

For those of
you who
guessed
Judge Tom
Davis, you
are correct



Rumor has it that you began your political career at any early age with a meeting with a former President of the United States. Could you tell us about that, please.

Apparently I did, but I can't remember it. I was born in Augusta, Georgia while my dad was in medical school. When President Eisenhower made one of his golfing trips to Augusta, my parents took me to the local airport to see his arrival. The president was in a baby-holding mood that day, and while he was working the ropeline of spectators, he held me briefly, without incident or

misbehavior on my part, I am told. (photo of Ike arriving at Augusta)

Having grown up in rural Georgia, were you involved in 4-H?

I grew up in Wilkinson County, a county of 10,000 or so about 20 miles east of Macon. I joined the local 4-H Club in the 5th grade, mainly because the County Extension Agent and my dad were golfing buddies, and Agent Maxey recruited me to be a 4-Her. My primary projects were Public Speaking and Agronomy. I did Agronomy because my parents wanted some peach and apple trees, and they could make me grow and tend them as a 4-H activity. I could talk better than I could farm, and I have not sprayed a peach tree in a long, long time.



Did you earn any awards or achievements in 4-H?

I was a 4-H District Officer as a junior in high school, but the best thing I ever did in 4-H was to become a Rock Eagle Counselor for 3 summers while in college. For several

decades, the Rock Eagle State 4-H Center has hosted thousands of children each summer in the largest 4-H camping program in the country. The camp is operated on a Native American theme, and there are between 50-60 counselors trying to corral/manage/keep safe over 1,000 different young 4-Hers each week of the camping season. We worked from 6:30 or so each morning until after 11:00 each night, made the best friends of our lives in the other counselors, and had the best \$.28/hour job anyone could imagine. I was privileged to work there for three summers, to be the "chief" of a tribe (a counselor leadership position) my 3rd year, and to be a member of the Rock Eagle Mafia for life.

What was your secret for growing award winning bell peppers?

My secret for prize-winning peppers was that my wife picked (stole) some of my bell peppers and entered them in the Gwinnett County Fair without my knowledge. As she and I were touring the agricultural exhibits at the fair that year, she made me stop at the peppers, where she pointed out a blue ribbon with my name on the name tag. I could say that my 4-H agronomy training finally paid off, but I would be lying. My peppers were tended with considerable neglect and Miracle-Gro liquid fertilizer.





How long did you serve in the Navy JAG Corp?

I entered the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corp straight out of law school in 1978. I spent nine years on active duty as a JAG, then thirteen more years as a Navy Reserve JAG while I was working in the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office. I retired from the Navy in 2001, and still miss some of the work and all of the camaraderie I enjoyed in the Navy.

Did you service as Navy JAG Corp attorney take you outside the USA to try cases?

As an active duty and reserve Navy JAG, I had the opportunity to try cases in lots of places, including foreign countries and at sea. I spent several weeks trying a general court-martial at the naval base in Guantanamo

Bay, Cuba, surrounded by Castro's army. During our time out of court, we could go to the edge of the base and see the Cuban Army in their guard towers, rifles and binoculars at the ready. When they realized we were looking at them across 200 or so yards, some of the Cubans would wave to us. Most of them would give us a one-finger salute that is common to many languages.

