

The Honorable Duncan Hunter



Congressman Duncan Hunter represented San Diego County in the House of Representatives for 28 years. He was first elected in 1980. A Vietnam veteran, he served in the 173rd Airborne and 75th Army Rangers. Hunter utilized the G.I. Bill to attend Western State University Law School in San Diego and, while completing his degree, he supplemented his income by working in farming and construction. After graduating, he opened a storefront legal office where he served many in the Hispanic community, often without compensation. In 1980, he was asked to mount a challenge for the Congressional seat held by an 18-year incumbent, Lionel Van Deerlin. Despite the district having a 2-to-1 Democrat registration, Hunter won the seat in an upset.

Coming to Washington, the new Congressman immediately sought a seat on the House Armed Services Committee where he could work on America's national security needs. Hunter became Chairman of the full committee in 2002. As Chairman, Hunter oversaw a \$500 billion defense budget and focused his efforts on providing America's men and women in uniform with the necessary resources to win our Nation's military conflicts and developing modernization initiatives that will move new and more effective technologies into the field of battle.

Hunter also has made securing the California-Mexico border a top priority. Congressman Hunter worked tirelessly to ensure that the region is safe for communities on both sides of the border and to put a stop to illegal immigration and drug trafficking. His provision to extend the San Diego Fence for 700 miles across Arizona, New Mexico and Texas was signed into law in 2006.

Congressman Hunter's other legislative priorities included retaining and increasing jobs in the 52nd District and across this Nation, providing tax relief to hard-working families and keeping our promises to America's veterans. Most recently, in December 2010 Hunter published a book on the Iraq War, titled *Victory in Iraq: How America Won*.