

Don Bacon's life has been defined by hard work and a commitment to family. Bacon grew up in rural Illinois and lived much of his childhood years working on the family farm. Growing up, Bacon was surrounded by his parents and grandparents, who supported Goldwater and Reagan and loved to talk about politics. His father was a subscriber to magazines like the National Review. His father would often pass the magazines to Don after reading them.

Once in junior high, Don's teacher asked the class if anyone could name one of the Supreme Court justices. Don piped up and listed all nine and how they voted.

After graduation and marriage, Bacon knew he wanted to do something more with his life. He wanted to make a difference and see the world. As a lover of war history, it was only natural that Bacon would go into the military—the Air Force, specifically.

Bacon graduated from North Illinois University and entered the Air Force through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. His specialty was in electronic warfare, surveillance, intelligence, and public affairs.

On his application, when asked where he wanted to go, Bacon wrote: "I want to see the world." His first assignment: Nebraska.

Ultimately, Bacon would see the world. He served as wing commander out of Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska and Ramstein Airbase in Germany. He also deployed multiple times to the Middle East and served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After a distinguished career in which he was awarded the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, two Legions of Merits, and two Bronze Stars, Bacon retired from the USAF in 2014.

Even before his retirement, Bacon knew he wanted to get into politics. The interest in politics he had cultivated over years of reading his dad's National Review magazines had come back. In 2016, the U.S. House seat in Nebraska's second congressional district opened up, and after fighting the unknowns at first, Bacon jumped in with both feet. He would go on to beat Democratic incumbent Brad Ashford, 48.9% to 47.7%.

Once in Congress, Bacon drew upon his military experiences to be a strong voice for national security and America's armed forces.

In 2016, Bacon said, "I believe in peace through strength. Our military combat capability has been reduced by two-thirds since I gave my first oath back in 1985, but yet we maintain worldwide commitments, which is stretching us to the breaking point. The military budget has been reduced by 15 percent in the last six years, and the sequester cuts fell in an unbalanced way on the military. We need to retool our military with the latest technology, reduce the massive headquarters' staffs, and reform our acquisition processes."

He took a hardline stance on defeating ISIS, saying in 2016, "We need to defeat ISIS with assertive leadership, our superior airpower, and special forces. Iraq and other regional partners should be the lead with ground forces. Our regional partners will do this with strong American leadership, and it is clear that leading from behind will not get the job done. The current policy is allowing Iran to be the dominant power in Iraq. We are barely containing ISIS, and this is a recipe for future disaster."

Following his reelection in 2018, Bacon was assigned to the House Agricultural Committee, the House Homeland Security Committee, and the House Armed Services Committee.

Bacon is also interested in achieving solutions through compromise. As a co-chair of the For Country caucus—a bipartisan veteran group—Bacon has worked with members across the aisle to find common-sense solutions to everyday problems. He has also served on the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus.

On the issue of climate, Bacon once said, "I don't think we know for certain how much of climate change is being caused by normal cyclical changes in weather vs. human causes. I support legislation that allows for continued incremental improvement in our environment, but oppose extreme measures that create significant economic and job disruption."

Even though Bacon works in tandem with Democrats on many issues facing Americans today, that does not mean he has surrendered his Conservative values. As a Christian, Bacon is firmly pro-life and believes abortion should be outlawed except in the case of saving the mother's life. In fact, govtrack.us gave Bacon a 0% rating from Planned Parenthood.

He also favors repealing Obamacare—or the Affordable Care Act—and opposes Medicare for All.

On the issue of civil rights, Bacon and Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) introduced the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2019. He also was in favor of renaming military bases that are named after Confederate soldiers.

Whether it's combating abortion or taking part in bipartisan legislation efforts, Bacon puts his all into it to do what he believes is best for his home district and the country.

*This article is not an endorsement for or against Don Bacon*