

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Charles Vincent Court, Jr.**

Charles Vincent Court, Jr.'s family originally came to Stafford in 1919. Charles details his growing up years, career choices and the changes he has seen in his home town over the years. Charles was interested in serving his community, not just as a business man, but on committees associated with community development as well as economically. He once told the mayor of Stafford, jokingly, that he believed in term limits and that the mayor shouldn't serve more than twenty-five terms. At the time, the long-term mayor of Stafford had already served twenty two-year terms.

Charles Court and his family have had a wonderful life in Stafford and helping to build the community.

20 Pages

⇓ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ⇓

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

C. V Court - father came to Stafford in 1919

Frank G. Cangelosi – brother in law of C. V. Court, Sr.

Benedetta (Beulah) Lucille LaRocca Court – mother

J. J. Court – uncle, brother of CV

T. F. Noto

Roberta Jean Jester Court – wife, married in November 1959

J. C. Court – brother

Charles Vincent Court, III – Son (called Chip)

Christopher Jacob Court – son

Jennifer Kathryn Court Hammer – daughter

Janette Louise Court Keeton – daughter

S. A. Russell, Rosenberg

A. P. “Tony” Court

John Null

Mayor Leonard Scarcella

T. J. Lampson

Benny Sherman – friend

Medical care: Dr. Slaughter, Dr. Wheeler

Tent Shows – Joe Schuman, Janie Giambelluca

Katie Cangelosi – aunt

F. G. Cangelosi – Katie’s husband

### Places / Businesses

Cangelosi Grocery Store

Court Hardware

Goobles of Richmond

Peden Iron and Steel Company

Two Old Goats Business

Post Office

Economic Development Committee

Missouri City High School

First National Bank of Stafford

Director – Texas Commerce Bank

### Events

Charles served in the military from 1956 to 1958.

He was very active in the community serving on the FBISD #2 Water Board as a member and then the president for six years. He also served on the Board of Directors of the East Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce and as an auctioneer with the Holy Family Church.

On the water board, Charles was interested in water and sewer systems and benefited several communities by finding creative ways to bring clean water to their neighborhoods before development was complete.

Charles family suffered the loss of their hardware store in 1953 when fire destroyed the buildings and much of their inventory. Friends in the business community advanced him loans on generous terms both to rebuild and to restore his inventory. That kept the family business going for over fifty years, an accomplishment the city of Stafford recognized with an award.

Charles was aware of segregation in Stafford knew businesses depended on them economically, just like any other customer. He didn't recall the community had a real racial problem when he was involved with the community.

His Father was known for his generosity. He once donated blood to a person unknown to him who recovered and lived a full life. The woman's adult daughter later met Charles, Jr. and reminded him they were "blood" relatives.

Charles shared many memories of his grand parents and his mother and father