

Tom Ridge

Director Homeland Security

Tom Ridge was born Aug. 26, 1945, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He won a scholarship to Harvard University, receiving a bachelor of arts degree with honours in 1967. After his first year at the Dickinson School of Law, he was drafted into the U.S. army.

Mr. Ridge served as an infantry staff sergeant with the U.S. army in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star for Valor. After returning to United States, Mr. Ridge went on to earn his law degree from Dickinson School of Law in 1972. He was in private practice in Pennsylvania before becoming an assistant district attorney in Erie County.

Mr. Ridge's political career began with his election to Congress in 1982. He was subsequently re-elected six times and twice elected Governor of Pennsylvania, serving from 1995 to 2001.

Oct. 8, 2001, Mr. Ridge was sworn in as the U.S.'s first Director of Homeland Security.

Mr. Ridge and his wife, Michele, have two children.