



Mike Ramsey Class of 2011

Mike Ramsey was born in 1948 at the Curran Hospital on Robinson Street in Oroville, CA. He attended Eastside, Bird Street and Central Schools and graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1966. His class was the first to graduate with seniors from the new Las Plumas High School (LPHS).

At OHS, Mike was a life member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF), and won University and California State scholarships as well as the National Science Foundation and Bank of America Science scholarships.

Mike was 5'-2" and weighed in the neighborhood of 98 pounds, when he played quarterback on the freshman football team. After being injured, he decided to try two other sports, so he switched to wrestling and boxing. He claimed that he was in the "mosquito league." He was an active member of the Block O Society.

Associated Student Body activities included being CSF President as a junior, Tiger Tales newspaper editor and student council member as a senior. He was president of the Electronics Club as a junior and senior and was in the all-school musical.

Following his graduation from OHS, Mike received scholarships to attend the University of California at Berkeley (UC). He studied at Cal for five years graduating with degrees in math, science, and history. He also boxed and became the National Collegiate Champion in 1969. By that time, intercollegiate boxing had gone from a big time national sport down to three schools, Cal, Chico State, and Reno. He was a member of the Tower & Flame Academic Honor Society, the Big C Society and received his AB degree in history from Cal in 1971.

After earning his college degree, Mike learned that the Butte County Office of Education was looking for substitute teachers, so he began "subbing" and working at the cannery. The Oroville Mercury-Register was also looking for someone to cover local sports, so Mike became the interim sports editor. After a journey to South America with childhood buddy, Nick Ellena, and sending travel stories to the Mercury, Mike returned to become the newspaper's local public safety and court reporter. It was then that he had the revelation to try Law School.

He enrolled at the University of Pacific's McGeorge School of Law and during his first semester had a paid internship researching law for Butte County Deputy District Attorney Jerry Hermansen. It was then that he knew exactly what he wanted to do. He also interned for the California State Attorney General and then returned to the Butte County DA's office. He earned his law degree in 1977. He came back to Oroville in 1978 to become a Deputy District Attorney. For the next seven years, he took on all felony cases dealing with child abuse and developed deep compassion for abused children. Thanks to Mike, the Butte County DA's office now has a children's room with books and games.

Mike started his career as Butte County District Attorney in 1987, and has been elected to this office five consecutive times. Former Butte County DA, Will Mattly, wrote that he felt Mike was an "outstanding prosecutor and one of the most knowledgeable". He also found him to be "extremely honest and objective in his pursuit of justice as the chief law enforcement officer of the county since 1987."

Mike's community service includes founding the Boys and Girls Club of Oroville, past President of the Oroville Rotary Club, member of the Butte County and California Bar Associations, member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, member of the Butte County Historical Society, and has served on numerous gang, drug, shooting, and safety task forces at the state and county levels.

When asked what he finds most rewarding about his work, Mike replies, "When justice is done."