

Meet John McCain's Family

John McCain was married to his first wife, Carol, for fifteen years. He adopted her two young sons, Douglas and Andrew, and together they had a daughter, Sidney.

After their divorce, McCain married Cindy Hensley, then a special education teacher from Phoenix, Arizona, whose father was a successful businessman. The couple met in 1979 and married in 1980.

Cindy McCain now leads the highly successful beer distributorship started by her father. From 1988 to 1995, she founded and ran an organization that sent medical



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workers to disaster spots and war-torn countries. In recent years, she has been active in an organization that helps children born with facial deformities. She is also involved in CARE, an overseas aid organization, and the HALO Trust, which locates and removes land mines left over from previous wars.

Together John and Cindy have four children: Meghan, 23, Jack, 22, Jimmy, 20, and Bridget, 17. The McCains live in Phoenix.

Meet Sarah Palin Republican Candidate for Vice President

Sarah Palin has been the governor of Alaska since 2006. Before being elected, she served two terms as the mayor of Wasilla, near Anchorage. For two years she chaired the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation,

an agency that oversees drilling and production of oil and gas.

Sarah Heath married Todd Palin in 1988. They have five children.



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Meet John McCain

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Republican Candidate for President

John McCain was born in 1936 at a U.S. naval base in the Panama Canal Zone, Central America. His father was a U.S. naval officer, and the Panama Canal was under U.S. control at the time of his birth.

John's father held many naval posts, so the family, including an older sister and a younger brother, moved a great deal. John attended about twenty different schools. During his teenage years, the family settled in Virginia, where he completed high school in 1954. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1958.

John then attended flight school in Florida, graduating in 1960. As a naval pilot, he



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flew in the Caribbean and Mediterranean. He asked for a combat assignment and was sent on a bombing campaign in 1967, during the Vietnam War. He almost died in an aircraft-carrier fire and explosion that killed 134 sailors and destroyed 20 planes. Later that year, his plane was shot down over North Vietnam. He was severely injured and was held as a prisoner of war for more than five years.

See Meet John McCain on page 2



After his release, he commanded a military training unit. In 1977, he took a job representing the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Senate. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1981, having earned seventeen military decorations and awards during his years of service.

John and his wife, Cindy, moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where he was a vice president in his father-in-law's business. This position connected him with Phoenix's business community, which was a stepping-stone into politics. He was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1982 and re-elected in 1984.

John was then elected to the U.S. Senate by a landslide in

1986. He served on the Armed Services Committee as well as committees on transportation and Native American policy. His speech at the 1988 Republican National Convention attracted national attention. He has been a U.S. senator since 1986 and has been an active, independent voice in the Senate on many issues, including reducing federal spending and lowering taxes. In 2000, he ran for the Republican presidential nomination and lost to George W. Bush, who was elected president later that year.

Senator McCain announced his candidacy for the presidency in April 2007.

Do You Know?

John McCain was flying a bombing mission over North Vietnam in 1967 when his aircraft was shot down. With three broken limbs, he parachuted into a lake, where he nearly drowned before being attacked by enemy soldiers. He was held in a prisoner-of-war camp for over five years, including much of the time in solitary confinement. He was released in 1973.



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"... Courage is not the absence of fear, but the capacity for action despite our fears."

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✓ On Education

McCain believes that schools should be able to compete to attract the best teachers. He also believes that parents should be free to send their children to a different school if a child's teacher is ineffective. He favors more local, and less federal, control of education funds. He believes that testing is an important way to be sure that schools are doing their job of properly educating young people. He favors giving bonuses to teachers whose students are succeeding and who are willing to work in low-achieving schools. He supports both preschool education and financial aid for low-income college students.

✓ On Health Care

McCain favors tax breaks that will allow individuals to buy personal health insurance. He believes that developing more health insurance options will create competition between insurance companies, which will make health insurance more affordable.

✓ On the War in Iraq

McCain voted for the 2003 invasion of Iraq and supported President Bush's 2007 increase in troops to the region. He opposes the withdrawal of troops anytime soon and believes that the U.S. military will eventually help the Iraqis learn to govern their own country effectively.

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