



## Mike Re

When Mike Re and his wife were looking for a place to retire, they had two criteria: No humidity and no snow.

“That kind of narrowed it down,” he explained.

After growing up and working in the Chicago area Re endured all kinds of weather. Although Chicago is popularly known as the Windy City, it was more a reference to loquacious politicians than local storm conditions. But Mike assured me there is plenty of natural wind and bizarre weather in northern Illinois to go around.

It’s all about the weather. After dealing with the vagaries of a climate complete with thunderstorms, tornadoes, ice storms and widespread wind events called derechos, this midwestern refugee thought he found heaven when he arrived in Temecula in 2014.

But less than a month after he and his wife arrived here, Midwest weather, it seems, followed him. For the first time in memory, Temecula was socked with as much as 3 inches of cold wet snow. Roads became hazardous and the 17<sup>th</sup> hole at Redhawk became a makeshift sledding run for the adventurous on cafeteria trays.

“My neighbors accused me of bringing it with me,” he recalled.

Re and his wife discovered that there were other differences between Southern California and the Midwest than the weather. If Chicago was known for talkative politicians, Southern California lived up to its reputation as a laid back place, according to Re.

“It’s a whole different work culture,” he said. “It took me a couple of years to get used to it.”

Contractors who said they would arrive at their Morgan Hill home to do work, never arrived on time. “It drove me bonkers for a while,” Re recalled.

In Illinois everyone “hit the ground running at 120 mph.”

Re played golf growing up but once he got into college free time was scarce because he was also working full-time at Commonwealth Edison, ComEd for short. Ultimately, he went to work for the distribution side of the business, an electric utility that served 4 million customers in Northern Illinois

That meant when ice storms, tornadoes and weird wind events caused power line outages, he was the man responsible for restoring service. Not always an easy task in the weather affected Midwest. He remembers one horrific summer when weather and other events caused him to work 32 days straight without any time off.

Although he got to play in corporate golf outings once or twice a year it wasn't until he reached Temecula and overcame some shoulder issues that Re was able to spend more time on the course.

So far, his progress has been commendable. In May 2019 he recorded his first hole in one at Redhawk on Hole No. 4. He's also got an eagle on a par 4 by driving the green and making the putt.

When he is not golfing Re and his wife like to travel. Most recently they made a long overdue post-Covid trip to Chicago where Re got his fill of Chicago style deep-dish pizza, the thin crust variety, Chicago dogs with their poppy seed buns and neon green relish and Italian beef sandwiches smothered in giardiniera.

The couple would like to return to Italy to resume their searches for ancestors. They made one trip to Naples to check out the wife's genealogy and would like to do the same in Sicily where Mike's family hails from.

Seems Mike might have some nobility in his bloodline if not his name. He told me re in Italian means king, like roi in French.

