



## Howard Philip “Buck” McKeon

Howard Philip “Buck” McKeon was born September 9, 1938, in Los Angeles California. He is the eldest of five boys. Buck attended Brigham Young University where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science. He married Patricia Kunz on August 25, 1962. They have six children, thirty-one grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

After the birth of his fourth child, Buck went into the western wear business with his father, Howard C. McKeon. Buck oversaw the procurement of a small business loan and the opening of their second store, Howard & Phil’s Western Wear. The family expanded the apparel chain to 63 stores across California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona, becoming then the largest western wear retailer in the country.

Buck’s political career started with his election to the William S. Hart Union High School Governing Board. He also served as Chairman of the Board of the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital. Buck was later elected to San Clarita’s city council where fellow council members voted him in as the city’s first mayor.

Buck was instrumental in organizing Valencia National Bank in the Santa Clarita Valley. The bank provided community member access to small business loans that helped the local economy flourish and increased jobs. Buck was named the first chairman of the Valencia National Bank.

Following his first term on the city council, Buck ran for the House of Representatives and was elected to Congress November 1992, representing California’s 25<sup>th</sup> district.

Buck's peers selected him the President of the Freshman Republican Class of the 103rd Congress. He was appointed the Chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee in 2006 where his priorities were school choice, teacher quality, and greater access to higher education. In 2009, was elected Chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Building upon the bipartisan tradition of the Committee, Chairman McKeon successfully led the Congress to pass the critical National Defense Authorization Act each year as its chairman. Buck retired from Congress as Chairman in 2015.

The Chairman and his talented team, the McKeon Group, continue to fight for education and our military in the private sector by working with key decision-makers on Capitol Hill.