



Thomas Joseph Ridge is an American politician and author who served as the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security from 2001 to 2003, and the first United States Secretary of Homeland Security from 2003 to 2005. Prior to this, Ridge was a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1983 to 1995 and the 43rd Governor of Pennsylvania from 1995 to 2001. As Governor of Pennsylvania, Ridge is credited for statewide advances in economic development, education, health care and the environment.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, George W. Bush named Ridge the first director of the

newly created Office of Homeland Security. In January 2003, the Office of Homeland Security became an official Cabinet-level Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and Ridge became the first Secretary of Homeland Security. He served in these roles for Bush's first term as president, then retired and returned to the private sector.

Tom Ridge's book ***The Test of Our Times*** was published in September 2009. Written with Larry Bloom, it concerns Ridge's time as the head of the Department of Homeland Security. He explains the challenges and decision-making processes of the newly- formed department, and gives his own views as to the future of the security of the United States of America.

Ridge is the founder and CEO of Ridge Global, LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based security consulting firm.

He attended Harvard College, where he paid his way through with construction work, played intramural baseball and football, and graduated with honors in 1967. In 1968, after his first year at the Dickinson School of Law, he was drafted into the United States Army and served until 1970. For his service in Vietnam, Ridge received the Bronze Star along with many other recognitions. He then completed his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree at the Dickinson School of Law, graduating in 1972.