

Who Is John Forbes Kerry?

1943 - John Forbes Kerry born in Denver, Colorado.

1966 - While a senior at Yale, Kerry enlists in the Navy and volunteers for combat service in Vietnam.

1967 - Kerry's service record evaluation "A top-notch officer in every measurable trait," "Intelligent, mature and rich in educational background and experience, ENS Kerry is one of the finest young officers I have ever met and without question one of the most promising." -- Capt. Allen Slifer.

1968 - Kerry is promoted to Lieutenant. In November Kerry arrives in Vietnam, where he is given command of Swift boat No. 44, operating in the Mekong Delta. In December Kerry gets his first taste of intense combat, and is wounded in the arm. He is awarded a Purple Heart. During the My Lai Massacre that year, at least 347 unnamed South Vietnamese civilians, including women and children, were shot to death by US forces. The incident is covered up in the US for almost a year.

1969 - Kerry is wounded again and awarded a second Purple Heart. In a separate action in February, Kerry is awarded a Silver Star "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action." In March Kerry saves the life of green beret Jim Rassmann and is awarded a third Purple Heart and a Bronze Star "For heroic achievement [and] great personal courage under fire." December, Kerry's service record evaluation "In a combat environment often requiring independent, decisive action, LTJG Kerry was unsurpassed," "LTJG Kerry emerges as the acknowledged leader in his peer group." -- Lt. Cmdr. George Elliott



1970 - When John Kerry returned to the states he protests to end the war in Vietnam, to save the lives of the soldiers that were left behind. Kerry is one of the original organizers of the first Earth Day in Massachusetts, and would later chair the National Earth Day board in 1990.

1971 - Kerry testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about the official policies in Vietnam which are illegal, according to international law. He asks the congressional panel "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

1976 - Eams law degree from Boston College and later joins the Middlesex County district attorney's office. As a top prosecutor, Kerry fights organized crime putting the number two mob boss in New England behind bars.

1978 - Honorably discharged from US Naval Reserve.

1982 - Elected Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts.

1984 - Elected to the US Senate without accepting PAC money. John Kerry becomes a leader of campaign finance reform.

1985 - Appointed to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Supports Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Act.

1986 - Chairs the Senate subcommittee on the Iran-Contra hearings. Co-sponsors the resolution to stop a \$1.2 trillion oil tax introduced by then-Congressman Dick Cheney..

1988 - Saves life of Republican Senator Jacob "Chic" Hecht by performing Heimlich maneuver. "He sized it up in a split second and saved my life," "Every year at Christmas my wife and I call John Kerry and thank him for saving my life," -- Jacob Hecht

1989 - Cosponsors "Family and Medical Leave Act. Concludes investigations that exposes the US government's tolerance of drug smuggling under the guise of national security. Kerry's committee concluded that US officials "abandoned the responsibility for protecting our citizens from all threats to their security and well-being."

1991 - Chairs a select committee to investigate US soldiers still missing in Vietnam. Works with Senator John McCain to begin to normalize relations with Vietnam.

1992 - Leads a Senate probe that exposes the fraud, abuse and terrorist financing of the Pakistan-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). Known as the BCCI scandal.

1995 - John Kerry proposed cuts in fraudulent intelligence spending. The cuts passed in congress with no opposition. John Kerry supports \$200 billion in responsible intelligence funding over the next seven years.

1997 - Co-sponsors McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Bill to ban "soft money." In September voted to stop remote road-building through National Forests.

1998 - First US balanced budget in 30 years. Kerry votes to set aside 10% of highway funds for minorities & women.

1999 - Voted to authorize NATO air strikes in Kosovo to stop ethnic cleansing. The war in Kosovo resulted in the loss of no US military personnel. Voted to continue funding renewable and solar energy. In September voted to keep CAFE fuel efficiency standards.

2000 - Voted to stop drilling for oil in ANWR.

2001 - Cosponsors Federal Election Reform Act. Receives ratings of 100% by both the League of Conservation Voters and the Humane Society of the United States. The Sierra Club states publicly: "There is no stronger advocate in the Senate for environmental protection than John Kerry."

2002 - Voted to ban "soft money" political contributions. In July voted YES on allowing importation of Rx drugs from Canada.

2003 - Only Senator elected 4 times without any PAC special interest money. Announces run for president. Votes for the resolution to use force as a last resort in Iraq. "I voted to threaten the use of force to make Saddam Hussein comply with the resolutions of the United Nations. I believe that was right -- but it was wrong to rush to war without building a true international coalition -- and with no plan to win the peace." -- John Kerry

In October Kerry votes for the second appropriations bill (\$87 billion) for the war in Iraq when it includes a way to pay for it. When Republicans try to charge the cost to our children, Kerry votes against it in an effort to hold Bush accountable and curb the crushing national debt.



John Kerry has dedicated his life to serving his country and fighting for what he believes in. As an experienced US senator, John Kerry consistently fought to hold government accountable while helping Bill Clinton produce the greatest economic growth in US history, creating 22 million new jobs and the greatest budget surplus in US history. John Kerry has fought for better pay and benefits for soldiers, veterans, police, and teachers, for fair and balanced trade agreements that contain enforceable US labor safeguards, fair and sensible tax policy, balanced budgets, and incentives to stimulate small business growth which create 7 out of every 10 new jobs in this country. John Kerry has a plan to stop the damage caused by George Bush, so we can repair our middle-class and rebuild our rapidly declining status in the world. Now John Kerry is fighting for:

- Foreign policy that engages our allies so we can fight terrorism through cooperation with other governments.
- Environmental policy that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and provide our children with clean air, water and other natural resources.
- Domestic policy that addresses real threats to our homeland, rebuilds our middle class job market, provides affordable healthcare to all Americans, improves K-12 education as the best investment in our future and protects civil liberties so that everyone is proud to be an American.

Help us elect John Kerry and get America back on track and moving in the right direction. Join the campaign and vote for your children.

John  Kerry
P R E S I D E N T

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