

Congressman David L. Hobson
Ohio Wesleyan University, Class of 1958

Dave Hobson was a husband, father, grandfather, businessman, attorney, Ohio state Senator, member of the Ohio National Guard, and US Congressman.

He was born in Cincinnati in 1936 and graduated from Withrow High School there in 1954. Congressman Hobson graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1958 with a B.A. in Politics & Government. While at Ohio Wesleyan he met Carolyn Hobson, his wife and partner for the next five decades.

Congressman Hobson served in the Ohio Air National Guard from 1958 to 1963, including 10 months on active duty overseas. He received his J.D. in 1963 from The Ohio State University College of Law, and for several years, worked as an attorney for several Ohio insurance firms. He also has served as chairman of a financial services company and on the boards of a bank, oil company, and restaurant business.



From 1982 to 1990, Congressman Hobson served the people of the Miami Valley in the Ohio Senate. A member of the Republican Party, he was elected by his fellow senators as Majority Whip from 1986 to 1988 and President Pro Tempore from 1988 to 1990. While in the Ohio Senate, Congressman Hobson chaired the Senate Committee on Health, Human Services and Aging. In this role he authored Ohio's first comprehensive AIDS legislation to provide supports for people living with the disease—one of the first such state-level laws in the nation. He also led efforts to create the first program to help fund treatment of Alzheimer's disease and wrote legislation to reform and reorganize the Ohio Department of Mental Health after a period of turmoil at the agency.

His experience in the Ohio legislature and private sector propelled him to run for the United States House of Representatives for Ohio's 7th Congressional District in 1990. His desire to help others and his past experiences positioned him well for the challenge. In Congressman Hobson's own words, "What really inspires me is when I can make a difference in peoples' lives, and they feel better about their existence."

During his two decades in the U.S. House, Congressman Hobson gained a solid reputation among his peers for his sound judgment, hard work, and inclusiveness. He befriended leadership and members from both sides of the aisle and said of being in the majority party, "I tried to treat everyone the way I'd want to be treated if I were in the minority."

Over the years his leadership roles grew to include serving as the second-most senior member of the House Budget Committee where he helped negotiate the bipartisan Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997, which balanced the federal budget for the first time since 1969.

He also served on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he chaired the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee from 1999 to 2002 and then chaired the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee from 2003 to 2007.

When Democrats took over the House majority starting in 2007 he served out the remainder of his career as the Ranking Minority Member on the Subcommittee from 2007 to 2009.

Always passionate about national security, Congressman Hobson fought to make sure our military had the resources it needed to defend US interests around the world and supported the use of high technology to enhance the capabilities of our military personnel. Congressman Hobson also worked to make sure that our troops and their families received the pay, benefits, housing, and quality health care they deserve. He was a pioneer in the use of partnerships, both here and overseas, to increase the quality and quantity of housing for military personnel and their families.

His work also included advocating for Ohio's military bases during several rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure process. These efforts provided for the continued operation of the Springfield Air National Guard Base and significant new missions for Rickenbacker Air National Guard base, which is now home to a robust joint military facility and a cargo/passenger airport, which employees thousands of Ohioans. Hobson also helped create one of the nation's largest-ever public/private partnerships in 2007 to support expanding the capacity of the rail corridor between the seaports in Norfolk, Virginia and Columbus. His decades-long work supporting the military and veterans was recognized by his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2022.

Dave was a political moderate and a leader in the Republican Mainstreet Partnership. He enjoyed working with Members of Congress from across the political spectrum and believed in the importance of Congress to improving and strengthening the communities that members represent.

After leaving Congress, Congressman Hobson stayed involved in his district and home community of Springfield as a businessman, Rotarian, trustee of four area universities—including Ohio Wesleyan, as a board member of his church and member of several veterans organizations. He has received numerous awards, including Legislator of the Year awards from various social and government-related organizations, and was also awarded honorary degrees from several Ohio colleges, including an honorary degree from Ohio Wesleyan in 2002 and an Honorary Doctorate from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology.

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