

## Ron Barber Biography

Ron Barber grew up in a military family. In 1959, he came to Tucson, Arizona from England when his step-father, an airman, was stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. He attended the University of Arizona, graduating in 1967. While still in high school, Barber met his wife, Nancy. They raised their daughters, Jenny and Crissi, in Tucson and now have five grandchildren who are being raised in Tucson as well.

Before becoming a Member of Congress, Barber was the Director of a five county Head Start agency in Southern Arizona and later had a 32-year career with the Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities, serving as Regional Administrator and as State Director.

In 2007, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords appointed Barber her District Director. He managed services for constituents and was the Congresswoman's liaison to leadership of military installations in the District. He was also Giffords' policy advisor on border security and immigration reform issues.

On January 8, 2011, Barber was standing beside Congresswoman Giffords at her 21<sup>st</sup> Congress on Your Corner. An assassin shot the congresswoman, Barber and 17 others, six people were killed. Giffords and Barber were both critically wounded.

Shortly after the shooting, Barber established a non-profit organization, The Fund for Civility, Respect and Understanding. The Fund focused on promoting civil political discourse, preventing bullying in schools and reducing the stigma associated with mental illness.

In January 2012, Giffords resigned from office to focus on her recovery. She asked Barber to run for her seat. He won the special election and was sworn into office in June of 2012. He won re-election in November 2012. In Congress Barber served on the House Armed Services Committee, Homeland Security Committee (ranking member on the Oversight, Management and Efficiency sub-committee), and the Small Business Committee. He was also a member of the Bi-Partisan Working Group, The Blue Dog Coalition and the New Democrat Coalition.

Barber served as District Director for Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick from January 2019 until December 2020.

He was appointed Southern Arizona Director by Senator Mark Kelly in December 2020 and continues in that position to the present time. (Oct. 2021)

Barber serves on the boards of several community-based organizations in Arizona including the January 8 Memorial Foundation. He sits on the Advisory Council to the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Board of End Citizens United, the Advisory Board of the Migration Policy Institute, the Board of CEDO, a binational organization dedicated to the preservation of the Sea of Cortez in Mexico and is President of the Board of the Loft Cinema, an independent Art Film theatre and the board of Friends of Aphasia.

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