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COVER STORY

If you are interested in nominating people for certain stories, please email us at: jason.shelden@realproducersmag.com.

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“Our motto is *Always Faithful*,” says Danny Smith, owner and president of Semper Fi Home Inspections — and in Houston’s fast-moving real estate market, that promise carries serious weight.

After twenty distinguished years in the United States Marine Corps, Danny founded Semper Fi Home Inspections in 2010. Semper Fidelis — Latin for “Always faithful” and the Marine Corps’ official motto — isn’t just the company name. For

Semper Fi focuses on helping buyers, sellers, and agents move forward with clarity and confidence. Their Semper Fi Advantage Series™ is built on disciplined standards, clear communication, and genuine follow-through — every time. Same-day reports. Extended office hours. No trip fees across the Houston Metro. Free basic thermal inspection. Free sprinkler system inspection. Optional in-house sewer camera inspection. It’s a full-service experience engineered to make every agent look good and every buyer feel secure.

In today’s Texas market, buyers want more than a defect list — they want clarity on future costs, aging systems, moisture risks, and the surprises that derail ownership after closing. Semper Fi’s process is built to help clients make informed decisions, not just receive a report.

“This company was built on Honor, Courage, and Commitment — and that shows up in everything we do,” Tawnya says. “Agents can count on us to be on time, deliver a thorough same-day report, and treat their clients like the only client in the room. Peace of mind isn’t a tagline for us. It’s the whole point.”

Meet the Team
Danny Smith — Owner & President
Danny’s twenty years of Marine service took him through roles as a jet engine mechanic, inspector, production controller, and US Embassy Marine Security Guard Detachment Commander — precision work that translated directly into the way Semper Fi operates today.

“I took those inspection skills and that helped me develop the way we do business,” Danny says. “And I took values from the Marines and my faith. We live by the golden rule: ‘Treat others as you’d want to be treated.’ Always be faithful. I enjoy helping people and bringing integrity and trustworthiness — that’s what keeps me going.”

Outside the office, Danny’s world revolves around God and family. He and his wife, Marla, have been married 35 years. Together they have four children — Nolan (32), Derek (30), Clara (20), and Linnea (17) — and seven grandsons. Three of his children, Nolan, Derek, and Derek’s wife, Hattie, have followed in his footsteps as United States Marines.

Tawnya Brigandi — Marketing Director
Tawnya’s path to Semper Fi wasn’t accidental. When she joined the family in January 2022, she brought years of business development and marketing experience alongside REALTORS®, lenders, and homeowners — she already spoke the language.

As Marketing Director, Tawnya is the connective tissue between Semper Fi’s service excellence and the agents who depend on it — and she leads with a servant’s heart that people feel the moment they meet her. “Serving people isn’t something I do — it’s who I am at my core,” she says. “People remember how you made them feel. Not the transaction, not the report — the moment someone says, ‘Thank you, that made this so much easier.’ That’s what drives me. That’s everything.”

Tawnya is a proud mother of four adult sons, three daughters-in-law, and seven grandchildren. She’ll tell you the greatest gift of this season is Bryan, the man she’s now engaged to marry. “This isn’t just another chapter,” she says. “It’s the rest of the book — written together.” Like the Smiths, the Brigandi family has deep military roots.

Serving Houston’s Top Agents
Semper Fi’s expansion into the Greater Houston Metro is not an afterthought — it’s a strategic commitment. The team holds active TREC licensing, InterNACHI certification, and Supra Key access, and is a proud Real Producers Partner.

Across the greater Houston metro area, the team regularly helps clients navigate concerns tied to Gulf Coast moisture, drainage behavior, aging sewer lines, foundation movement, and the long-term wear Texas heat places on major systems. The full range of inspection

services available to Houston-area agents and their clients includes:

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- Outbuildings and Barns

Every complete inspection also includes the option to add a 12-month home warranty — a simple, meaningful way for agents to give their clients added protection and peace of mind long after closing day.

Looking Toward the Future
Danny, Tawnya, and the growing Semper Fi team are clear-eyed about the evolving real estate landscape in Houston — and they’re not slowing down.

With a commercial division actively expanding and a Houston presence gaining momentum, the company is building exactly the kind of stable, dependable infrastructure that busy agents need behind them.

Beyond traditional home sales, Semper Fi serves new construction buyers, investors, landlords, and homeowners approaching warranty expiration — meeting agents wherever the transaction takes them.

“We’re excited about the future,” Danny says. “We are a stable company that agents can rely on.”

For Houston’s top producers, that kind of steadiness — grounded in military values, delivered with warmth, and backed by rigorous standards — is not just refreshing. It’s exactly what their clients deserve.

For more information or to schedule an inspection, visit semperfihomeinspections.com.



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“We go above and beyond what they might expect. Our team is faithful throughout our relationship with our REALTORS® and partners. We want to grow deep, lasting friendships.”
— **Danny Smith, Owner & President, Semper Fi Home Inspections**

Lynn Blair

Building a Brokerage Where Agents Thrive

For Lynn Blair, one word defines the future of Blair Realty Group: *thrive*. That's their word of the year for 2026, and it embodies the impetus behind BRG's success. Lynn and her team are focused on helping every agent within the organization reach their full potential.

That commitment to agent success has become the foundation of Blair Realty Group, a brokerage founded in 2022 by Lynn and her husband, Cody Blair. What began as a small office with just ten agents has rapidly evolved into one of the area's most dynamic real estate organizations, serving communities throughout Katy, Cypress, Tomball, Spring, and beyond.

Yet Lynn's path to brokerage ownership wasn't part of a carefully crafted master plan.

"Everything just kind of happened," she recalled.

Before real estate, Lynn spent a decade as an educator in the Cy-Fair Independent School District, teaching kindergarten, pre-kindergarten, and second grade. Her passion for helping others extended beyond the classroom. For more than 15 years, she coached Special Olympics track and swimming for the district and volunteered as a foster for local dog and cat rescue organizations.

When her son was nine months old and her daughter was three, Lynn decided to pursue a career in real estate.

"I thought I could jump into real estate, be a stay-at-home mom, and have all the time in the world," she said with a laugh.

Lynn and her husband first entered the real estate world as investors in 2009. She earned her real estate license in 2015 and joined RE/MAX, where she built a successful career over the next eight years. Consistently producing around \$5 million in annual sales, Lynn relied heavily on relationships she had cultivated through teaching, community involvement, and social media marketing rather than purchasing leads.

By 2022, Lynn and Cody were ready for a new challenge. They launched Blair Realty Group with a vision of creating a brokerage centered on agent support, education, and collaboration. Initially, they leased a modest 2,000-square-foot office for their ten agents. Growth came faster than expected.

After just one year, the company expanded into a 5,000-square-foot space. Soon after, that office was filled as more agents sought the culture and training opportunities BRG offered. Then another opportunity appeared.

"Our neighbors were downsizing," Lynn explained. "All of a sudden, we were able to move into a 10,000-square-foot office."

While operating a large brick-and-mortar office presents challenges and expenses, Lynn believes the investment is worthwhile.



“We really enjoy running classes in person,” she said.

That commitment to in-person collaboration has become one of the brokerage’s defining characteristics. Blair Realty Group hosts bi-weekly meetings that feature masterminds, panel discussions, and educational classes led by experienced professionals. Weekly training sessions cover everything from negotiating new construction contracts to working effectively with inspectors.

“We have luxury producers. We have newer agents. We have people from all different backgrounds,” Lynn explained. “It’s ‘be you’ with BRG.”

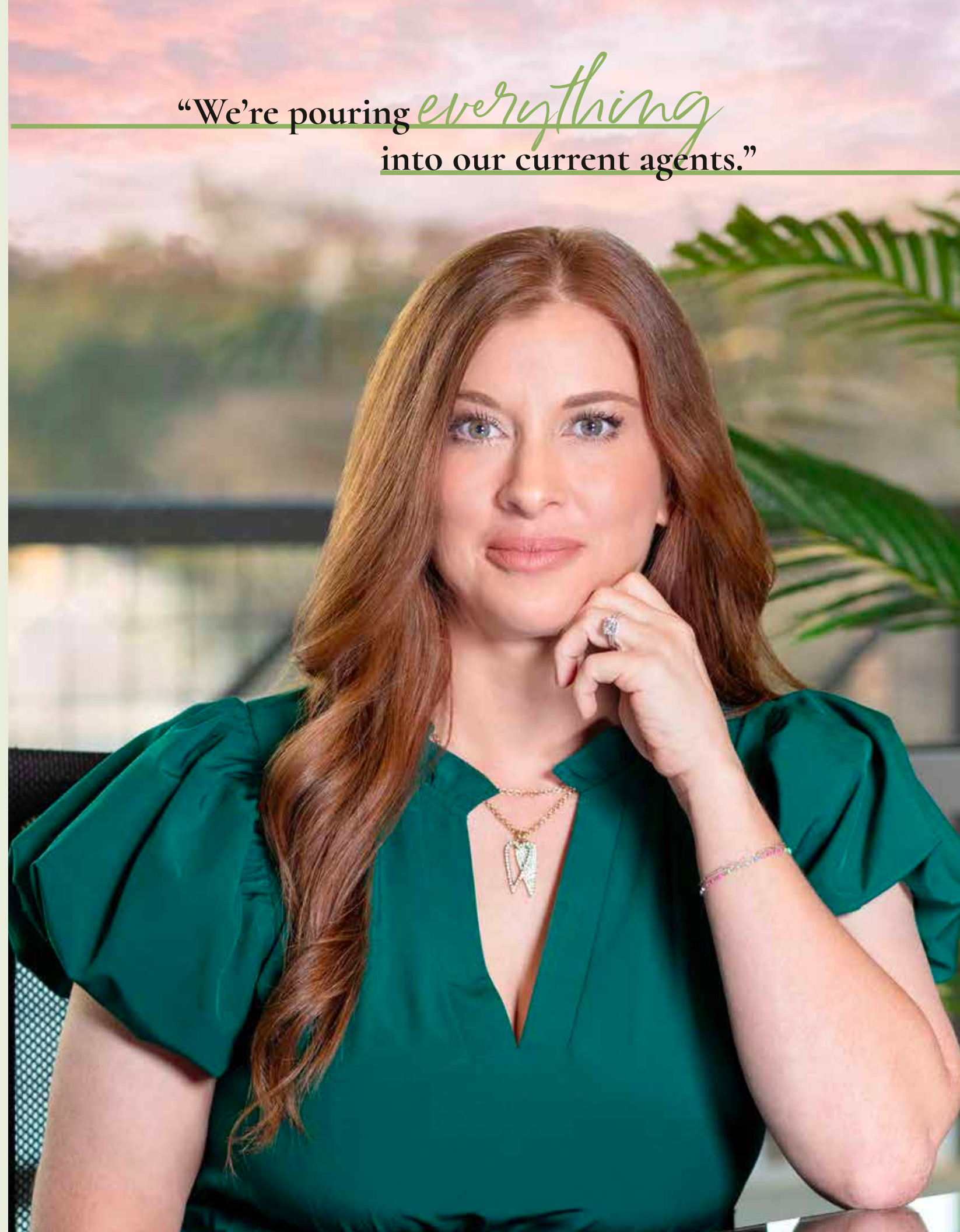
The brokerage’s agent roster reflects that inclusive philosophy. Agents range in age from 18 to 79, creating

an environment where different perspectives and experiences contribute to collective success. To further support agent development, BRG invests heavily in coaching and mentorship. The company provides a professional coach who meets with agents weekly, facilitates small-group sessions, and offers one-on-one guidance.

“We’re pouring everything into our current agents,” Lynn said.

That investment extends beyond professional development. Lynn has worked hard to create a workplace culture where agents genuinely enjoy spending time together. In 2026, the brokerage introduced a creative incentive program called “Blair Bucks.” Agents earn the company’s internal currency by participating in trainings and closing transactions, for example.

“We’re pouring *everything* into our current agents.”



Blair Realty Group is *more* than a brokerage; it's a movement to reshape the real estate industry.

Those rewards can then be redeemed for a variety of perks, including open house signs, massages, and even tickets for a cruise.

“I get in trouble for giving them out too much,” she joked.

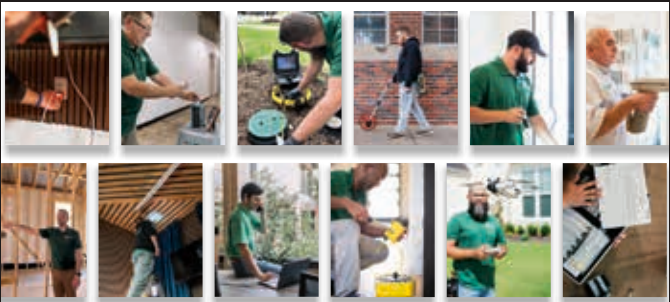
The team also regularly gathers together for social events, from renting out local movie theaters to tackling escape rooms as a team.

“Most of my best friends are here,” she shared.



That sense of community has become a defining element of the brokerage’s identity. Blair Realty Group strives to create an environment where agents feel supported both professionally and personally. Commercial real estate partnerships further strengthen the brokerage’s ability to serve clients and create opportunities for agents through reciprocal business relationships.

What started as a mother’s pursuit of flexibility and financial opportunity has transformed into something much larger than Lynn ever expected. Today, Blair Realty Group stands as a testament to what can happen when leadership prioritizes people, education, and culture. As the company continues to grow, its mission remains clear: Blair Realty Group is more than a brokerage; it’s a movement to reshape the real estate industry. 🏡





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Javier Gonzalez

Building Success from the Ground Up

WRITTEN BY MEGAN TAYLOR-DICENZO

For Javier Gonzalez, real estate is more than a profession; it is a natural extension of a lifetime spent learning the art of building. Combining hands-on construction experience with real estate expertise, Javier has created a unique career path that allows him to guide clients through every stage of the development process, from the first blueprint to the final sale.

Born in Mexico City, Javier moved with his family to the Houston area when he was just five years old. After a brief stay in Houston, his family settled in The Woodlands, where he spent most of his childhood and formative years. Growing up in a bilingual household gave him the ability to communicate and connect with a diverse range of people, a skill that continues to serve him well in his professional life today.

Construction has always been part of Javier's world. His father, a builder and architect with more than three decades of experience, has spent the last 35 years designing custom homes and leading development projects throughout Mexico, Texas, and other parts of the United States. From an early age, Javier was immersed in the industry, learning how to operate machinery and gaining firsthand knowledge of the building process.

"Since I was little, I've been around construction," Javier recalled. "I learned the ins and outs of building long before I realized it would become my career."

When Javier graduated from high school during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, he faced a decision that many young adults were making at the time. Rather than pursuing an online college experience, he chose a different path. In 2021, he earned his real estate license and officially launched his career in the industry.





“We want our clients to trust us throughout the entire process.”

Around that same time, a significant transition occurred within the family business. Javier’s father lost his trusted right-hand man several years earlier and was searching for someone to help fill that critical role. Recognizing Javier’s work ethic and growing expertise, he invited his son to join him full-time in the building and development side of the business.

Today, the father-son team works closely together on a family-owned development company that includes a 22-building project portfolio. Javier’s father focuses on architecture, design, and construction, while Javier oversees project management, real estate operations, and property marketing.

The partnership has provided Javier with an education that few professionals receive. Over the years, he has learned roofing, framing, stucco work, and many other trades. He is currently furthering his expertise by pursuing his Project Management certification and is also considering obtaining his broker’s license in the future. Javier’s background gives him a distinct advantage in the marketplace. Rather than simply listing properties, he understands every phase of the development process and can confidently guide clients through each step.

“We like to do everything full-circle and prefer to handle the entire job from start to finish,” he explained. “I like to know every detail of the development because that makes me the best qualified person to market the property.”

Many of Javier’s clients come to the company with a piece of land and a vision for what they want to build. By combining in-house architecture, construction, and real estate services, the team can help transform that vision into reality while maintaining a seamless experience for the client. The company’s commitment to service is another source of pride.

“We pick up the phone,” Javier said. “We don’t send people to voicemail. We want our clients to trust us throughout the entire process.”

Outside of work, Javier enjoys spending time outdoors and embracing the rural lifestyle Texas is known for. He has a passion for raising animals and farming, maintaining a variety of livestock and cultivating a personal garden that provides fresh produce for his family’s use. He values the connection to the land that comes with caring for animals and growing food. Alongside his girlfriend, Javier co-founded The Farmers Market at 1488, a community-focused market that supports local

farmers, artisans, and small businesses while promoting fresh, locally sourced products. He enjoys spending time with friends and exploring new opportunities for growth, both personally and professionally.

As he looks toward the future, Javier remains focused on expanding his knowledge, strengthening the family business, and continuing to provide clients with a level of expertise that bridges the gap between construction and real estate. He is also committed to supporting local agriculture and fostering connections within the community through initiatives such as The Farmers Market at 1488. ▀






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Firm #100758-00

From Nightlife to Neighborhoods

CHRIS
DOMANGUE

is Setting the World on Fire



PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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WITH DOTSON
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TAYLOR-DICENZO

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Chris grew up in a military family. His father served in the United States Air Force before transitioning into the specialty gas industry, and the family eventually settled in New Jersey, where Chris spent much of his childhood. Even as a kid, he showed an entrepreneurial spirit.





“My friend and I were probably the only 11- to 13-year-olds trapping animals and selling pelts for \$2.50 to \$3.50,” Chris laughed. “We’d put the traps out at night and go out in the morning with our waders on to check them.”

While his mother was less than thrilled with the smell of animal pelts in the basement, his father admired Chris’s determination to work and make money.

“The greatest thing he taught me was work ethic,” Chris shared.

That work ethic would become the foundation for every chapter of his life. Some years later, Chris landed in Houston, where his career took an unexpected turn into the entertainment industry.

While attending Southwest Texas State University, Chris was working construction and trying to make ends meet. During a spring break trip, a couple of female friends told him they were going to visit the well-known male revue Houston club called LaBare.

“They told me I couldn’t come because it was a male strip club,” he remembered, “and they bet me \$50 each that I wouldn’t have the guts to try out.” After a couple of beers and some encouragement, Chris took the challenge.

“Not only did I try out, but they hired me,” Chris laughed.

What started as a dare turned into a 23-year career in the nightclub business. Chris spent three and a half years performing before back problems pushed him to step away from dancing.

Management offered him a new opportunity, and he stayed on to help oversee operations. With a background in management studies, he was promoted from Assistant Manager to General Manager following the club’s ownership discovering financial misconduct from the previous leadership.

Eventually, when LaBare lost its lease, Chris negotiated a major business move, relocating the club and striking a deal that would make him a part-owner. Later, he bought out another shareholder and gained controlling interest in the business. For years, the nightclub world was exciting and lucrative.

“In your 20s and 30s, the nightclub business is a pretty good time,” Chris admitted, “but once you have a kid, you don’t want to deal with it anymore.”

As Chris raised his children, he knew he needed a long-term career shift. He didn’t want his kids to follow him into the nightclub business, and he wanted a more sustainable lifestyle for his family. Chris had already been involved in some real estate investments, and during closings, he noticed something important.

“I realized I was leaving money on the table because I didn’t have enough knowledge of the industry,” he shared.

That realization pushed him to take classes and earn his real estate license. At the same time, he negotiated a strategic exit from the nightclub business, arranging for the General Manager to buy him out over a three-year period at zero percent interest.

“Most agents aren’t setting the world on fire in those first few years,” Chris explained, “but because I had both the nightclub and my real estate business, it was a great weaning-out process.”

By his third year in real estate, Chris was earning a solid living. From there, his business continued to grow year after year. His philosophy was simple:

“Treat people the way you treat your family. Always follow up and be honest. Always be there, whether it’s real estate related or not. Go the extra mile.”

Chris believes his earliest clients became the strongest part of his marketing strategy. By treating them well and doing the right thing, they became repeat customers who also raved about his professionalism and guidance.

TREAT PEOPLE THE WAY YOU TREAT YOUR FAMILY.”





“GO THE EXTRA MILE.”

has built a life that balances career success with personal fulfillment and has no plans to retire anytime soon.

“About a year and a half ago, I told my wife I’d never retire as long as my brain is still working,” he shared.

That perspective is deeply personal. Chris watched his father, once a MENSA member, decline with dementia. For Chris, staying active in real estate is about more than income; it’s about staying mentally engaged and continuing to serve people.

As an individual REALTOR®, he consistently closes between 38 and 42 transactions a year and is one of the very few Platinum Quality Service Certified Agents in the Houston Market. He is also a Certified Stager who earned the recognition of Multi-Million Dollar Top Producer 2008 – 2025. He was voted one of the Top 500 Agents by Texas Monthly Magazine for customer service 2010 - 2025.

For 23 of the past 25 years, he has worked on the relocation team at Coldwell Banker, helping individuals and families moving to Houston who often know no one in the area. He also enjoys working with first-time homebuyers, sellers, and move-up buyers. Chris serves a wide range of areas, including The Woodlands, the Greater Northwest, Montgomery, Spring,

Klein, Champions, Tomball, Cypress, Katy, CyFair, Kingwood, Humble, and the Inner Loop. While he covers much of the city, about 60 to 65 percent of his business is concentrated in The Woodlands and Spring area, where he also lives.

Now an empty nester with three grandchildren in Missouri and one on the way in Florida, Chris

From trapping animals as a kid in New Jersey to managing one of Houston’s most recognizable nightclubs and ultimately building a successful real estate career, Chris Domangue’s story is one of reinvention, resilience, and relationships. Through every chapter, one principle has remained the same: work hard, take care of people, and always go the extra mile. 🏠

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