



## **Representative Howard P. "Buck" McKeon**

U.S. Representative Howard P. "Buck" McKeon of the 25<sup>th</sup> district of California, currently is the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. He was first named Ranking Member of the Committee in June 2009.

As Armed Services Committee Ranking Member, McKeon fought to strengthen our military and invest in a force postured to meet the challenges of the 21st century, while working to provide the necessary resources for America's sons and daughters in Afghanistan and Iraq. He also led efforts to keep terrorist detainees off of U.S. soil, boost funding for missile defense, and restore the tradition of passing defense authorization bills devoid of controversial social items.

Additionally, McKeon has worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between industry and military leaders in order to ensure that our warfighters on the ground continue to receive the support they need and deserve.

McKeon has regularly worked to bolster missile defense programs, support funding for the F-22, and provide enhancements to effective, lighter-weight body armor and mine-resistant vehicles. He has fostered veteran resource programs for counseling, vocational training, and college education.

Prior to serving as the lead Republican on HASC, McKeon was the top Republican on the Education and the Workforce Committee for close to three years, where he advanced conservative policies supporting school choice, teacher quality and accountability, and higher education access and affordability.

In early 2006, McKeon ran the committee as chairman, replacing Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), who stepped down after becoming House Majority Leader.

Before that, McKeon headed the House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, which examined issues such as higher education, technology in education, teacher training, job training, and welfare reform. In this role, McKeon helped negotiate the formula that resulted in interest rates for the federal student loan program dropping to their lowest level in 38 years. McKeon still serves as a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee.

His leadership in cutting federal spending and reducing taxes also has been noted by several national organizations, including the National Taxpayers Union and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In addition to his official committees, McKeon is also a member of the Republican Study Committee and the Congressional Unmanned Systems Caucus.

McKeon earned his bachelor's degree in 1985 from Brigham Young University. In 2002, he received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Strayer University.