

Anthony Guido Davi, Sr.

1939

BUSINESS OWNER, REAL ESTATE BROKER

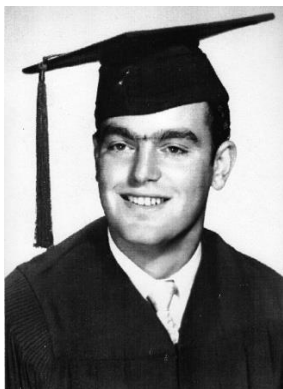
WRITTEN BY ANTHONY GUIDO DAVI, SR.

I was born on February 4, 1939, to Vita Crivello and Guido A. Davi. I am a lifetime resident and business owner on the Monterey Peninsula. Growing up, I lived at 877 Jefferson Street in Monterey, along with my brothers, Sebastian and John, and my sister, Rose. Our maternal grandparents, Sebastiano and Filippa Baldarotta Crivello, lived with us and spoke very little English, so Italian was our language at home. The neighborhood I lived in was often referred to as Spaghetti Hill. My mother emigrated from Sicily and maintained a traditional Sicilian lifestyle, pasta on Thursdays and Sundays, fish on Fridays and mandatory church on Sundays. My mother was very religious and said the rosary every day. We would dress in our best and attend Mass at San Carlos Cathedral. Of course, I played the accordion; however, I gave it up at a young age.

My maternal grandfather liked going to the movies, and occasionally on Sundays he would take us kids to the movies. We walked from Jefferson Street to the Monterey Theater, which was located on Alvarado Street, near what is now the Custom House Plaza. The movie cost 25 cents per person. The way home was uphill, so we would stop about halfway there to allow our grandfather to take a short rest.

I attended San Carlos Catholic School until the fourth grade, then transferred to public schools and attended Thomas O. Larkin Elementary and Walter Colton Junior High School and graduated from Monterey Union High School in 1957. I didn't go on to college. It was while I was in high school that I met Anita Irvan and she later became my wife and life partner.

My first job was a paper boy for the *Monterey Herald* and I had two routes. With the money I earned, plus financial help from my grandparents, I purchased a Schwinn bicycle. Another job I had when I was 13 years old was washing windows for a jewelry store in downtown Monterey on weekends



Anthony Davi



Anita Irvan Davi

for a couple of years and thereafter, I began providing janitorial services for my dad's insurance and real estate office and one other real estate company in the evenings. I continued doing that until I graduated from high school. I also worked at an auto-detailing shop, where I learned to detail and polish cars. Thereafter I washed and polished my dad's cars, until I graduated from high school. During my four years in high school, I worked after school and weekends at a service station (gas station) which was located at the corner of Del Monte Avenue and Figueroa Street, at the entrance to Fishermen's Wharf #2. Back then in addition to pumping gas, we would check the oil, the water level in the radiator, the tire pressure, wash the windshield and rear window. The gas station was demolished years ago and is a parking lot today.

Our family would often travel to Pittsburg, California, on weekends to visit my dad's parents, Antonino and Rosa Compagno Davi; back then it was about a three-and-a-half-hour drive from Monterey to Pittsburg. My grandparents lived in a two-story house with a backyard planted with fruit trees and a detached single-car garage. There was an old car parked in the garage, but I never saw the car being driven. My grandparents' home was located at the corner of Second and York Streets, just a couple of blocks from the Sacramento River waterfront. Across the street from my grandparents' home in Pittsburg was a small neighborhood corner grocery store that sold beverages in redeemable bottles. My grandmother would accumulate the used bottles, and when we visited, I would take the bottles to the

store and redeem them for soft drinks. My favorite was cream soda. Another memory I have from the Pittsburg trips is of the ice cream man, who operated a two-wheel pushcart, ringing his bell as he went down the street. When we heard the bell, my grandfather would take me out to the cart and buy me an ice cream. He was a very nice man, but unfortunately passed away when I was very young, so I do not have many memories of him. He is my namesake.

My dad owned a 26-foot commercial fishing boat which was moored in Pittsburg, at the boat harbor near my grandparents' home. When we visited, my dad and I would often go to the harbor, and he would work on his boat, named *The Star of Italy*. That little boat was the beginning of my love affair with boats. Little did I imagine at that time that someday I would be fishing commercially with my dad on a similar boat on the Sacramento River, near Pittsburg.

During my high school years, each fall I fished commercially with my dad in Pittsburg, gill netting and drifting with the currents for salmon along the Sacramento River. The season was mid-August through late September, which is when I would return home and enroll in high school. I did this throughout my four years in high school. We were a two-man crew fishing on a 26-foot, narrow-beamed, bare-bones boat, and the only mechanical equipment on board was the engine. All our work on board was done manually. We fished from sunset to sunrise, rested for a few hours and then fished the afternoon currents. We worked and lived on the boat for a week at a time, beginning on Sunday afternoon and returning to shore late Friday or early Saturday morning with our catch. After unloading our catch, we would transfer the net to the docks to dry, repair it and then return the net to the boat. We would re-fuel, and re-provision the boat, getting her ready for Sunday afternoon, when we would again cruise out to the fishing grounds.

There were several fish canneries along the Sacramento River in the city of Pittsburg. The cannery we fished for was the O.V. Davi Cannery, owned by a relative of my dad. Each morning the canneries would send their boats out to the

fishing grounds to pick up the catch from the boats that fished for them. They would weigh the catch from the previous night, leave a receipt and return to the cannery to clean and pack the fish in ice and truck it to the San Francisco area. If we needed additional provisions, we would give the cannery boat our list and the following morning they would deliver the requested goods while picking up our catch. During the four seasons we fished for the O.V. Davi Cannery, my dad and I were always among the top three boats with the highest catch for the season; and, in fact, I believe one year we were number one.



Fishing on the Sacramento River.

My late entry in the fall semester at Monterey High School did place me at somewhat of a disadvantage in some ways because I had missed too much of certain classes to be admitted to them. One such class was typing, which I later found to be useful when I began working in my chosen career field. But my close relationship with my father placed me at an advantage in other situations--for example, when I took driver's education.

My dad worked closely with many of the Italian immigrants who came to the area, helping them with their housing, financial and social needs, one of which was learning to drive. I often went along and observed the lessons from the backseat, so when it came time for me to take the required driver's ed class, my instructor realized during the first lesson that I already knew how to drive. He told me he was going to concentrate on the other students, and I could just sit in the back and he'd give me a passing grade. Well, I was not about to sit there and watch for hours while three other guys were making the car jump and lurch around the block, trying to

learn how to shift gears, so I negotiated an arrangement wherein I would be dropped off at Lou's Pool Hall in downtown Monterey and picked up when the driving lesson was over. The instructor agreed, and that put an end to my having to sit and observe others driving.

I often think of how fortunate I was to have been a teenager in the 1950s. I think of that time as the "happy days." The days of great music, which is still enjoyed today. It was the decade of great American cars--they were stylish, comfortable and powerful. Those were the days of drive-in movies, drive-in restaurants where waitresses were called "car hops" and would serve your meal on a tray attached to the side of your car. When finished with your meal, if you turned on your headlights the car hops would pick up the trays. Alvarado Street was a two-way street and cruising the main drag was a major pastime. It was a time of hot rods and custom cars. I was a custom car guy.

The first car I purchased--with money I saved from fishing commercially with my dad and my after-school jobs--was a 1951 white two-door Chevrolet, which I had customized over a period of time, as I could afford



it while in high school. I lowered the car, recessed the headlights into the front fenders, changed the grill, removed the hood and trunk ornaments and radio antenna, and concealed the antenna under the car. Today the auto radio antennas are concealed. I had the door handles removed and installed an electric push-button switch below the doors on the car frame. With the press of your foot on the button the door would open. I did the same with the trunk hatch. In today's cars the trunks open electronically with the wave of your foot below the bumper. My 1951 Chevrolet had a two-piece windshield. Oldsmobile had come out with a one-piece that was interchangeable with my 51 Chevrolet. So, I located a windshield at a salvage yard purchased it and had it installed. I had the exterior painted a deep red color including dashboard and steering

column. The interior I had completely re-upholstered; seats, headliner, side panels in white and accents to match the exterior color of the car. I installed additional radio speakers, 2 behind the rear seat below the back window, one under front seat + the radio speaker, creating what today is referred to as surround sound. I even had an exterior radio speaker that I controlled from inside the car.

The summer after we graduated from high school in 1957, my high-school buddy Bert Cutino and I teamed up and fished on Monterey Bay for squid and anchovies as crew members aboard his dad's boat, the *Santa Rosalia*. In the fall Bert enrolled in college, and I continued fishing for a while until I was offered a job by my uncle, James Davi, working at his fish-packing cannery on Pier 92 in San Francisco. I worked there for about six months, then returned to Monterey and started working in my dad's real estate and insurance agency.

My first position working at Guido A. Davi Real Estate and Insurance Agency was office secretary. I answered phones and did the usual secretarial work, which required typing (typing was then the equivalent to what computer is today, and necessary). I had missed out on a typing course in high school because of my late enrollment, so I took a night typing class at Pacific Grove High School to learn the skill. Eventually I assumed full management of the business. My responsibilities included staff and financial management, receivables, payables, insurance renewal, tracking, negotiating with insurance company underwriters and their claims departments, marketing, client retention and more--all while selling insurance and later real estate. I would start at 8 a.m., mixing office work with sales during the day, go home for dinner, spend some time with family and often return to the business to do the office work six days a week, and on weekends I would often hold an open house. My on-the-job training was the equivalent of earning a college business degree. In 1962 I obtained my real estate agent's license and followed in 1963 with my real estate broker's license.

In 1964 I was offered the opportunity by the San Francisco office of the Norwich Insurance Company to attend their six-week casualty insurance educational course,

which was given at their home office in New York City. Fortunately, it was an all-expenses-paid trip, including travel, room and board because there was no way Anita and I could have afforded it. The class consisted of 18 students from various locations throughout the United States, with three company employees as instructors. We stayed in the Lexington Hotel situated in midtown Manhattan and took the subway to and from the Norwich office, located in the Wall Street district. It was an in-depth course, and I learned a great deal about the workings of the insurance industry. The New York World's Fair was going on at that time, and a group of us visited it in Flushing Meadows; it was fascinating to attend such an event.

By the late 1960s I had begun devoting more of my time to selling residential real estate. My goal, however, was to become a full-service realtor and an investor. To that end I started selling, leasing and managing investment real estate. I attended numerous investments-related educational seminars that included information on sales, leasing, investment properties, partnership creation and business sales; and since there are income tax consequences and benefits in buying and selling real property, I enrolled in an H & R Block real-estate taxation course. I continued selling, leasing and managing investment real estate for clients and eventually began investing for myself.



**Insurance school in New York City,
Anthony 2nd row, 3rd from the right.**

When my younger brother Sebastian graduated from the University of San Francisco, he joined my dad's business. By the late 1970s Dad had retired. Sebastian and I became owners of the business; by that time, we had built a good casualty-insurance practice. In the late 1970s I was considering forgoing the insurance business altogether and concentrating on real estate.

In 1980 I sold my interest in the business to Sebastian with a promise not to compete in the insurance business. Shortly thereafter I founded A.G. Davi Ltd., a real estate and property management company, which is still located at 484 Washington Street in downtown Monterey today. I operated the business as a full-service real estate company, which included residential and commercial real estate sales, leasing and property management services.



A. G. Davi--Real Estate Sales and Property Management Company.

During my real estate career, I have successfully brokered numerous real estate sales, real estate tax deferred exchanges, business sales, sold shopping centers, motels, apartment complexes, industrial properties, new residential subdivisions lots and acreage in East Contra Costa County. I have also negotiated numerous commercial leases, including some with national companies. I created real estate investments partnerships and developed new and redeveloped older properties. Accomplishing my goal to become a full-service realtor and investor has given me a great deal of satisfaction in my life. My other related business experiences include casualty and life insurance, consulting and as an expert witness.

During my professional life, I have been fortunate to have had loyal clients who placed their trust in me--some of whom so trusted me that they purchased properties sight unseen--relationships that were profitable for all. Every real estate transaction I have been involved in, be it small or large, is as exciting to me as the first home I sold. I've enjoyed my career and have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in one of the top wealth-building industries in the United States.

I'm grateful to my parents for instilling in me the importance of honesty and trustworthiness and a strong work ethic from a very young age, principles that have guided me throughout my life. As I was writing my story, I began to reflect on how

much influence my dad had in my life--not only in my personal life, but also in my business career. I am grateful to him for the opportunities he gave me, which greatly contributed to my success in life.



Guido A. and Anthony G. Davi.

I have served on the board of directors and as president of the Monterey Junior Chamber of Commerce (commonly known as the Jaycees) from 1967 to 1970, was honored as Jaycee of the Year in 1970 and thereafter elected to the prestigious Jaycee Senate. During those years, I led the effort to require the Monterey County Health Department to post warnings of unsafe water along the Monterey beaches. I was actively engaged in the revamping of Dennis the Menace Park, building of the first public barbecue in Veterans Memorial Park in Monterey, chairman of the 10th Annual Monterey Rugby Tournament, a volunteer at Laguna Seca Raceway and many other community related activities.

Beyond operating A.G. Davi Ltd., I have served as president and/or as a director in business, civic and religious organizations--two years as president of the Monterey Independent Insurance Agents Association; co-founder and president of the Monterey Commercial Property Owners Association; on the board of directors of the Old Monterey Business Association 1991 to 1993, and director of Monterey Peninsula Board of Realtors 1983 to 1984. I also served as a board member on the Monterey Diocese Catholic building committee and the former Carmel Art Museum and was capital campaign chairman for the Kinship Center, a statewide foster care and adoptive agency.

I'm the recipient of the 2013 Monterey Bay Junior Achievement Award, the Monterey Bay Business Hall of Fame Award, and a 2020 Honoree of the Italian Heritage Society of the Monterey Peninsula. When my good friend Burt Cutino introduced me at the IHS honoree dinner, he made me sound so good I almost believed it myself.

I have been involved in local and international charitable causes and activities, have helped raise funds for Robert Louis Stevenson School and Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and have personally provided a student scholarship at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Anonymously, I provided tuition for a brother and sister who had lost their father suddenly, so that they could finish their school year. Since 1991 I have been actively working with my son-in law, Dr. John Faia, providing dental treatment to people in developing countries who have no access to dental care. In 2000, after doing this work through various other nonprofit organizations, I was a founding board member of International Health Emissaries (IHE), which is based in Monterey and through which services have been provided to children and adults in Argentina, Belize, Cambodia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Nepal and Peru. Anita and I provided funds for a clean water well for a poor family in Cambodia through IHE's Clean Water Well program.



Guatemala, IHE Dental Clinic.

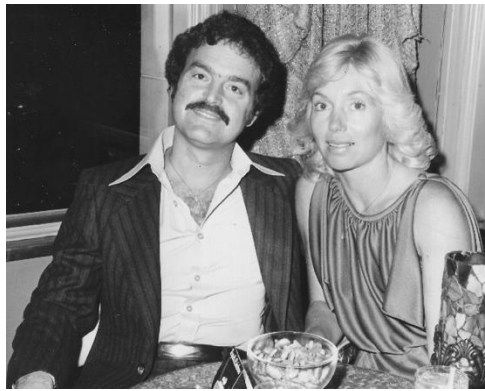


Other affiliations and activities current and past include National Association of Realtors, California; Association of Realtors; Monterey County Board of Realtors; California Apartment Association; regional representative, National Auto Club; member of Saint Francis

Yacht Club; Pacheco Club; Paisano Club; First Capitol Club; Knights of Columbus; the Beach and Tennis Club, and Stillwater Yacht Club.

In late 1963 Anita and I purchased our first home, located at 365 Clay Street in Monterey, an older three-bedroom, one bath home situated just four blocks from the home I grew up in. In 1973 we purchased a lot in Pebble Beach, and in 1976 we moved into our newly built home where we reside to this day. The Pebble Beach property was one of the best investments I have ever made.

Anita and I had never camped until our high-school friends Sharon and Chuck Fratangelo, in the summer of 1963, invited us to join them on a camping trip to



Anthony and Anita Davi.

Bass Lake, California. We accepted the invitation; however, we explained that we did not have any camping equipment. They said not to worry, all we needed was a tent. Well, we didn't have a tent either. So, we borrowed one. Anita, our two small children Tina and Kathleen, and I went on the camping trip and had a great time. We were hooked. The following year we purchased a tent and some camping equipment and began what became many family-camping trips. One of our favorite places to camp was Pinecrest Lake, north of Bass Lake. We later upgraded to a tent trailer, then a 23-foot travel trailer and later progressed on to various RVs. Those camping trips were fun and energizing for us all...and always exhausting. Once, when we were returning home in our station wagon towing our tent trailer packed with our camping gear and our five children after six days at Shasta Lake, a Highway Patrol pulled me over for speeding. The officer asked me what my hurry was. I explained to him we had been camping for a week with the five kids and were anxious to get home. He looked toward the back of the car and seeing the scared look in the children's faces he turned to Anita and me and said, "Looks like you have had a busy week. Slow down and drive safely."

In the summer of 1982 Anita and I purchased a 26' Pass Arrow motorhome, and we along with our 2 youngest sons Jeffrey and Anthony, Jr., took our first cross country trip. We traveled from Monterey the east coast into Canada and home. In 1990 we upgraded to a 38' Marque motorhome in which we traveled extensively in the United States. Unfortunately, the Marque motorhome was destroyed in a fire in 2002. Not to

be deterred, we later purchased a Newell Motor Coach. Over the years we have traveled throughout, our beautiful United States, Canada, and Mexico. We spend the winter months in our motor coach at our property at the Desert Shores RV Resort in Indio, California, visiting with our RV friends and enjoying the warm weather.



Marque destroyed in a fire in 2002.



Newell Motor Coach.

One of our best RV trips was in 2017, when Anita and I drove our granddaughter, Lorin Davi, to Oxford, Mississippi, where she was enrolled as a freshman in the University of Mississippi. We packed up the Newell with Lorin's belongings and toured along the way, including a stopover at the Grand Canyon. We had a great time touring on our way to Ole Miss, but most of all having Lorin with us made it the best RV trip.



Anita, Lorin and Anthony Davi, 2017.

As a young boy I always had an affection for boats. During my lifetime I have owned several boats. The first one was a Sleek Craft ski boat, in which Anita and I



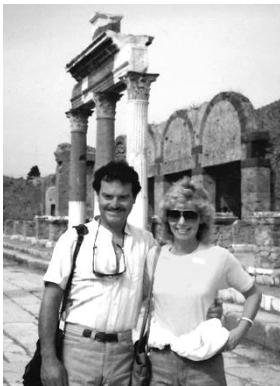
58' Ocean Alexander Pilothouse.

and the children learned to water ski. We have many happy memories of water skiing in Clear Lake, California, and many other California lakes. The others were *Ocean Alexander Yachts* a 42' and a 58' *Pilothouse*. Anita and I, solely captained and operated both yachts while cruising in Washington State, the San Juan Islands, the Canadian Islands (some of the most beautiful cruising areas in North American), and in the California Delta.

I've had my fair share of toys: 1928 Chrysler, 1950 Impala, & 1978 Jaguar XJS.



I enjoy traveling. In addition to traveling in the United States, Canada and Mexico, we have traveled in Central and South American, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Europe--several times to Italy, which is our favorite, and of course Sicily. Great food, accommodating people, and Italian gelato is the best there is!



Pompei



Tivoli Fountains

Driving in Italy is our favorite way to travel, it is easy and pleasant, the exception being the large cities, where you must be an aggressive driver. I have a mask collection of some of the places we visited. I have trekked in the jungles of Guatemala, Belize, and the highlands in Nicaragua. In Belize I rappelled down into a mountain cave and floated on an inter-tube on a narrow river that flowed through the mountain.

Once deep into the mountain we stopped and sat along the riverbank; it was so dark and still you could not sense the person sitting on the bank next to you. Anita and I were invited and swam in the “Olympic Pool” at the Hearst Castle, the most refreshing water we have ever swam in.



Mask Collection.



Hearst Castle Olympic Pool.

In the summer of 1988 my youngest son, Anthony Jr., had just graduated from high school and suggested that the two of us take a trip to Europe, like many grads and dads do. We traveled leisurely by car, rail, bus, boat and foot without advance reservations, staying in small hotels and pensions along the way from Lisbon, Portugal, to Gibraltar, along the Costa del Sol in Spain, Monaco, French Riviera, Italy (including a visit with family in Genoa), Austria, Switzerland, Germany and finally Paris, France. A trip of a lifetime for us both.



Travels with Anthony Jr., 1988.

Anita and I are most proud of our five children--Tina Davi Faia, business owner and property manager; Kathleen, a CPA with her own private practice; Guido, retired and living in Scottsdale, Arizona; Jeffrey, the 22nd California Real Estate Commissioner, and Anthony Jr., real estate broker and business owner--and our 11 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



The family at the Giants game in San Francisco.

A special thank you to Anna Marie Della Sala-Stanton for encouraging me to write this story.



Anthony Davi, Sr.

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