

## About Rep. Don Bacon

Growing up and working on the family farm in Illinois, Rep. Don Bacon learned first-hand how the value of hard work and commitment contributes to the success of a small business. He left the farm to attend Northern Illinois University, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1984, the same year he married Angie, the love of his life. Together they share three sons, one daughter, and eight grandchildren. In 1985, he began his military career when he joined the U.S. Air Force. Rep. Bacon served almost thirty years on active duty, culminating his military career at the rank of Brigadier General.

During his career in the Air Force, Rep. Bacon specialized in electronic warfare and in intelligence. His career highlights include two tours as a Wing Commander, at Ramstein Airbase in Germany and Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska; squadron and group command at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona; and expeditionary squadron command flying combat missions over Iraq. In total, Rep. Bacon served 16 assignments including four deployments to the Middle East, including one assignment to Iraq in 2007 to 2008 during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Rep. Bacon was a Distinguished Graduate at Intelligence School, Navigator School and at Air Command and Staff College. He earned two master's degrees while serving in the Air Force.

In Congress, Rep. Bacon serves on two committees: The House of Representatives Armed Services Committee (HASC) and the House of Representatives Agricultural Committee (HAC).

His service on HASC includes work on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) each year. He was selected to serve on six conference committees to combine the House and Senate versions into the final legislation. In addition, he has had 30 pieces of legislation included in fiscal year final NDAA's and signed into law.

In the 118th Congress, Rep. Bacon was appointed as Chair of the Quality-of-Life Panel. The panel focuses its work on housing, childcare, spousal employment and other issues to improve the lives of those who serve our country, and their families. The title and text of this year's House NDAA (FY25) is based on the legislative recommendations of the HASC Military Quality of Life Panel which was chaired by Rep. Bacon over the last year. He is now Chairman of the Cyber Subcommittee.

On HAC, he worked on the 2017 Farm Bill to include language for a Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccine and has four bills included in the House's version of the 2024 Farm Bill: a bill to monitor and prohibit foreign ownership of farmland, language, allowing temporary contractor hiring for efficient SNAP administration during crises, funding for youth organizations, expanding programs in rural areas to nurture leadership and community engagement, with bipartisan support; and language to protect roosters and dogs, prohibiting trafficking, enabling citizen suits, and enhancing enforcement.

During his tenure in Congress, Rep. Bacon co-founded and twice chaired the For Country Caucus, a group of principled military veteran congressional members working together across party lines to pass thoughtful legislation related to national security, veterans' affairs, and national service issues. In addition, he served as Chair of the Republican Main Street Caucus, a group he resurrected in the 117th Congress. He is currently a co-chair for the largest bipartisan caucus, the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth.

Rep. Bacon successfully helped secure over \$1.6 billion in funds to rebuild Offutt Airforce Base and Camp Ashland after major flooding in 2019. To date, Eppley Airfield has received \$63 million from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which Rep. Bacon supported, and an additional \$7 million in direct funding, all of which is being used to improve the airport and make it more accessible for international flights. Most recently, the cities of Omaha and Wahoo were granted \$26.3 million for sewer gas pipeline replacement projects because of Rep. Bacon's vote in favor of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Together with his staff, Rep. Bacon has received the following key awards and recognition: Top Republican for Bipartisan Cooperation in 2024, 2024 CMF Outstanding Workplace Environment, 2023 Defender of Children by the First Focus Campaign for Children, 2021 CMF Outstanding Constituent Services, Most Effective Republican legislator in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress-House (Center for Effective Lawmaking), ranked first by the Common Ground Committee, Inc. for improving public discourse in politics (2022), ranked 15<sup>th</sup> for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress in the Bipartisan Index rankings compiled by the Lugar Center and the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University, second highest number of bills signed into law (eleven) during the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress according to Govtrack, in addition to other acknowledgments and honors for his service to NE-02 and the country.