

The Honorable Judge Ted Poe

Poe is a native Texan, who grew up in Houston. He graduated with a degree in political science from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas; and he served as his class president.

In 1973, Poe graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Houston's Law Center; he participated in the school's honor society.

Poe served in the United States Air Force Reserve's Unit at Houston's Ellington Air Force Base.

After serving as a chief felony prosecutor in Harris County for eight years, Poe was appointed as felony court judge in 1981, becoming one of the youngest judges in the state. In this position, he gained national prominence for his unusual criminal sentences that included ordering thieves to carry signs in front of stores from which they stole. "He always wanted them to know there was a victim at the other end of their actions," said Elaine Stolte, who worked for Poe for nearly two decades while he was on the bench. Poe's career as judge spans for 22 years.

He has served as a member of the United States Congress for 14 years. In Congress, Poe served on the judiciary committee and foreign affairs committees. He was appointed chairman of the Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee (TNT). Poe is the founder and co-chairman of the bipartisan victims' rights caucus.

Poe is married to Carol, and has 4 children and 12 grandkids; he calls them by their birth numbers, as opposed to their names.

Perhaps more than anyone in Congress, Poe has legislated with a jurist's touch. More than anything else, Poe says, he's proud to have given a voice on the Hill to victims of crime and human trafficking, and championed legislation that aimed to plug holes in the justice system he came to know all too well as a judge.

"Justice needs to mean something. It needs to mean something to the offender and to the victim," Poe said. "And to the public at large."