

STEVE BESHEAR

Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

He likes to play golf, tennis, fox hunt, snow ski and watch athletic teams from Kentucky compete but, understandably, his new duties as the Commonwealth's 61st governor have kept Steve Beshear busy since he assumed office in December.

Beshear is the 20th University of Kentucky graduate to serve as head of state. He earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1966 and a law degree from the College of Law in 1968.

The Dawson Springs native grew up one of five children. The governor's father, Russell, a funeral director, also was a Baptist minister, just like his father before him. His mother, Mary Elizabeth, dedicated herself to numerous community endeavors — making life better for others.

After graduating from Dawson Springs High School, the future governor entered the University of Kentucky. "Thanks to the second mortgage on our house and me working while in school," he often notes. He was elected student body president in his junior year. This was an early indication not only of his leadership skills, but also of his interest in public service. Graduation led to law school, where he graduated with honors.

Next began a whirlwind life. During his undergraduate days he met his future wife, Jane Klingner. Then on to practice law in New York before returning to Kentucky. Early days also brought military duty for Beshear. After completing law school he served as an intelligence analyst in the U.S. Army Reserves.

In 1974, today's governor was State Rep. Beshear. Five years later Kentuckians elected

him attorney general. In 1983, Kentucky voters elected him lieutenant governor.

Subsequent races for governor and the U.S. Senate fell short, but the end result facilitated re-entry into private law practice where he became senior executive of a multi-state firm. A good portion of that workload, along with management responsibilities, involved counseling large and small business enterprises, the backbone of job development. At the same time community banking captured his interest, which added another dimension to his preparation for future government leadership.

Along the way, he helped local civic organizations. A few examples of the many organizations in which he participated, assisted, and provided guidance to include Commerce Lexington Inc., the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation, God's Pantry Food Bank, Bluegrass Tomorrow, the Kentucky World Trade Center and the UK College of Law Visiting Committee.

Whether it was taking the lead as a young state representative to help fund a desperately needed expansion for the UK hospital's neo-natal unit, or his role as attorney general in curbing consumer fraud, Steve Beshear's initiatives have been varied and memorable.

Today, achieving sustainable economic growth, lifelong learning opportunities — beginning with pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education — and affordable health care are matters of utmost importance as he guides the Commonwealth during this term as governor.



Now married for 38 years, the Beshears have two sons. Jeff practices veterinary medicine in Virginia, and he and his wife, Emily, have a four-year-old son, Nicholas. Andy followed in his father's footsteps to practice law, and he and his wife, Britainy, live in Louisville.