

Biography

TEXAS GOVERNOR MARK WHITE

Mark Wells White, Jr. was elected to be Governor of Texas on November 2, 1982. He was sworn into office on January 18, 1983.

White previously served as Attorney General of Texas from January 1, 1979 to December 31, 1982.

While serving as the state's chief enforcement officer, White co-chaired the Federal-State Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee and was a member of the Governor's Organized Crime Prevention Council.

On the national level, White gained recognition as Attorney General. He was elected Chairman of the Southern Conference of Attorneys General in May 1981.

Before his election as Attorney General, White served for four years and nine months as Secretary of State under Governor Dolph Briscoe, beginning in January 1973.

White was elected President of the National Association of Secretaries of State in 1977. He was the youngest Secretary of State ever to be elected to the association's highest office.

Before he became Secretary of State, White practiced law for four years with the Houston law firm of Reynolds, Allen and Cook.

White's public service career, however, began in 1966 as an Assistant Attorney General in the Insurance, Banking and Securities Division where he spent three years handling some of the first consumer protection investigations and representing state agencies in both trial and appellate cases. He also served in the 36th Division of the Texas Army National Guard.

The governor was born in Henderson, (Rusk County) Texas on March 17, 1940. His family moved to Houston where he attended public schools and graduated from Lamar High School in 1958. He worked his way through Baylor University where he received a degree in Business Administration in 1962, and a law degree from Baylor Law School in 1965.

White and his wife, Linda Gale, live in Austin with their three children: Wells, 13, born Sept. 11, 1970; Andy, 11, born June 14, 1972; and Elizabeth, 9, born Nov. 5, 1974. The Whites are active members of Hyde Park Baptist Church. He serves on the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Advisory Council and the Christian Education Coordinating Board.

January, 1984