

that I wanted to go into law enforcement," Spangler told his supporters Thursday night at a meet and greet at the Corryton Community and Senior Center. "I finished my tour in 1980 and I knew that I wanted to go into law enforcement because I spent the last two years of my tour in the military police."

Spangler, who has 35 years of law enforcement experience, began his tenure at the Knox County Sheriff's Department as a corrections officer upon returning to East Tennessee after he was honorably discharged from the Air Force.

"As soon as I came home from military service, I went to work for the Knox County Sheriff's Office," Spangler said.

During his time serving in Knox County, Spangler, a Carter High School graduate, has worked in all areas of the sheriff's department. After a time in corrections, he became a patrolman, and administrator

Blount County," Spangler said. "We had to send our deputies to Nashville to train them. Then, I retired to become a professional fisherman because I love to fish."

He returned to law enforcement training at the behest of Blount County Sheriff James Lee Barrong. He trained Blount County officers and while there, he trained a few to work in Knox County.

"I've worked in every part of the sheriff's office, so that gives me a unique perspective. The people in the sheriff's office want a leader. They want a leader who has their back. But they also want a leader, who holds people accountable. They want to know that if somebody does something wrong, that they won't get by with it."

Spangler almost always had aspirations to be Knox County's sheriff. He served as interim sheriff in 2007 after Black

Continue on page 3



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Tom Spangler took time to talk to everyone who attended his reception at the Corryton Community Center. Above, he visits Loretta and Brian Richards.

Old South High School, Supreme Court Building discussed

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Fiscal Difficulties Ahead for School Board