



Rick Elezi, Founder and Owner
R.E.M. Residential

How long have you been in the business?

While in college, I worked as a doorman and handyman full-time. I worked my way up in the industry, eventually as a property manager for 20 years. I founded R.E.M. Residential in 2000.

What made you decide to get into your field?

After a slew of jobs that I did not find challenging or engaging, my father-in-law persuaded me to try property management. I started onsite at The Whitby on W. 45 St. Applying the skills and experience I gained from working in buildings in different capacities came in handy and after six months, I was doing portfolio management.

Who inspires you?

Cal Ripken Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles for his work ethic. Peter Hauspurg of Eastern Consolidated for the way he has devel-

About Rick Elezi

Rick Elezi is the Founder and Owner of R.E.M. Residential, a property management company based in Midtown Manhattan. His is the classic American success story. Having emigrated from Albania as a child along with his family, they settled in the Bronx where he grew up. He attended Iona College in New Rochelle full-time and worked his way up in the property management industry. Starting off at Barron Realty, he quickly learned the ropes and moved up at a quick pace. Working at Lawrence Properties as a property manager he dealt with co-ops and condos but found his niche in the dynamic rentals division. With the encouragement of clients that owned rental properties, he struck out on his own.

Elezi resides in Yonkers with his wife of 25 years and their daughter.

oped such a successful company with his wife, Daun Paris, and for his impeccable reputation. Finally, my father who pushed me to work hard since I was 15 and never settled for less.

What pushes you to the next level?

R.E.M.'s hardworking, diligent staff, our clients and our steadfastly loyal friends and family. Knowing with certainty that the sky is the limit for us.

What is the best piece of advice you would give to someone starting in the business?

It's not about just doing the job right but also doing it honestly and with full transparency. If you follow this, there is opportunity for success. There are thousands of buildings in our great city and they all need management.

What is the hottest deal you have made to date?

When Eastern Consolidated approached us several years ago to manage their properties, we only had five employees. I initially told them I was not sure we would be able to handle their portfolio but that if we did agree to take them on, they could have the utmost confidence that we'd do a thorough job. I found the perfect property manager in Victoria Guzman, we earned their trust and we have exploded (boomed) since then.

If you had to work in a city other than New York, where would it be?

Boston.