



## MARK STEVEN KIRK

### United States Senator

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Mark Kirk (Republican) was elected to the U.S. Senate on Nov. 2, 2010, winning simultaneous elections. In addition to winning a regular six-year term, Kirk also won a special election to serve the final weeks of President Obama's U.S. Senate term. He was sworn in as Illinois' junior Senator on Nov. 29, 2010.

Kirk was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000 and went on to serve five terms representing Illinois' 10th Congressional District. Prior to his congressional career, Kirk served on the staff of his predecessor in the House, former Illinois Congressman John Porter, and spent two years at the State Department as special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State. He later entered private law practice and eventually became counsel to the House International Relations Committee, a post he held until 1999.

Senator Kirk joined the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1989 and was commissioned as an intelligence officer. In 1999, he was recalled to active duty during the war in Kosovo for the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. He has twice been on two-week training stints in Afghanistan, and served during conflicts in Iraq, Haiti and Bosnia. The U.S. Navy and National Military Intelligence Association named Kirk and his team the VADM Rufus Taylor Intelligence Unit of the Year for outstanding service during Operation Allied Force in Kosovo. Kirk retired from the Navy Reserve in 2013 with the rank of commander.

In January 2012, Senator Kirk suffered an ischemic stroke and underwent surgery to relieve swelling in his brain. After nearly a year of intensive recovery and rehabilitation, Senator Kirk triumphantly returned to work by climbing the 45 steps of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 3, 2013. Friends and colleagues from both sides of the aisle cheered as he walked up the Capitol steps. Senator Kirk reflected that his return to the Senate was one of the greatest moments of his life.

Senator Kirk currently serves on the U.S. Senate Committees on Appropriations; Banking, Housing and Urban Development; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; and the Special Committee on Aging.

Senator Mark Kirk was born Sept. 15, 1959, in Champaign. He received his B.A. in history from Cornell University, obtained his master's degree from the London School of Economics in 1982, and earned his J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992. He currently resides in Highland Park.

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