

**DR. SPENCER TASKER****YEARS IN PRACTICE:** 21**YEARS IN ABQ:** 21

Where did you grow up? I am an Air Force Brat! I was born in Tacoma, Washington but also lived in Colorado, Utah, Guam, and Oklahoma.

What meal transports you immediately back to your childhood? Wontons with sweet and sour sauce and sushi. My grandfather was a cook in an Asian restaurant, and my mother cooked a lot of his recipes.

What was your first phone? My first cell phone was in 1998 when I was a junior in college. I think it was an Ericsson?

What is your favorite sweet treat—now and as a kid? Can't go wrong with some ice cream or gelato! My dad and I would have cookies and cream or cookie dough ice cream and watch Star Trek most nights. These days I love it when I can get to FROST!

What did you want to be when you grew up and why? I wanted to be a sports anchor for ESPN. My high school in Oklahoma had a news station, and I was the sportscaster my junior year.

When did you know that you wanted to become a dentist? Did anyone in particular inspire you? My dad had braces when he was 40 years old; I was 10. I would go with him to his appointments, and I thought it was the coolest thing.

Describe yourself as a child in three words. Industrious, curious, short.

What can you remember (really, really) wanting for Christmas? The Millennium Falcon and Optimus Prime.

What is your most interesting Halloween costume from childhood (or even now)? I was a scuba diver on a very cold night in Colorado. These days, any excuse to dress up as Han Solo makes my day.

What was your first car? A big 1986 Dodge Ram van. It was the family car and earned the nickname "Big Blue." It even appeared on the front page of our yearbook my senior year.

What was your most memorable family vacation or trip and why? My dad was a pilot for United Airlines. I got to tag along with him to many exotic places, and we would stay for 48 hours. Australia, New Zealand, China, Singapore, and Malaysia were my most memorable places.

Growing up, what TV shows/movies were your all-time favorites? The orig-



inal Star Wars trilogy. Also I would race home from school to watch Scooby Doo and Transformer cartoons.

If you could meet and talk to your younger self, what advice would you give them? You're not going to be tall or quick enough for the NBA—and appreciate those around you that help you achieve your goals. Oh, and buy Bitcoin!

What is the absolute best part of your job? 2 things. Working with a great team—most of my staff members have been with me between 10 and 17 years! I am a pediatric dentist, so working with kids is fun! They help me stay young, and I love the conversations I get to have with them.

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