



# Dave Anderson

# **AMERICA'S RIB KING**

—— The Nation's Leading Expert in Barbecue ——

**Visionary ★ Entrepreneur ★ Brand Expert ★ Author ★ Restaurateur**

“Famous Dave” Anderson is the founder of the legendary, authentic BBQ franchise, Famous Dave's of America, with over 178\* restaurants and over 700 awards for ‘The Best of the Best’. He also recently founded Old Southern BBQ Smokehouse, established in 2015.

In addition to his role as a restaurateur, “Famous Dave” Anderson is a well-known media personality, inspiring speaker, philanthropist, successful entrepreneur, and best-selling author, whose “Against All Odds” story is living proof that the American Dream no longer has to be just a dream!

## **“Famous Dave’s” Inspirational Story:**

### **Overcoming Adversity to Achieve Incredible Success in All Areas of His Life**

“Famous Dave” Anderson holds nothing back as he shares his incredible real life story of overcoming tremendous odds, adversity, and failure to create one of America's best loved restaurant companies, Famous Dave's. With the spirit, energy, and enthusiasm that can only come from being in the trenches... Dave's heartfelt story is the real deal.

Always tackling the impossible, this ‘bottom half of the class high school’ student earned his Master's Degree from Harvard University without an undergraduate degree. He started his first business at age 18 and promptly failed. He has been bankrupt, chemically dependent, and survived a car crash that the authorities said should have killed him.

Today, “Famous Dave” is successful, sober and is devoted to his higher purpose in life which includes sharing the Best BBQ in the World with his restaurant guests, making our world a better place and helping others less fortunate.

When Dave talks about how he overcame his own personal challenges to become America's Rib King, he connects directly to the spirit of America. The “Famous Dave Story” is inspiring, humorous, and motivating. His remarkable story gives hope to others, teaching people how to achieve their dreams. His message of hope jump-starts, rejuvenates, and re-energizes people, encouraging them to tackle life's challenges.

## **“Famous Dave’s” Personal Story has been featured in thousands of interviews on television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books and online, including the Oprah Winfrey Show and The Food Network.**

“Famous Dave” has appeared thousands of times in the media to share his amazing story and to showcase his BBQ secrets. He has appeared on all the major television networks including NBC, CBS, ABC, and FOX as well as cable channel shows including: The Food Network (Contestant on ‘Best of Smoke’ series), Regis and Kathy Lee, CNBC's The Next Big Idea with Donny Deutsch, the Discovery Channel, the top-rated cable morning news show FOX & Friends, and The Travel Channel.

His life story and charitable contributions were featured on the Oprah Winfrey show, where he received Oprah's Angel Award for his leadership work with at risk youth. In addition, “Famous Dave” has been on over 300 national radio shows.

“Famous Dave” has also been featured in several best-selling books on the New York Times Best Seller List: Chicken Soup for the Entrepreneur's Soul features The “Famous Dave” Story as the leading story in the bestselling book.

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Nationally recognized Leadership Guru John C. Maxwell tells "Famous Dave's" life story to sum up his book *Failing Forward*. Motivational expert Zig Ziglar features "Famous Dave's Against All Odds" story in his bestselling book on Success.

His cookbook, *Famous Dave's Rib-O'Licious* won "Best Barbecue and Grill Cookbook" by The National Barbecue Association and his *Famous Dave's Barbecue Party Cookbook* went into its second printing after two weeks of its publication/release!

"Famous Dave" also authored *Famous Dave's LifeSkills for Success* which has received high praise and endorsement by Anthony Robbins (best-selling author and motivational speaker); Mark Victor Hansen (author of the *Chicken Soup for The Soul* series); and Gene Kranz (author of *Failure Is Not An Option, The story of Apollo 13*).

## **"Famous Dave's" Humanitarian and Philanthropic Endeavors**

"Famous Dave" believes his higher purpose in life is to make a positive difference in his community and in the lives of others less fortunate.

The majority of "Famous Dave's" good deeds are not officially documented. He has personally sponsored and paid for dozens of chemically dependent individuals to enter treatment programs at the nationally renowned Hazelton Facility, as well as other treatment centers. He has paid for the college educations of underprivileged youth that would otherwise be unable to obtain an education. He cooks and delivers food to the homeless shelters in Minnesota. On Thanksgiving & Christmas, he makes sure the needy have groceries and gifts. "Famous Dave" will never tell you that. But his friends and colleagues have all witnessed these selfless acts of kindness and compassion.

There is a long list of documented humanitarian efforts, as well. When tragedy strikes, "Famous Dave" is usually the first one on the scene with his 'Operation Rescue' BBQ team to feed communities where a disaster has occurred (victims of hurricanes, floods, tornados and other natural disasters).

With a gift of \$1.5 Million... Dave and his wife Kathy founded the non-profit LifeSkills for Leadership Foundation, an incredible life-transforming leadership program. The program was originally designed for at-risk native American children and became so sought after and successful (including receiving a grant from Oprah Winfrey and being featured on her top-rated television show), that the curriculum was expanded to teach people of ages the foundation of successful leadership skills, for personal and professional development.

A highly sought after keynote speaker, Dave Anderson shares his heartfelt optimism using his life's story to share valuable insight and life lessons in dealing with today's fast changing and challenging world. Dave is an enthusiastic advocate of the American Dream, he stresses that no matter how tough things may seem today, if you never give up your dream and work hard tomorrow's rewards will always come.

"Famous Dave" has shared his business success secrets and leadership insights with millions throughout the United States and Canada, to motivate and mentor countless others (from Small Businesses to Fortune 500 companies, University Commencements, National Youth Organizations, Community Organizations, and Student Body Keynotes).

His passionate and inspiring story has inspired four governors to invite "Famous Dave" to be the keynote speaker for state wide Governor's Prayer Breakfasts, including Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

He has served our country with a prestigious Presidential Appointment, receiving a full Senate confirmation to serve as Assistant Secretary for The US Department of Interior in Washington, D.C.

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"Famous Dave" has also served several governors in advisory positions regarding community economic development and small business. He has provided key testimony to Congress and several US Senate Select Committees on these topics, serving as a liaison between the public and private sectors.

He has also helped found several publicly traded companies on Wall Street, creating over 20,000 new jobs for people of all ages.

## **"Famous Dave" & Famous Dave's of America Honored with over 700 Awards**

Best known as the founder of Famous Dave's of America, he became "Famous" with his storied backyard barbecues. His legend grew in 1994 after he opened up his first barbecue joint in Hayward, Wisconsin. The demand for "more barbecue!" grew too high for just one location and now—more than 178\* restaurants later—Famous Dave's was recognized as one of the "Hottest Concepts in America" by Nation's Restaurant News, reaching over \$500 million in sales. The legend continues to grow every time Famous Dave's adds to the 700 awards from the likes of the American Royal Barbecue Contest to the famous Silver Plate Award – solidifying his role as America's Rib King.

### **Accomplishments & Experiences - Chronological Order**

- **1971** – Anderson **starts first business at age 18** and promptly fails.
- **1977** – Anderson participated in **President Carter's Task Force** to study "The Problems of Minorities in Small Business," and participated in round table discussions sponsored by the Small Business Administration.
- **1979** – Anderson joined the sales force of a **major Fortune 500 company**. In one year he took the last place territory of 12 states to Number One by bringing in **over \$1,250,000 in sales**.
- **1982** – Anderson was hired to put together a **team responsible for turning losing businesses into profitable and stable businesses for the Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa Reservation**. Under his leadership, gross revenues were increased from \$3,900,000 to \$8,000,000. This effort was **recognized by President Reagan's Commission on Indian Reservation Economies**.
- **1983** – Anderson was named to a **National Task Force on Reservation Gaming by the Bureau of Indian Affairs** in Washington, D.C.
- **1983** – Anderson was appointed to **The Council on Minority Business Development** for the State of Wisconsin by Governor Earl.
- **1984** – Anderson was appointed to **The Wisconsin Council of Tourism** by Governor Earl.
- **1985** – Anderson was named a **Bush Leadership Fellow** by the Bush Foundation, St. Paul, Minnesota, recognizing him for a lifetime of outstanding achievement.
- **1986** – Anderson earned a **Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University** at the John F. Kennedy School of Government (without having an undergraduate degree!).
- **1989** – Anderson formed a management and investment company specializing in emerging gaming markets. In the March, 1997 issue of **Fortune Magazine**, this company was recognized as **"The Fastest Growing Company in America."**
- **1994** – Anderson was an **original investor in The Rainforest Café** and served on their board of directors, a highly successful restaurant company that was recognized as one of the "Hottest Concepts in America."

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- **1994** – Pursuing his life-long passion, **Anderson opened his first Famous Dave's BBQ Shack** in Hayward, Wisconsin. The restaurant was an instant success, serving 5,000 people a week in a town of 1,800!
- **October 1995** – Famous Dave's BBQ was awarded the **Blue Ribbon "Best BBQ Sauce in America"** in the mild-sauce division at the prestigious American Royal International Barbecue Contest.
- **October 1996** – Famous Dave's of America, Inc. announced its **Initial Public Offering**, opening at \$6.25 on the NASDAQ market.
- **May 1997** – Nations Restaurant News recognized **Famous Dave's** restaurants as one of the **"Hottest Concepts in America"** for originality, and innovation in menu, décor, service, as well as strong consumer approval.
- **June 1997** – Ernst & Young (sponsored by NASDAQ and USA Today) Minnesota and Dakota's **Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year**. The Entrepreneur of the Year program honors and recognizes entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success through innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their business and community.
- **March 1998** –Mpls.St. Paul Magazine **Restaurateur of the Year**.
- **April 1998** – Zig Ziglar, world-renowned motivational speaker and author of "See You at the Top," dedicated his **"Success for Dummies"** book to Dave Anderson. **Dave's "Against All Odds" life story is featured in this best-selling book.**
- **January 1999** – The Anderson Family established **The LifeSkills Center for Leadership with a \$1,500,000 gift**. This fund was created to help at-risk Native American youth.
- **March 1999** – Famous Dave's recognized for being in the **"Top 10" restaurants** out of the "Super 1000" restaurants in Minnesota Mpls/St. Paul Magazine
- **March 1999** – Anderson's new cookbook, **"Famous Dave's Backroads & Sidestreets"**, was released with **all proceeds being donated** to help disadvantaged Native American children.
- **December 1999** – "Famous Dave's **Backroads & Sidestreets**" **wins the National Barbecue Association's "Award of Excellence"** for being the "Best New Barbecue/Grill Cookbook!"
- **2000** – Dave's success story of overcoming major adversities and failures is featured by New York Times best-selling author on leadership, **John C. Maxwell in his newest book "Failing Forward."**
- **2001** – **Nominee for the Horatio Alger Association** of Distinguished Americans Award.
- **January 10, 2002** – Honored as an **Olympic Torch Carrier** for the 2002 Winter Olympics held at Salt Lake City, Utah.
- **February 2, 2002**– **Big Brothers Big Sisters Odyssey Award** for significant contributions to his profession and the community in mentoring and service to youth.
- **April 1, 2002** – **Oprah's Angel Network Award** for continuing leadership development work with at-risk Native American youth.
- **July 3, 2002** – **President Bush appoints Dave to the President's Board of Advisors** on Tribal Colleges and Universities.
- **May 2003** –Nightingale-Conant **"Acres of Diamonds" Award** for Dave's personal commitment to helping others find their own "Acres of Diamonds!"

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- **December 2003** – President Bush appoints **Dave Anderson as ninth Assistant Secretary for the US Department of the Interior for Indian Affairs** and confirmed by a full US Senate vote. Dave is responsible for a \$2 billion dollar budget and over 10,000 employees.
- **May 2004** – Northland College, **Honorary Doctorate Degree** for Dave's commitment to public service
- **2004** – Famous Dave's **LifeSkills for Success is published with all proceeds donated** to the LifeSkills Center for Leadership.
- **April 2005** – **The Boys and Girls Clubs of America** appoints Dave to the **Board of Governors**.
- **May 2005** – **Board of Trustees**, Northland College
- **2005 – 2006** – **Board member**, Minnesota Teen Challenge
- **2006** – **Silver Plate Award**
- **March 2006** – **Keynote Speaker**, Montana Governor's Prayer Breakfast
- **December 2006** – Minnesota Entrepreneurs' **Entrepreneur of the Year Award**
- **January 2007** – Northwood University **Outstanding Business Leader Award**
- **April 2007** – Featured on the **cover of the Twin Cities Business Magazine**
- **March 2008** – Urban Financial Services Coalition's **Living Legend Award**
- **September 2008** – **'BBQ Pitmaster Secrets Revealed'** DVD released
- **November 2008** – "Famous Dave" interviewed and **featured on The Travel Channel Show: Ribs Paradise**. Filmed at the Famous Dave's BBQ & Blues Club in Minneapolis, MN.
- **January 2009** – **Keynote Speaker**, South Dakota Governor's Prayer Breakfast
- **June 2009** – Famous Dave's is honored by **Ringing the Opening Bell for NASDAQ**
- **August 2009** – **Dave Day is declared** as Famous Dave's celebrates its 15th Anniversary
- **October 2009** – Johnson & Wales University, **Presidential Distinguished Visiting Professor**
- **December 2009** – Indiana Wesleyan University, **Presidential Citation for Dave's work in leadership**
- **February 2010** – Famous Dave Anderson's **Recipe for Success book** is released
- **April 2010** – National Indian Gaming Association's **Entrepreneur of the Year Award**
- **October 2010** – Dave releases his college success book **Report Cards to Paychecks**
- **May 2011** – Minnesota Business Journal, **Diversity in Business Award**
- **May 2011** – Contestant on **The Food Network** hit TV Show: Best in Smoke.
- **September 2012** – Inducted into the **Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame**
- **December 2012** – Inducted into the **National Entrepreneur's Hall of Fame** (along with Truett Cathy/Chick-Fil-A Founder & Fred DeLuca/Co-Founder of Subway Restaurants)
- **February 2013** – **Regional Vice-President, National Barbecue Association**
- **June 2013** – Dave's second cookbook **Famous Dave's Barbecue Party Cookbook** is published.
- **November 2015** – Finds new BBQ restaurant concept: **Old Southern BBQ Smokehouse**.
- **November 2015** – World Food Championships, **Celebrity Judge**

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- **January 2016**—Filmed a national reality TV show which will air in 2016. We will release details as soon as we are allowed to discuss the show.
- **January 2016**—Keynote speaker at the 30th Anniversary of the Kansas City BBQ Society. Famous Dave spoke about he turned his backyard BBQ into a \$500 million dollar empire.

## Board Memberships

- Board Member, Minnesota State Community & Technical College – Business & Entrepreneurial Board
- Board Member, Tradition Capital Bank Advisory
- Former Board Member, National Boys and Girls Club of America
- Former Board Member, Rainforest Cafe

## Other Affiliations

- Member of the Choctaw/Chippewa Indian tribes, and an enrolled member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Lake Superior Band of Ojibwa of northwest Wisconsin.
- Honorary Board Member Lac Courte Oreilles Boy and Girls Club, Hayward, Wisconsin Honors, Awards and Recognitions
- Over 700 Awards. Please visit [www.famousdaves.com](http://www.famousdaves.com) for more information and a list of awards and other recognition.

\* As of May 4, 2016, The Company owns 37 locations and franchises 141 additional restaurants in 33 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, United Arab Emirates, and Canada.