



Willie Meggs

Little known fact; when Willie Meggs was born in Tallahassee he left the hospital and was taken to the Leon County Jail, where his father was the chief jailer and his mother was the matron. They lived at the Leon County Jail. Later his father became the Assistant Warden at the Springhill Road Prison Work Camp supervising the chain gangs. And so, Meggs' formative years were spent around Correction and Law Enforcement personnel.

After high school Meggs joined the United States Marine Corp and left for boot camp in January 1962. He began coursework at Florida State University after six months of active duty. Meggs likes to say that post-secondary education was an eleven-year adventure and included graduating from TCC and FSU, while working most of the time.

His time at Florida State included a certificate program, which had been promoted by Ken Katsaris, which consisted of a 30-hour certificate in criminal justice. With the certificate in hand Meggs then returned to TCC to complete his basic studies and graduated from both TCC and FSU at about the same time. He was employed as a full-time law enforcement Officer during most of his time in college.

As an officer Meggs spent a lot of time at the courthouse, and that exposure helped him decide he wanted to practice law. Meggs was accepted into law school in 1973 and graduated in 1976; and interned at the State Attorney's Office at the same time. Other than the brief time Meggs left the office to campaign for the job of State Attorney, he has been there ever since.

Meggs retired in January, 2017 ending a 50-year career in public safety. Today he's enjoying time with Judy, his wife of more than 50 years, his three grown children, five grandchildren, his horses and his tractor!

Watch the video presented at the 2020 Heroes in Public Safety Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony of Bill Montford speaking on behalf of Willie Meggs [HERE](#).