

## Joe Sestak

Joe Sestak is a former 3-star Admiral who served in the Navy for 31 years and afterwards served as the highest-ranking military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress, representing Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District from 2007-2010.

Joe led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of the *George Washington* aircraft carrier battle group that conducted combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq with 30 U.S. and allied ships, more than 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft. In the aftermath of 9/11, Joe was the first head of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit formed in response to the attacks.

Joe served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy on the National Security Council in the White House, and also as the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations responsible for development of the Navy's five-year \$350 billion warfare requirements. Joe holds a PhD in Political Economy and Government, and a Masters in Public Administration, both from Harvard University, and is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.

In Congress, Joe was Vice Chairman of the Small Business Committee as well as a member of both the Education & Labor Committee and Armed Services Committee. Joe had ten pieces of bi-partisan legislation signed into law, and a score of amendments. In his first term, he was named the most productive member of his Congressional class by the Majority Leader's Office. He was also recognized for servicing four times more constituent cases than the average Congressional office.

In Congress, Joe championed fiscally accountable "pay-as-you-go" legislation; educational opportunity from pre-K through adult retraining; energy development with balanced environmental safeguards and job creation; seniors' and veterans' quality of life; access to start-up capital for small business and tax and regulatory relief; healthcare issues ranging from pediatric cancer and autism to mental health parity; and served on two bi-partisan national security Select Congressional Committees refocusing our security force posture, with a new emphasis on cyberspace and non-traditional warfare areas, and a reformed defense procurement system.

After Congress, Joe taught courses on *Ethical Leadership* and on *Restoring the American Dream* at Carnegie Mellon University and Cheyney University, and was the General Omar N. Bradley Chair in Strategic Leadership, a joint faculty appointment at the U.S. Army War College, Dickinson College, and the Penn State University Dickinson School of Law and School of International Affairs. Admiral Sestak also served at The Center for Refugee and Disaster Response at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health; The Ploughshares Fund on nuclear disarmament; The Lenfest Foundation on education for the underserved in our cities; the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition on U.S. diplomacy, overseas aid and development; and the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on U.S./China educational programs.

Joe published a book, *Walking in Your Shoes to Restore the American Dream* on how to address the hopes and challenges he sees for Americans and our nation. Joe is most proud of being "Dad" to his beautiful daughter, Alex, and the husband of Susan, whom he somehow convinced to marry him.