

Trump stirs "birther" pot

He will probably run as a "spoiler" independent candidate but who will be hurt most? W.C.

Donald John Trump, Sr.

(born June 14, 1946) is an American business magnate, socialite, author, and television personality. He is the Chairman and CEO of the Trump Organization, a US-based real-estate developer. Trump is also the founder of Trump Entertainment Resorts, which operates numerous casinos and hotels across the world. Trump's extravagant lifestyle and outspoken manner have made him a celebrity for years, a status amplified by the success of his NBC reality show, *The Apprentice* (where he serves as host and executive producer). Donald Trump is considered a possible candidate for President of the United States in 2012. Donald is the fourth of five children of Fred Trump, a real-estate developer based in New York City and self-made millionaire. Donald was strongly influenced by his father in his eventual goals to make a career in real estate development, and upon his graduation from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1968, Donald Trump joined his father's company, Elizabeth Trump & Son; taking its helm in 1971 and rechristening it The Trump Organization.

Starting with the renovation of the Commodore Hotel into the Grand Hyatt with the Pritzker family, he continued with Trump Tower in New York City and several other residential projects. Trump would later expand into the airline industry (buying the Eastern Shuttle routes), and Atlantic City casino business, including buying the Taj Mahal Casino from the Crosby family, then taking it into bankruptcy. This expansion, both personal and business, led to mounting debt. Much of the news about him in the early 1990s involved his much publicized financial problems, creditor-led bailout, extramarital affair with Marla Maples (whom he later married), and the resulting divorce from his first wife, Ivana Trump.

The late 1990s saw a resurgence in his financial situation and fame. In 2001, he completed Trump World Tower, a 72-story residential tower across from the United Nations Headquarters. Also, he began construction on Trump Place, a multi-building development along the Hudson River. Trump owns commercial space in Trump International Hotel and Tower, a 44-story mixed-use (hotel and condominium) tower on Columbus Circle. Trump currently owns several million square feet of prime Manhattan real estate, and remains a major figure in the field of real

estate in the United States and a celebrity for his prominent media exposures.

Trump has expressed a desire to run for the United States presidency several times. He has also repeatedly expressed skepticism of President Obama's birth status and religion, which has been the defining issue in his potential 2012 Presidential campaign, and for which he has been criticized.

Background and education

Donald Trump is a son of Fred Christ Trump (October 11, 1905 – June 25, 1999) and wife Mary Anne MacLeod (May 10, 1912, Stornoway, Scotland – August 7, 2000), who married in 1936 and had five children; one of whom, Fred Jr., their eldest son, predeceased his parents by suicide. Donald Trump's paternal grandparents were German immigrants. His grandfather, Frederick Trump (né Drumpf), emigrated to the United States in 1885 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1892. Frederick married Elisabeth Christ (October 10, 1880 – June 6, 1966) at Kallstadt, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany, on August 26, 1902. They had three children.

Donald Trump attended the The Kew-Forest School, Forest Hills, New York, as did some of his siblings. After he had some difficulties there when he was thirteen years old, his parents sent him to the New York Military Academy (NYMA) hoping to direct his energy and assertiveness in a positive manner. At NYMA, in upstate New York, Trump earned academic honors, played varsity football in 1962, varsity soccer in 1963, and varsity baseball from 1962-64 (baseball captain 1964). The baseball coach, Ted Dobias, a local celebrity for his work with area youth, awarded him the Coach's Award in 1964. Promoted to Cadet Captain-S4 (Cadet Battalion Logistics Officer) his Senior Year, Trump and Cadet First Sergeant Jeff Donaldson (NYMA class of 1965; West Point 1969) formed a composite company of cadets, taught them advanced close-order drill, and marched them all down Fifth Avenue on Memorial Day in 1964. Trump attended Fordham University for two years before transferring to the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in economics and concentration in finance.

In his book, *Trump: The Art of the Deal*, Trump discusses his undergraduate career: "After I graduated from the New York Military Academy in 1964, I flirted briefly with the idea of attending film school... but in the end I decided real estate was a much better business. I began by attending Fordham University... but after two years, I decided that as long as I had to be in college, I might as well test myself against the best. I applied to the Wharton School at the

University of Pennsylvania and I got in...I was also very glad to finish. I immediately moved back home and went to work full time with my father."