

# "Hu" Visscher remembered

## Roswell leader touched the lives of many near and far

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In the 1940s Hubert "Hu" Visscher went where most people refused to go — he went to see the untouchables, the outcasts of India's social caste system. He wanted to see for himself the living conditions of these poverty-stricken people that nobody wanted to touch.

It was an experience he never forgot.

Thanks to Visscher's determined efforts over the years nearly 18,000 untouchables' lives have been transformed, and hundreds of refugee families from around the world have resettled in the U.S.

It's because of his sincere compassion for his fellow man that Visscher's passing May 21 was felt so deeply by those he helped and loved.

"He was a man of strong convictions and great intelligence. His passion for helping others literally saved the lives of many families and gave them a chance to start life over in Roswell," said the Rev. Richard Hill, associate pastor of Roswell Presbyterian Church.

Visscher, a retired meteorologist who moved to Atlanta in the 1940s from his native Illinois, was instrumental in the church starting a refugee resettlement program more than 20 years ago.

"Hu's compassion for those needing help and his determination opened the heart of this church toward global missions in a way we had never imagined," said Hill.

Through Visscher's encouragement the church took on several years ago a five-year, \$25,000-a-year commitment to a California group working with India's untouchables.



This group mourned his passing just as much as his Roswell friends, like Helen Owens, who knew Visscher from his days with the Atlanta Athletic Club.

"He had a good sense of humor and enjoyed people, and he was definitely a brilliant man.

"His conversations about what was going on in the world told you what kind of mind he had," said Owens. "He was devoted to helping people."

Visscher graduated from the University of Chicago and Northwestern University before moving to Atlanta to work as a meteorologist for Eastern Airlines and later Lockheed.

In the early 1970s he became a meteorological consultant for Atlanta's engineering firm Dames & Moore, where he later became a partner.

Visscher served his country in World War II as an army major and retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a colonel.

He was the proud recipient of the prestigious Edgar S. Gorrell Award in both 1949 and 1956 for his outstanding contribution in weather analysis and forecasting.

Even after retiring Visscher was always learning and wanted to stay on top of national and international affairs, said Hill.

"Hu was a man of strong opinions. He would let each of us know what he thought and expected," said Hill. "He had a fascinating life."

Visscher is survived by his wife, Emily Dolvin Visscher of Roswell, daughter Nancy Jennifer Clayton, of East Cobb, sons David Visscher of Lilburn, Ralph Visscher of Elgin, Ill., and Bruce Visscher of Greensboro, N.C., brother, the Rev. Donald Visscher of Williamsport, Pa., three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service at Rolling Hills Memory Gardens and a memorial service at Roswell Presbyterian Church were held May 24.