

Peter Tedeschi, Tedeschi Food Shops

All roads lead home for this soon-to-be CEO of his family's company



Growing up in a family where its last name is synonymous with quality, integrity and customer service, Peter Tedeschi, current president of Tedeschi Food Shops, received a unique business perspective that he says still influences him to this day.

He launched a successful retail computer store chain shortly after graduating from college in the 1980s, and later sold the business when computers became a commodity item. From there, Tedeschi drew upon his small business experience and began a career in Boston's competitive financial district, working for Wellington Management Co. and Putnam Investments within the mutual fund industry.

After 16 years in the financial sector, Tedeschi left his post as a senior vice president and director of operations of Putnam to join his family's c-store business. He became its president, and will be named the CEO upon the retirement of current CEO Charles Fitzgibbons next summer. In his spare time, he enjoys cruising on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

If you were to change careers, what would you want to do?

I would want to be a life coach. I like people, and get great satisfaction out of helping others.

Where would you want to retire?

Somewhere that's warm during the winter months, with plenty of golf courses. I love New England, but the older I get, the more I dread the cold winters.

What did you want to be when you were young?

I thought that I wanted to be a priest, until I turned 13.

What is the most important event to happen in your career? How has that impacted your current role?

The most important event in my career was the de-

cision to sell my business. I had invested so much of myself over the 10 years that it was a very difficult decision to reach. My wife Kathy, who also worked there, helped me to step back and take a long hard look at the changing realities of the industry. All of my experiences have prepared me for my role, but it was my career in the financial industry that shaped my approach to leadership and a process of continual improvement.

What gadget can't you live without?

I gave up my BlackBerry when I left the financial industry, but I am having withdrawals and am seriously considering acquiring another. The ability to respond to e-mails and requests anytime, anywhere, is tough to give up.

What does leadership mean to you?

Leadership is understanding and communicating a vision, and ensuring that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in making the vision a reality. ■

For comments, please contact **Meghan Belanger**, Associate Editor, at mbelanger@csnews.com.