



Barry M. Goldwater, Jr., SMA '57



Barry Goldwater, Jr., was born on July 15, 1938. He graduated from Staunton Military Academy in Staunton, Virginia, in 1957 after which he attended the University of Colorado and, then, graduated from Arizona State University in 1962. He worked as a stockbroker, public relations executive and in an import-export business before being elected to Congress. In April 1969, Goldwater ran his first race for Congress representing northern Los Angeles County. He won that race for the 91st Congress and was reelected for six consecutive terms. During his time in Washington Goldwater his areas of expertise included energy, the space program, aviation, defense, and government procurement, and he served on several committees such as the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, the Joint Committee on Energy, and the Committee on Science and Technology.

During his tenure, Goldwater drafted legislation that addressed issues that are still topics of debate today. The Privacy Act of 1974, which prevents the distribution of private information from government and businesses, is one of the best known laws that he drafted.

In 1980, Goldwater campaigned for family friend and Governor of California Ronald Reagan, who won the presidential election against Jimmy Carter. Goldwater would later publicly debate Reagan's son Ron Reagan, who did not support Goldwater's friend and then-California Republican gubernatorial candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger went on to win the 2003 recall election to replace Gray Davis as Governor of California.

Since his district was merged with that of Bobbi Fiedler due to redistricting, Goldwater ran for the Republican nomination to the United States Senate in 1982. Goldwater lost that race to Pete Wilson due to what Goldwater labeled "partisan mudslinging" which linked his name to a congressional drug use scandal that Goldwater was found not to be involved in. During that time Goldwater did seek help from a treatment center in Wickenburg, Arizona, for an admitted drinking problem which he overcame. His term in office expired in January, 1983.

On November 16, 2007, Goldwater publicly endorsed Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul of Texas for the GOP nomination in 2008.

On January 5, 2008, Goldwater announced his decision to go to New Hampshire to campaign for Ron Paul after Paul's 10% showing in the Iowa caucuses, held on January 3, 2008. His efforts helped Paul garner 8% of the vote in New Hampshire. He also spoke in support of Ron Paul at the Kansas GOP caucus.

On September 4, 2008, a list of electors in Louisiana using the label "Louisiana Taxpayers Party" paid \$500 and filed papers with the Secretary of State's Office to get on the ballot. They were pledged to Ron Paul for President and to Goldwater for Vice President. Barry Goldwater Jr. received 9,368 votes for Vice-President in Louisiana, coming in third place in the popular vote.

Business career

After retiring from politics, Goldwater moved to Los Angeles and pursued a career in the financial sector, specializing in security law and underwriting. His clients were major U.S. banks and insurance companies. Goldwater became a member of the New York Stock Exchange and a partner in what is now Wedbush Securities (formerly Noble Cook, Inc.) where he developed an institutional customer base and traded large blocks of securities on all stock exchanges. It was here that he developed his selling skills by "cold calling" and eventually landed some of the country's largest financial banks and insurance companies as clients. He also became knowledgeable in financial planning, security law, and underwriting.

He has served on the board of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. He is also currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Goldwater Institute. The Goldwater Institute is a nonprofit political think tank which studies and publishes findings on public policies that align with the conservative values promoted by Goldwater's father. Goldwater supported legislation and policies generally embracing economic independence, individual rights, and a restriction of governmental powers.

Goldwater maintains his contact with Republican and Democrat leaders, as well as celebrity activists, while he continues to champion the conservative political movement started by his father. He is a Life Member of the American Numismatic Association and is currently director of the National Collector's Mint.

Goldwater now lives in Phoenix, Arizona, near his son Barry M. Goldwater III, and is the co-author of Pure Goldwater with John W. Dean and Mel Foster

Awards and honors

Goldwater has won several awards including the Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; an award from the President's Commission on Employment of the Handicapped; the Distinguished Service Award of the A.C.A.; and the Conscience of the Congress Award of the American Conservative Union.