



Crist family photo

Charlie Crist and his father went on a deer hunting trip to the Starkey Ranch in Pasco County in 1987.

## Governor Known As Likeable

FRIENDS, FAMILY SAY CRIST  
IS GUY-NEXT-DOOR TYPE

By CARLOS MONCADA  
The Tampa Tribune

**ST. PETERSBURG** — At 50, Charlie Crist still drops in on his parents, sometimes with girlfriend in tow, but not necessarily to raid the fridge or have his mother do his laundry.

"He comes over to get his boat," said his father, Charles J. Crist, 74, a prominent family physician in St. Petersburg. "Sometimes he'll stop and say hello, and sometimes we'll look out and the boat's gone."

No rags-to-riches tale here. Florida's newly elected Republican governor was brought up in St. Petersburg's affluent waterfront neighborhoods, spending an idyllic childhood water skiing, fishing and jumping off docks into Tampa Bay.

Despite his privileged background, Crist comes off more as the guy next door than the state's top political leader, family members, friends and acquaintances said.

"He's a genuinely nice person, a

See **CHARLIE CRIST**, Page 4 ►

*Injury derailed possible football career.*

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