
Guide to the

ROBERT E. DAVIS PAPERS 1973-1982

.4 linear ft.

Accession Number: 9798-86

Collection Number: 12

**Prepared by Kevin Kendro
June 1999**

**CITATION: The Robert E. Davis Papers, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives,
Irving Public Library, Irving, Texas.**

Biographical Sketch

Robert Eugene Davis was born August 19, 1941 in Fort Worth, Texas. He received a degree in Chemical Engineering from Vanderbilt University in 1963 and an L.L.B. from Vanderbilt in 1966. After graduating, Mr. Davis moved to Irving, Texas, to make his home, and practice law. In 1972 Mr. Davis ran for and won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives as a Republican from District 33-A, which was located entirely within the city of Irving. Mr. Davis was subsequently re-elected four times, serving five consecutive terms from 1973-1982.

As a member of the Texas House of Representatives, Mr. Davis served in the 63rd – 67th legislative sessions. During his tenure, Mr. Davis was a member of the Ways and Means Committee for four terms and served as its chairman for two terms. He was also assigned to the Insurance Committee, where he served as chairman for one term, and he also served on the Calendars Committee. In addition Mr. Davis was a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1974, and he served as vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators.

The Texas Conservative Union named Mr. Davis one of the ten most conservative legislators in 1977, and in 1979 he was named as one of the five “best” legislators by Texas Business magazine. Mr. Davis served as president of the United Texas Young Republican Federation in 1975-1976; in addition, he chaired the Rules Committee and Platform Committee for the 1976 Republican State Convention.

Mr. Davis did not seek re-election in 1982. He returned to private law practice, specializing in insurance law. In 1987-1988 Mr. Davis became a senior staff member in the Office of the Governor serving as the Director of Budget and Planning. In this position he advised the governor on the development of the state budget for the fiscal years 1988 and

1989. Due to his insurance expertise, he also advised the governor's office on insurance issues.

From 1988 to the present Mr. Davis has also served on the General Services Commission, which oversees employees engaged in supporting the logistical operation of the state government.

Sources:

The Robert E. Davis Papers. Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.
Robert E. Davis résumé.

Series Description

Series I. Correspondence, 1973-1982. .3 linear ft. (7 folders).

Arranged chronologically, then alphabetically by folder title. The contents of each folder are arranged chronologically. Material includes letters from Mr. Davis to constituents, businesses, organizations, and politicians concerning various topics; letters of recommendation from Mr. Davis; and letters of thanks from Mr. Davis. In many cases, Mr. Davis's reply is accompanied by the correspondence that generated the reply.

Series II. Speeches, 1973-1982. .2 linear ft. (4 folders).

Arranged chronologically. Speeches, rough drafts of speeches, notes, and research material used for speech development.

Series III. Artifacts

One Bob Davis campaign button.

Series IV. Published Material

One book by Texas State Representative Dan Kubiak, *Ten Tall Texans*, with author's note to Bob Davis.

Scope and Content Note

The Robert E. Davis Papers, contained in one legal-size document box, is composed of four series. When the collection was received, some of the material was in roughly reverse chronological order, and some was in no discernable order. The arranger has placed the documents in chronological order. Résumés sent to Mr. Davis as part of requests for recommendations have been removed from the collection. Deletions of names and addresses were undertaken in cases in which the Irving Archives determined that a correspondent's privacy might be at risk.

The bulk of the material in Series I is correspondence which consists of Mr. Davis's replies to constituents, businesses, and politicians on various topics. In many cases the incoming correspondence accompanies Mr. Davis's reply. Some of the topics addressed are: insurance claims; requests for government information; the 1974 state constitutional convention; invitations; congratulations; and appreciation. A sizable amount of the correspondence in this series is made up of letters of recommendation requested by individuals from Mr. Davis.

Series II is made up of speeches, rough drafts of speeches, notes, and speech research material. Among the topics of the speeches included are: sample legislative wrap-up speeches, the equal rights amendment, the relationship between business and government, and the state constitutional convention.

Provenance Statement

The Robert E. Davis Papers were donated to the Irving Archives by Gwyn Clarkston Shea as part of the Gwyn Clarkston Shea Papers. With Mr. Davis's and Ms. Shea's approval, the Robert E. Davis Papers were removed from the Shea collection and established as an individual collection.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Robert E. Davis Papers must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Note to Researcher

See also:

The Gwyn Clarkston Shea Papers in the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Irving Daily News

Container List

Series I. Correspondence, 1973-1982

Box 1

Folder

1 Correspondence – General, 1973-1975

Contains letters from Mr. Davis to constituents, organizations, businesses, and politicians addressing their questions and concerns. Among the topics addressed is the state constitutional convention of 1974. In many cases, the incoming correspondence accompanies the Davis reply.

2 Correspondence – General, 1976-1979

Contains letters from Mr. Davis to constituents, organizations, businesses, and politicians addressing their questions and concerns. In many cases, the incoming correspondence accompanies the Davis reply.

3 Correspondence – General, 1980

Contains letters from Mr. Davis to constituents, organizations, businesses and politicians addressing their questions and concerns. In many cases, the incoming correspondence accompanies the Davis reply.

4 Correspondence – General, 1981-1982 and undated

Contains letters from Mr. Davis to constituents, organizations, businesses, and politicians addressing their questions and concerns. Also contains a newspaper article on the fundamentals of writing a letter to a politician and some sample ideas for letters. In many cases, the incoming correspondence accompanies the Davis reply.

5 Correspondence – Recommendations, 1973-1978

Contains letters from Mr. Davis recommending people for jobs, boards, scholarships, and schools. In most cases, the request for a recommendation accompanies Mr. Davis's reply.

6 Correspondence – Recommendations, 1979-1982

Contains letters from Mr. Davis recommending people for jobs, boards, scholarships, and schools. In most cases, the request for a recommendation accompanies Mr. Davis's reply.

7 Correspondence – Thank You, 1975-1982

Contains letters from Mr. Davis to individuals, politicians, and businesses thanking them for invitations, gifts, and other courtesies.

Series II. Speeches, 1973-1982

8 Speeches, 1973-1974

Contains speeches, sample speeches, and rough drafts of speeches given by Mr. Davis.

9 Speeches, 1975

Contains speeches given by Mr. Davis, a speech given by President Gerald Ford, a speech given by pollster, Louis Harris, and two sample legislative wrap-up speeches.

10 Speeches, 1976-1982

Contains speeches and rough drafts of speeches given by Mr. Davis. Also includes a press release announcing State Representative Bob McFarland's (R-Arlington) plans to run for state senate.

11 Speeches and Speech Research Material, undated

Contains notes and undated rough drafts of speeches as well as some material used for developing speeches.

Series III. Artifacts

A Bob Davis campaign button.

Series IV. Published Material

Book: Kubiak, Dan. *Ten Tall Texans*. Edinburg, Texas: Advocate Press, 1967.