



**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / TELECOM VALLEY: Sonoma County Bio**

## Richard Belluzzo(Rocket Rick): President, Microsoft

### **BORN:**

Nov. 26, 1953

### **CHILDHOOD**

Belluzzo is the son of a machinist in Santa Rosa, California after whom a local soccer field is named. he began working odd jobs at age 11. Jobs ranged from sweeping doctors' offices to picking prunes at nearby orchards. But, he didn't excel at school. *"He wasn't a most-likely-to-succeed kind of guy,"* says a childhood friend.

### **LIFE-CHANGING MOMENT**

After a high-school counselor told the pudgy Belluzzo that he wasn't college-grade material, he dropped 50 pounds, hit the books, and got an accounting degree from Golden Gate University in 1975 after attending Santa Rosa Junior College.

### **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

Joined HP as an accountant in 1975 and quickly moved up the ranks, ultimately becoming the No. 2 executive. He is credited with spearheading HP's success in printers and PCs while working at the Boise Idaho plant.

### **WHY HE JOINED SGI**

*"I had to decide if I wanted to be a career guy or return a troubled company to glory,"* he says.

### **WHAT HE HATES**

Ostentation, expense-account padding, and being called "Rocket Rick," a nickname earned at HP for his meteoric rise.

### **HOBBIES**

Running, scuba-diving, skiing--but rarely. *"He's definitely a workaholic,"* says his mother, Doris.

## HOME LIFE

Separated from his wife of 23 years, who didn't want to relocate from Boise, Idaho, to Silicon Valley. Belluzzo keeps an apartment in Boise for weekend visits to his two teenage boys.

## ON WORK-LIFE BALANCE

*"When you work this hard, it's hard to be close with anyone," he says.*

*"Clearly this lifestyle over multiple years takes a toll on a relationship."*

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