

# Pickle's book outlines exciting career

Anyone who knows Jake Pickle knows he loves to tell a story. After 31 years in the House of Representatives, you can bet the 83 year old Pickle has some stories to tell. Pickle represented the 10th District, a once sprawling, diverse area that stretched from the Central Texas Hill Country to the Gulf of Mexico. While the 10th District has shrunk in geographic size over the years as its population has surged, Pickle's tales of his time serving the district have certainly not.

Wanting to preserve these stories, his daughter Peggy came up with the idea to compile them in a collection. Together the two created *Jake*, recently published by the University of Texas Press and will be on hand together on Saturday, April 12, at 2:00 p.m. at the Book Nook on Main Street to sign it. Pickle will share an anecdote or two that aren't in the 228 page book. Peggy plans to read an excerpt or two that are.

"When I first approached my father about writing a book, he was hesitant. He didn't want to fall into the familiar trap of a public figure self-importantly writing a memoir about his career," Peggy explained. So, he just talked and told his stories the way he loves to tell them, and Peggy, who holds a degree in journalism from the University of Texas, recorded them. The result offers some colorful snap-

shots from a historic life.

The book reaches beyond a simple biography. Instead, through his anecdotes, Pickle paints a picture of an era when elected officials were respected and admired. *Jake* tells of family, friends, and the institutions which have shaped his life and the lives of the people around him. "Whatever I am and whatever I've accomplished is a result of the discipline and laughter that were my inheritance," Pickle said. From college campus pranks and the beginnings of a radio station, to campaign trail mishaps, and his own fond memories of Washington, Pickle tells his stories with the humor and good nature that have always made him popular.

Longtime Smithville residents

are quick to agree with such popularity and express admiration for Pickle. His crucial role in seeing the M.D. Anderson Science Park become a reality, is referenced with a smile. Many a Smithvillian has commented that, while they don't belong to his particular political party, they genuinely like the man and that for which he stands.

As Pickle writes in his epilogue (*Jake*, University of Texas Press, p. 228), "My life has been given a special purpose. Some men live to make money, drink, chase women, collect art, excel at a sport, or pursue other things that give them pleasure. The thing I got hooked on was helping people. And I've had the pleasure of helping people by the thousands."

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