't call him until Dolores was having to go into the hospital because they had a deal if anybody went. Into the hospital, then Denny would do a press release.

And so Denny didn't know any of this,

but then Denny found out that that Victor had fallen on the anniversary, and he said, So, Boss, did you do any funny dancing or anything, which made Victor laugh? It was his broken rib it hurt, which made him laugh even harder. Anniversary,

Edward Atiyeh 50:30

and then the following Monday, Dolores, yeah, afterwards. And then he was bothered Vic because he wasn't up to it. And the hospital, I couldn't, and heart, I couldn't get him up there, yeah, and that really upset him, yeah, but, but then finally find Tom and

God got him up there,

James Moore 50:57
yeah, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 50:58
just theater here. Yeah,

everything just piled up. And in the meantime, the first part of July, you know, Richard Son, yeah, yeah. And in fact, he's still, he's still not critical, but he's, he's in still serious condition.

James Moore 51:19
Is he back where the scratch happened? Or did they move him?

Edward Atiyeh 51:23
He was back there for a couple months, and he was, he was in a trauma center hospital and and then, then they've got a transfer to Portland. They bought him by a private air ambulance to Portland. They put them in the marquee. Fact, we go up there, Steven Vic, Vic Dolores. And then he, he about, I guess, about three weeks or so ago now. He, he goes to the doctor regularly too. And they, they found someone blunt on his brain, yeah? And so they put him in a manual hospital. He was, in fact, he just got off the first week, yeah, from there, but he was intense. They've cared for about three weeks. They've had to shave his head, and got kind of head open again too, yeah, get the blood. Get the blood out. So he's, he's still in pretty bad shape,

yeah, yeah, no.

But so that's been about 11 July, about three months ago,

James Moore 52:30
yeah, yeah, been a while, and

Edward Atiyeh 52:33
so so. But then, but now, he's back in the market, trying to get him and good enough condition. Real nice, real milk Jason place over northwest Portland and and that they want to get him in there, but he's not quite ready for that.

Unknown Speaker 52:52
Yeah, soon. Yeah,

James Moore 52:55
yeah. So,

yeah, exactly, exactly, good. So any last things you'd like me to know about your brother, or about the Atea brothers business and what it was like, or

Edward Atiyeh 53:12
again, really, really do, I mean, we

only, only thing is,

I just don't like to say it that all three of us, we we're all for our whole lives. We're always close, yeah, and we always, and we always, and our families always close, and we and we always got together quite a bit. In fact, we have to get together with Dick and daughter about every one week, every week or so, and go out for dinner. I was over there once a week, or he was over here once a week, yeah. But all three grew up in this neighborhood, yeah? And did

James Moore 53:50

Richard live around here too? Yeah, Rick live by a block away. It's funny. I grew up with a pair of twins down in Medford, and they went off and for the last 20 years, they've lived two blocks away from each other, yeah? And she would just, that's it,

Edward Atiyeh 54:05

yeah, yeah, here. And then Richard was about two block from here,

James Moore 54:10

yeah, and just up from the old farm, yeah, yeah. Fred Meyer, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 54:16

yeah. And so,

in fact, we got here because we have three children. RICHARD I free children, pick out two children, about a one year, typically, oh, all of them. So for eight years, they're all, they all went in the same school.

Unknown Speaker 54:31

Yeah, together, yeah.

Edward Atiyeh 54:36

There was one or two exactly

James Moore 54:37

for eight years.

Edward Atiyeh 54:39

Fantastic. But we had, we had,

I can say it. I think Richard and Victor beside me, my brother, they were my my closest friends, yeah, yeah, still a hard time. Back, and they're both gone, yeah? Because a lot the most,

James Moore 55:02

yeah, yeah, yeah.

Edward Atiyeh 55:06

And here I'm the oldest, yeah,

I'll come with me, yeah, yeah, yeah, you kept thinking about that, yeah, but we had a good life together, yeah? Absolutely families and and so we're very thankful, mm hmm, for everything.

James Moore 55:27

Yeah, that's wonderful. Yeah, wonderful.

Yeah, about all, yeah, no, that's great. No, no, it's but as as you know, I'm going through things. If I have other questions I need to sit down

and talk. I would appreciate it, yeah, yeah. And I'll

scan this and then get it back to you as well. Okay,

Edward Atiyeh 55:46

yeah, no big hurrah to our daughter again. Quite a few of these different books for Yeah, her family. He had great fun doing

James Moore 55:56

Yeah. Well, I have friends who do this for their vacations. Now. They go vacations and they come back and they do one of these books. They're relatively cheap to put together. Oh yeah. When you look at it, it's just amazing. It's like, wow, yeah,

Edward Atiyeh 56:09

yeah. They do it all in and they and they print it,

James Moore 56:13

yeah, send it back to you, and there you go, yeah, yeah. It's pretty neat. It's really hard to fathom, yeah, yeah, but

Edward Atiyeh 56:22

I'm really looking forward to your your book when you get it

James Moore 56:27

done. Well, it's an interesting process, and it's, it's, it's really fun to get in. And your brother was very clear. I mean, the first time I sat down interview him, we spent 10 minutes with him, saying, This is your book. I'm just a source in it, but it's your book, if any. He said, If you find anything that looks like there's something that went wrong, I want you to put it in the book. Because the way he saw it is, he did things, but he it was partly he was able to do that because he was a part of the times. And so it's, it's vicodia does things, but it's because the politics is like this, or the culture is like this, or, you know, the history is like this. And so he, and that's how, that's the only condition under which I would write the book. So it's great. I know

Edward Atiyeh 57:22

you didn't hear the you're going to do a good job,

James Moore 57:23

Joe, thanks, thanks. Thanks for the vote of confidence.

Edward Atiyeh 57:27

You know, kind of interacting, or we had about three of our cousins and their spouses and some of their children came off for memorials. Yeah, and and

the oldest, that's an uncle

grandchildren, but Phil the

youngest son was

his oldest daughter. He had, I

think, six children, but his oldest daughter got entered, I think for years she there's this fiction writer named Nelson de Mille. It heard the name, but be Eva, I write the book. In fact, our son in law Read all his books. But anyway, she reviewed all his books. Oh, great. And that's her job. Yeah, for years he's been doing that. Yeah, all the fixing

James Moore 58:37

books. Well, that's great. And, and

Edward Atiyeh 58:39

got here because he, he because the end they have, they have all of the references and stuff for people involved. But her name was, we never, we never realized until he was out here. Yeah and editing,

James Moore 58:56

yeah, books for

him, fantastic. And

Edward Atiyeh 58:59

so it's great. So, but if you have any questions, yeah, absolutely

James Moore 59:09

help. Yeah, absolutely good. Yeah. You know, I'm still doing interviews, and I'll be picking the interviews up once I get my sabbatical started, but I'm going to be spending a lot of time semester. So I'll have from the end of January, and then, because of summer, all the way up until school starts. So next summer, my wife and I are planning we do a big trip every year to year, or every other year to Europe. So this year, for our 25th anniversary, we were in Europe. That's what Vic and I were going to talk about. We got home. You got home. So next year, we're not going to go to Europe, but I'm thinking, and my wife is really intrigued by it. Vic, especially when he was governor, traveled so much in Oregon. I'm going to use because he's got cards that say where he was and what he did, and things like that we may put together. Like two or three of those trips and go drive

Edward Atiyeh 1:00:03

them. We've been quite a few earlier years, and all the places I've been, I still thoroughly enjoy seeing all the sites in Oregon. Yeah, yeah. Really do, particularly up in the wall house, Joseph and all those areas up there, Eastern Oregon. Yeah, fabulous, yeah, the bronze foundry, yeah,

James Moore 1:00:29

yeah, yeah, it's pretty amazing.

Edward Atiyeh 1:00:36

Fascinating, too. And, and we took to Crater Lake in and Oregon caves and

James Moore 1:00:43

the male boats up the Rogue River. Yeah, yeah. I grew up in Medford, so that's my home that's my home ground right there.

Edward Atiyeh 1:00:49

Yeah, you know, it's kind of interesting. People the house for sale across the street from us. She was executive with Hannah Anderson at the children's clothing and about two years ago she got a nobody here. A little year ago, she was appointed a senior, well, one of the executives of Harry and David, yeah, so they had to move down, yeah,

Unknown Speaker 1:01:17

Medford, yeah.

Edward Atiyeh 1:01:19

So that's why this house is first. Okay. Lovely family, but they haven't sold the house yet, but they but they understand what then they bought a house.

Unknown Speaker 1:01:28

Yeah, down there, yeah, that's

James Moore 1:01:30

funny, because that's how I when I first introduced myself at the memorial afterwards, I was talking about Shirley hersher Oh, yeah, because we knew the hershers, because Terry was up here with PP and L, and then went down there, okay, and then came back up here, and then went back down there. And so I got to know their family very,

Edward Atiyeh 1:01:59

very well with Karen. Yes, it's often nice person. Yeah, yeah.

Unknown Speaker 1:02:03

In

Edward Atiyeh 1:02:06

fact, the people just down here to how the

name is Gooding, Chuck and Ruth Gooding. But his father, I thought their name Bobby, he was one, exactly the one time at Harry and David. Oh, yeah,

kind of interesting. Yeah,

James Moore 1:02:23

that's great. The house I grew up in, in Medford, the house right next to it was where Harry lived. He got not when I was there, but there was in the concrete out in front was a big script, H

right there.

Edward Atiyeh 1:02:39

Couple of times here, sometimes two or three times here we send gift boxes a pair granddaughter up in Alaska. Yep, forward again, yeah, well, because

James Moore 1:02:50

especially since Harry and David has always guaranteed we aren't going to leave him on the front step and they're not going

to freeze coffee or anything. Oh, no, no, no, this is, this is the.