

David Kunkle Biography

David Kunkle has been a public servant and leader in law enforcement and municipal government for nearly 40 years. He started as a beat patrolman with Dallas Police Department in 1972 and became the youngest Captain in the history of the Department.

Before becoming Dallas' Police Chief, Kunkle served as the Chief of Police in Grand Prairie and in Arlington for a total of 17 years. Kunkle also worked as Arlington's Deputy City Manager for five years. He was responsible for managing Arlington's police and fire departments, code enforcement, convention center, the city's budgetary and financial concerns, parks and libraries, as well the housing department.

During Kunkle's tenure at the Dallas Police Department, Dallas saw six consecutive years of crime reduction. Crime went down a total of 36 percent during Kunkle's time as Chief. In 2010, the City of Dallas reached its lowest crime rate in 40 years and had its lowest murder rate in 42 years. Homicides went from 248 to 148.

The *Dallas Morning News* noted that David "inherited a department in disarray and left things in significantly better shape than he found them." And that he has an "even keel, common sense leadership style."

The Advocate commented, "He fought — and fought against determined opposition, both from the council and city bureaucrats — for his vision of community policing, the New York City-inspired method that focuses on cutting crime in the neighborhoods." Kunkle is a fervent believer that strong, safe neighborhoods will spur economic development and create jobs.

David Kunkle has been recognized nationally for his leadership abilities. In a PBS documentary, Jim Collins, best-selling author of the leadership book, *Good to Great*, heralded David's leadership style as a successful model for turning around organizations in turmoil and as the only example of a level 5 public sector leader.

In addition to his extensive experience as a major city Police Chief, Kunkle took on a primary leadership role in the creation and funding of the Caruth Police Institute at the University of North Texas at Dallas. Kunkle was instrumental in raising over 18 million dollars for the Dallas Police Department from foundation and private donations. Kunkle led the effort to secure the largest grant ever given by a private foundation to an American Police Department.

Kunkle received his Bachelor's Degree and his Master's of Public Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington. Kunkle has worked tirelessly to educate the law enforcement community. He played an integral role in developing the curriculum for the State of Texas police management college. He has taught at the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute in Boston.

David Kunkle and his wife, Sarah Dodd live in a Conservation District in East Dallas.