

## **BIO - Christopher Shays**

Christopher represented the 4<sup>th</sup> District in Connecticut from 1987 to 2009 in the United States Congress. Before then, he served 13 years in the Connecticut General Assembly. A moderate Republican, socially progressive and fiscally conservative, Shays had a strong and successful record of reaching across the aisle to address our Nation's problems.

The only Republican Congressman from New England re-elected in 2006, Shays was consistently recognized for his bipartisan leadership. During his 21 years in Congress, Shays rose to become a senior member of the Budget (Vice-chair), Financial Services, Homeland Security, and Government Reform (Vice-chair), committees, and Chaired the Reform Committee's National Security Committee with oversight of the Defense and State Departments.

Shays was the primary author of the laws requiring: Congress to live by the acts it writes for the rest of the nation; Congressional gift ban; lobby disclosure; campaign finance reform. As chairman of the National Security Committee, he helped establish the: 9/11 Commission; Director of National Intelligence; Department of Homeland Security; and led 19 oversight trips to Iraq, meeting with our troops, Iraqi government officials, Shia and Sunni leaders, and their followers.

After Congress, Shays Co-chaired the Commission on Wartime Contracting. Then served as a Distinguish Fellow in Public Service at the University of New Haven, and later as a Resident Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, Institute of Politics.

Christopher and his wife, Betsi, are former Peace Corps volunteers (Fiji). As a former volunteer, he championed the Corporation for National and Community Service, helping create AmeriCorps.

Christopher Shays is a graduate of Principia College, NYU's Stern School of Business (MBA), and its Wagner School of Public Administration (MPA). Christopher and Betsi have a daughter Jeramy Alice, and now reside in Easton, Maryland.

