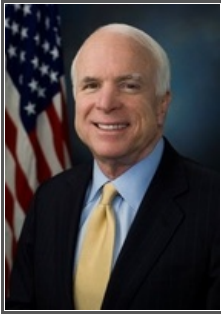


**JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ)****IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016

**5th Term**

Re-elected in 2010


**SENIORITY RANK**

8

Out of 100


**CONTACT**

 **Email** [Contact Form](http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form)  
<http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form>

 **Web** [www.mccain.senate.gov/public](http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public)  
<http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public>

 **Twitter** [@senjohnmccain](http://twitter.com/senjohnmccain)  
<http://twitter.com/senjohnmccain>

 **Facebook** [View on Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/johnmccain)  
<http://www.facebook.com/johnmccain>

 **DC Office** 241 Russell Senate Office Building

## BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Greg Giroux, Bloomberg News

John McCain has three generations of uniformed service to draw on as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The son and grandson of four-star U.S. Navy admirals -- who told his family's story in the 1999 memoir "Faith of My Fathers" -- became a Navy aviator and prisoner of war in Vietnam.

In his second career as a politician, he became known for his opposition to pork-barrel spending and later as a candidate for president with running-mate Sarah Palin in 2008.

After losing that election to Barack Obama, McCain transitioned back to his familiar role as a senior Republican voice on defense and foreign policy, and a frequent presence on the Sunday talk shows. When Republicans gained control of the Senate in the 114th Congress, McCain became chairman of the committee in charge of military policy.

McCain's place on the ideological spectrum is difficult to pinpoint, even after three decades in Congress. He received a 100 percent rating in 2010 from the American Conservative Union, which had scored him below 70 percent three times in the 2000s. A self-described "maverick," McCain antagonized Republican leaders a decade ago when he opposed President George W. Bush's tax cuts and teamed up with Wisconsin Democrat Russ Feingold to overhaul campaign finance laws.

"I am a Teddy Roosevelt Republican. I believe our leaders belong in the arena when our country faces a challenge," McCain said during a campaign event in 2008.

### Early Years

McCain was born in 1936 in the Panama Canal Zone. He attended the Naval Academy, where he earned a reputation as a troublemaker; he finished fifth from the bottom of his class.

In October 1967, during the Vietnam War, McCain's fighter jet was shot down and he was kept in prisoner-of-war camps for

five and half years until he returned to the U.S. in March 1973.

Service as the Navy's liaison with the Senate sparked McCain's interest in politics. According to a Los Angeles Times profile of McCain, the Navy captain was a favorite of the traveling lawmakers that he accompanied on congressional delegations; he smuggled mini-bottles of liquor to senators when they went to Middle Eastern countries that frowned on alcohol.

He was elected to the House in 1982 to the seat of retiring Minority Leader John J. Rhodes. When Republican Senator Barry M. Goldwater retired in 1986, McCain succeeded him with 61 percent of the vote. He has not been seriously challenged since; a 2010 primary challenge from conservative former Representative J.D. Hayworth initially appeared competitive, though McCain built up a huge campaign fund and won by more than 20 percentage points.

## Personal Note

McCain is one of Congress' most active users of Twitter. He had more than 1.9 million followers in early 2015.

Updated Feb. 10, 2015

## BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

John McCain entered the Naval Academy in June of 1954. He served in the United States Navy until 1981.

He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Arizona in 1982 and elected to the United States Senate in 1986.

He was the Republican Party's nominee for president in the 2008 election.

## PERSONAL PROFILE

### COMMITTEES

[Senate Committee on Armed Services](#)  
Chairman

[Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#)

[Senate Select Committee on Intelligence](#)  
Ex-Officio

[Senate Committee on Indian Affairs](#)

### CAUCUSES

[Congressional Fire Services Caucus](#)

[USO Congressional Caucus](#)

[Senate Task Force on Responsible Fatherhood](#)

Birthdate 08/29/1936

Political Party Republican Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Cindy Hensley

Family 7 Children

Religion Baptist

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

#### Education

United States Naval Academy  
Graduated 1958

National War College  
1973

1958 - 1981 Pilot, (US)Navy 01-03-1983 - 01-03-1987 Representative:Arizona, (US)House of Representatives 01-03-1987 - Present Senator:Arizona, (US)Senate Present Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services