

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Spartanburg County, South Carolina on September 15, 1942. During my formative years, I was exposed to the piano and voice training, leading to my becoming a pianist and choir director for a number of churches (most pastored by my father, Rev. Howard T. Dodd Sr.).

Throughout my grade school and high school years, I excelled in academics, and entered South Carolina State University at age 16, from which I received my B.S. degree in Biology. At the graduate level, I studied at Adelphi University, Hofstra University, C.W. Post University, State University of New York at Stony Brook and State University of New York at Oswego, from which I received my master's degree in Biology education.

After graduating from college, I thoughtfully considered my career options and moved to Long Island, New York to enter the field of public education. I was a highly successful classroom teacher for twenty-one years, during which I became Science Department Chairman and eventually Science Coordinator (for the largest school district in New York State).

My strong leadership qualities having been recognized early on, I was implored to move into other administrative positions, and went on to serve as Assistant Principal and High School Principal. After thirty-six illustrative years, I retired from public education in August, 2002.

My exposure to casino "gaming" began in 1976, on a family outing to Las Vegas, during a vacation to Southern California. On my first day, I was happy to win \$200 on a \$2 minimum table, but I knew that I was on the right track when a rich Texan (noticing my play) won \$8,000 by betting on my hand (with my permission). I began to travel to Las Vegas at least annually after that, and once Resorts opened in Atlantic City, became a regular player there as well. Once other venues opened (especially the Golden Nugget), I became a "qualified player" and began to enjoy all of the luxuries and amenities that are usually afforded only through casino gaming. Most importantly, I (already established as a superior money manager) quickly found strategies by which I could get what "High Rollers" get without risking the "High Roller" money that the big players do.

To this day, I have continued to maintain my status as a "qualified player," and I have traveled widely, enjoying "comps" that speak of the "lap of luxury," while minimizing risk. In addition, I have made money in the process, a bonus indeed!

During the last twenty-nine years, in addition to frequent trips to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, I have played in Connecticut (in both Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun); Puerto Rico (Caribe Hilton and Dorado beach); The Bahamas (Nassau and Freeport); California (Spotlite 29, Fantasy Springs, Moranga, and Spa Casino); North Carolina (Harrah's Cherokee); Biloxi, Mississippi (Beau Rivage); and Arizona (Casino Arizona and Gila River); among others. In addition to traditional casino play, my "gaming" experience has included playing on cruise ships, "Las Vegas Nights," with significant time invested in local poker games.

But the most important thing in my life has always been family. I am the father of two sons. My youngest, Marcus Andre, graduated from Harvard University, is a C.P.A. and travels the world, working on a fraud team for one of the largest accounting firms in the country. My oldest, Howard III (A.K.A. James Spade) graduated from George Washington University, has his M.B.A. and is the Operations Manager for a telecommunications company. He has also published several books and serves as webmaster for Channel 187: The Homicide Network, which is the company responsible for this book.