



Keith L. Smartt

Keith L Smartt was born and raised in Chattanooga Tn. He faced his first of many challenges at the tender age of 8 years old when he lost his father and grandfather two weeks apart. He was raised by his mother (Linda Sammons) and grandmother (Christine Sammons) Keith attended Avondale SDA School in East Chattanooga from 1st to 3rd grade. His 4th grade year was attending what was once All Saints Academy Downtown E 8th street. 5th and 6th grade was Orchard Knob Elementary East 3rd street. 7th and 8th grade, Brainerd Junior High on North Tuxedo Ave. Keith finally finished schooling attending Brainerd High School 9th – 12th.

In his high school days, he was a part of the Football, Track, Wrestling, Mock Trials teams. He also studied Commercial Foods. Keith was very interested in aviation and military at a very young age. He earned his student and private pilot licenses by age 17. Keith and his family were members of Second Missionary Baptist Church East 3rd street. (Pastor Paul A McDaniel) Keith also earned his Eagle Scout rank with the help of his church scout Troop 186.

After graduation, Keith joined the U. S. Navy. He wanted to be a pilot but once again there were challenges and misleading information to keep that from happening. Keith's first job was on board the USS Eisenhower CVN-69. He worked top side with the V-2 Arresting gear from 1993 to 1995. Keith was then given the opportunity to try out for Naval Special Warfare. He spent the next 6 months in Coronado CA.

After graduating BUD/S (233), he was able to earn his Jumpmaster, Master Diver, and EOD certifications. Keith was given the opportunity to become an officer after getting a degree in psychology. He later found that his degree choice was very helpful and decided to go back to school and earn a Master's in Behavioral Psychology. Keith was very successful in not only counseling his teammates, but there family's as well.

After Keith retired as a 21-year veteran with the rank of Lieutenant, he came back home to Chattanooga to start the next stage of his life. His first job back home was with Tennessee Community Counseling Service. He was responsible for, DUI School, Family Counseling, and Domestic Abuse Counseling. He assisted clients escaping abusive situations to cope appropriately with the trauma the abuse has inflicted upon them. Active listening, Note-taking, and Non-verbal communication is 3 of the skills he uses with his clients. His questions and interpretation skill are two of his strongest skills.

Keith is also an entrepreneur. He has started and run multiple businesses in, and outside, of the Navy. He is very much aware of the physical and mental stresses of business ownership. He is also very active in his city and community. He made a run for Chattanooga city Mayor in 2021.

Keith has many hobbies. At the top of the list is cooking! He calls him self the, SOCOM CHEF. He also enjoys, flying aircraft, hiking, working out, scuba diving, sky diving, golf, gaming (PS5 or computer), bowling, magnet fishing, helping people, pets, stock market, coloring, voice over acting, and collecting paper money and coins from around the world.