

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: JAMES GRADY PRESTAGE

02/15/2019

The Honorable Grady Prestage, born in Iowa in 1958 and raised in Louisiana, has served as County Commissioner Pct 2 in Fort Bend County since 1991. He comes from a long line of college educators since both of his parents had PhDs and he was raised and educated on a university campus.

With a degree in Civil Engineering, Grady describes his election at age 32 and his role and duties as a county commissioner in one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. He was instrumental in expanding the Parks department and creation of Bates Allen Park, Kitty Hollow Park, the Pinnacle Health Center for Seniors and the Boys & Girls Club in Missouri City.

Pages25

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

Interview Summary

People

Ben Denham – retired County Commissioner
 KP George – County Judge Fort Bend County
 Bob Hebert – retired County Judge
 Lena Hidalgo – County Judge Harris County
 Jesse Jackson – national political activist
 Bob Lutz – retired County Commissioner
 James Patterson – retired County Commissioner
 Fheryl Prestage – spouse
 Dr. James Prestage – father
 Dr. Jewel Prestage – mother
 Paul Wierzbicki – Missouri City Parks Director
 Dianne Wilson – retired County Clerk

Places / Businesses

Bates Allen Park, Kendleton
 Boys & Girls Club, Missouri City
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Fulshear
 George Foundation
 Harris County
 Houston
 Iowa City, Iowa
 Kitty Hollow Park
 Missouri City
 Needville
 Prairie View A&M University
 Southern University Laboratory School
 Southern University, Louisiana
 Stafford
 State of Texas Prison System
 Sugar Land
 University of Houston at Sugar Land
 University of Iowa

Events

Grady was born in 1958 in Iowa where his parents were attending University of Iowa. He was raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the campus of Southern University where his parents were Professors.

He graduated from Southern University with a degree in Civil Engineering. Upon graduation, he and his wife Fheryl moved to Fort Bend County.

In 1986, Grady ran an unsuccessful campaign against the incumbent county commissioner. He tried again in 1990 and was successful. Today, he still enjoys his elected position as County Commissioner representing Precinct 2 serving his 8th consecutive term in one of the fastest growing counties in the nation.

Grady talks about growing up in an academic environment, his family and his duties as a county commissioner.