

Tom Stewart was a quiet, studious young man during his years in Kings Park. He ran Track and Cross Country, delivered Newsday on his bike, flipped burgers at Sunken Meadow, and worked as a stock boy on Main Street. Tom remembers his teachers and coaches in the KP school system as great mentors, and the days of growing up here as formative, nurturing, and a springboard to the challenges of life.

After graduation, Tom attended New Mexico State University, receiving a regular Army commission from ROTC. A graduate of the Army's Airborne and Ranger Schools, the Army's flight school, and the Command and General Staff College, he also has a Masters in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in Newport.

Tom's military assignments have been extensive: In 1991 he commanded the 1st Battalion, 24th Aviation Regiment in Desert Storm.

Following graduation from the War College he served as Chief of the Army Aviation Branch. In 1995, he commanded the 17th Aviation Brigade in Seoul, Korea. His final position in the military was Chief, Western Hemisphere Operations Division, Operations Directorate, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C. In this capacity, he coordinated military operations of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard from the Pentagon. His many awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Air Medal.

Tom's impressive military service was followed by 13 years as Lincoln County, New Mexico Manager, 8 years as state commissioner, and, since 2014, Board of Lincoln County Commissioner. Tom has been married to Annette for 48 years. They have 2 children and 2 grandchildren.