**Comments on Thomas D. Jacobson - 2**

Tom was raised in Westfield, New Jersey. He was and is a wonderful son. As a lad, he was a Cub Scout. He was also active in school sports: wrestling in Junior High, and wrestling and football teams in High School. He exhibited strong leadership qualities during these early years.

Our DeGelleke recipient graduated from Bucknell University and was selected as one of five students nationwide to join the American Express Company. He joined the family business (Jacobson & Co, Inc. founded in 1889, which is currently celebrating its 126th year of service to the New York City construction industry), in 1987 and he became the company’s fifth generation President in 1993. He has dramatically expanded the company’s business during his Presidency.

Here are a couple of Tom Stories:

1. THE BROWNIE INCIDENT- When Tom was about three years old, his grandparents came to our home with brownies, which he had requested. Grandma placed a plate of brownies on the kitchen table and offered them to Tom. When Tom was about to eat his second tasty square, he looked straight into Grandma’s eyes and said, “You can go now, Grandma!” Ever since that incident, the family has used the “you can go now” directive whenever an appropriate THE MORAL OF THE STORY, DON’T GET BETWEEN TOM AND HIS BROWNIES.
2. THE PEACOCK CAPER- The family was visiting the Busch Gardens in the Tampa, Florida area when Tom was about four years old. The Family came upon some peacock birds and tom’s mother wanted to take a picture of Tom and a white peacock. She urged Tom to get, “closer, closer, closer. “ Suddenly, the bird gave Tom a peck on the cheek. To this day, Tom is wary of a peck or a kiss on his cheek. If you try it, you do so at your own peril.

John D Jacobson

3/31/2015