

Candidate Biography

9/14/12 TB  
Born in Jacksonville, FL, Ron DeSantis is a proud Floridian of humble beginnings who knows the value of hard work. To put himself through college, he swept floors, collected trash, moved furniture, parked cars, served as an electrician's assistant, coached baseball clinics, and set up hospitality tents, earning a reputation as the most employable student at Yale University.

He received his bachelor of arts, *magna cum laude* with a major in history, from Yale, where he was a four year starter and the captain of the varsity baseball team. He received his juris doctor, *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. 2001 ~ 05 OFP

While studying at Harvard he earned a commission as a JAG officer in the United States Navy. During his naval service, he supported operations at the terrorist detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and deployed to Iraq during the 2007 troop surge as an advisor to a U.S. Navy SEAL commander in support of the SEAL mission in Iraq.

He has also served as a federal prosecutor and as a military prosecutor, prosecuting a wide range of cases involving offenses such as theft of sensitive military property, corruption, child abuse, child exploitation, and fraud, as well as notable cases concerning interference with military air navigation and "stolen valor" offenses.

His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (service) and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

DeSantis' service in the military and as a prosecutor has required him to take an oath to support and defend the Constitution, an oath he takes seriously. Like many Americans, he is disgusted by political elites who display ignorance of—and in some instances, an outright contempt for—the very Constitution they swear to uphold. To this end, he wrote a book, *Dreams From Our Founding Fathers: First Principles in the Age of Obama* (2011), because he saw the nation moving away from the enduring principles that the Constitution reflects and upon which the nation was founded.

He is currently an officer in the reserve component of the United States Navy. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He has lectured on the law of war at Florida Coastal School of Law. His writing has appeared in *National Review Online*, *The Washington Times*, *The American Spectator*, *Human Events* and *The American Thinker*.

He lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL with his wife Casey Black DeSantis, an Emmy award-winning television host. On February 9, 2012, Ron announced that he is running for the U.S. House of Representatives in the newly-created congressional district 6, which includes St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia and Putnam counties. He has been endorsed by Erick Erickson of RedState.com, the Combat Veterans for Congress PAC and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans for Congress PAC.