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Shining Star:

Tom Davis

"When it really counts, he is there. day in and day out. He is there to assist us and other agencies throughout East Texas each and every day."

These were the words of Nacogdoches County Sheriff Thomas Kerss, president of the East Texas Peace Officers Association, when he presented Texas Ranger Tom Davis the ETPOA's esteemed East Texas Award at the annual convention on July 2, 2001. That was quite an honor, and it is treasured by the Nacogdoches Texas Ranger.

Tom was born in Chicago, Illinois, on November 7, 1961. He was one of Warnie and Eva Davis' five children: four sons and one daughter. By the time Tom came along, his father had retired from the Navy and was working for the United States Customs Department, being very briefly stationed in Chicago.

The family ended up in the southeastern corner of Texas in the small town of Nederland, where Tom graduated from high school in 1980. He attended Lamar University in nearby Beaumont and Howard Payne University in Brownwood. He left college before completing his studies, but after being stationed in Nacogdoches as a Texas Ranger, he returned to school and graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in May of 2001.

Along the way, Tom married his wife Andrea. Today, they have two lovely daughters.



Tom joined the Department of Public Safety in January 1987 and was stationed in Liberty County [between Beaumont and Houston]. In May of 1994, he was promoted to sergeant and transferred very briefly to Rio Grande City before moving on to the West Texas city of Lubbock.

Luckily for the Texas Rangers, Tom was accepted into their organization in October 1995. His first duty station was at Mount Pleasant in East Texas.

A year after Tom joined the Rangers, the Texas Ranger stationed in Nacogdoches, Bill Walk, announced his retirement. Tom and Andrea wanted to get closer to their families. Since Nacogdoches is only about one hundred and fifty miles from Nederland where both set of parents lived, Tom applied for Walk's vacancy. His request was granted, and in November 1996, he assumed his new duty station, which included Nacogdoches and Shelby Counties.

How well has he done? Again in the words of Sheriff Kerss: "Tom was selected as recipient of the East Texas Award for his outstanding leadership and the respect he has gained from his peers."

Powerful words. Job well done.

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