

## **Congressman Allen West**

Congressman Allen West serves the constituents of Florida's 22nd district, encompassing parts of beautiful Broward and Palm Beach Counties along South Florida's coastline. Born and raised in the inner city of Atlanta, in the same neighborhood where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once preached, patriotism is in Congressman West's blood. His father was a Corporal in the U.S. Army and served in the European theater of operations in WW II, and his mother, the outspoken and lovable "Snooks" West, worked as a civilian on a local Military Installation. Congressman West's nephew currently serves in the Army. Before retiring as an Army Lieutenant Colonel, West served as a Field Artillery Officer in several combat zones: in Operation

Desert Storm, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was battalion commander for the Army's 4th Infantry Division, and in Afghanistan, where he trained Afghan officers to take on the responsibility of securing their own country.

In 2004, after serving 22 years in the Army, West retired from the Military, and moved to South Florida, to be closer to his wife's family. Congressman West taught high school for one year and then returned to Afghanistan as a civilian advisor to the Afghan army.

A proud conservative and American patriot, and with the encouragement of friends and neighbors, Congressman West decided to make a bid for Congress. With a purely grassroots movement, that ignited support across the country, and his fresh, no nonsense approach, West was elected and inaugurated in the United States House of Representatives in November of 2010.

Congressman West received his Bachelor's degree while on an ROTC scholarship at the University of Tennessee and later went on to get a Master's degree from Kansas State University, both in political science. He also holds a Master of Military Arts and Sciences from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer College in political theory and military operations.

In his Army career, Congressman West has been honored many times, including a Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals (one with Valor), and a Valorous Unit Award. He received his valor award as a Captain in Desert Shield/Storm, was the US Army ROTC Instructor of the Year in 1993, and was a Distinguished Honor Graduate III Corps Assault School. He proudly wears the Army Master parachutist badge, Air Assault badge, Navy/Marine Corps parachutist insignia, Italian parachutist wings, and German proficiency badge.