

CURTIS SLIWA

Curtis Sliwa was born in Canarsie, Brooklyn. He attended Brooklyn Prep, a Jesuit high school and graduated from Canarsie High School, a New York City public high school. Prior to founding the Guardian Angels, he was night manager of a McDonald's restaurant on Fordham Road in the Bronx.

Guardian Angels

In May 1977, Sliwa created the "Magnificent 13", a group dedicated to combating violence and crime on the New York City Subway. At the time, the city was experiencing a crime wave. The Magnificent 13 grew and was renamed the Guardian Angels in 1979.

The group's actions drew strong reactions, both positive and negative, from the police, public officials, residents, and the media. Throughout the early 1980s, the group's distinctive uniform, a military type red beret and white insignia T-shirt, became recognizable as the group grew and courted media attention. In 1992, Sliwa received the prestigious Courage of Conscience Award from the Peace Abbey, at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston.

Sliwa, who continues to act as the president of the organization and oversees its worldwide operations, frequently visits chapters throughout the world. As of 2011, the Guardian Angels operate in nine countries and 82 cities with approximately 5,000 members.

Radio

Sliwa has become a populist conservative radio talk show host. In 2000 he became the co-host, with attorney Ron Kuby, of the long-running *Curtis and Kuby in the Morning*. The show lasted eight years before Citadel Broadcasting replaced the team with Don Imus.

The *Curtis Sliwa LIVE* program began national syndication on Dec. 1, 2008 and as of January 2, 2014, Sliwa returned to WABC, replacing Rush Limbaugh.

Politics

In September 2016, Sliwa launched a hostile takeover of the Reform Party of New York State. In May 2018, Appellants withdrew their appeal and the status and leadership of the New York State Reform Party is no longer in question.