**Robert was born and raised in the Vailsburg Section of Newark to Lucille M. (DiNorcia) and Robert A. Marasco. He attended and graduated Sacred Heart Grammar School and Saint Benedict’s Prep where he participated in many activities including Varsity sports and wrote for the school’s nationally recognized literary journal. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from Montclair State University as well as a Master of Public Administration from Rutgers University. He traces his family ancestry to the Italian provinces of Salerno, Frosinone, Potenza and Avellino.**

**Robert served honorably in the US Air Force for four years as a Communication Specialist including a one year tour of duty in Vietnam.**

**After his education and military service, Robert worked for several years in the real estate and insurance industries before beginning his career as a Legislative Analyst for the Newark Municipal Council. After serving in this capacity for several years, Robert was appointed by the Council as the first Deputy City Clerk in Newark’s history. The Municipal Council created the position with Robert in mind in recognition of his outstanding record regarding all aspects of the legislative process. Not very long thereafter, upon the retirement of the City Clerk, the Municipal Council appointed Robert to the position of City Clerk, in which he served for nearly three decades.**

 **In New Jersey, the City Clerk functions in several capacities: as the Secretary and Administrator to the City Council, as the City’s official election officer as well as the keeper of the City’s archives and Secretary of the City’s Municipal Corporation.**

 **During his tenure as City Clerk, Robert developed a state-wide reputation as an election expert and was the first to introduce innovations for local election events and results such as the use of on-site local cable television reporting, mobile phone voter alert apps, social media and internet streaming. He is the author of a number of published articles regarding election administration and modernization methods.**

 **A number of other advances Robert introduced as Clerk were computerizing the City’s legislative process and initiating and overseeing the historic restoration by national experts of the City’s Municipal Council Chamber which revealed historic renderings long hidden under nearly a century of paint.**

**Marasco considers his greatest accomplishment as Clerk as being the construction of a modern State of the Art municipal archives. This multi-storied facility has won awards from the State of New Jersey and become a popular tour for Municipal Clerks throughout the State. It houses Newark records dating back to the early 1800’s and has been the subject of numerous newspaper and government magazine articles.**

**At the time of his retirement, Robert had the honor of serving under five Newark Mayors and numerous Council Presidents and Council Members.**

**In addition to his career as City Clerk, through the years Marasco has been very active in numerous civic, government, veterans and social organizations. This includes serving as the past President of Newark UNICO, an Italian American National Business Association, as well as two Gubernatorial appointments to the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission and the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial Commission. Through the years, Marasco has also been involved in many charitable fundraising efforts, especially for Saint Benedict’s Prep.**

**Robert is the proud father of four, Robert G., Christina, Katherine and Michael as well as grandson Robert J. Robert has always been proud of the fact that he and both of his brothers, Frank and Gregory all achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Marasco credits his civic engagement to his parents who were both deeply involved in many community activities.**

**Previously, Marasco had been made an honorary officer of the Italian National Police Association.**

**Lastly, in recognition of his many years of service to New Jersey’s Italian-American community, the government of the Republic of Italy recently awarded Robert a Knighthood presented by the Consul General in New York City.**