



Michael and Linda McCaul and their children, Caroline, Jewell, and triplets, Lauren, Michael, and Avery

Get to Know U.S. Representative

# *Michael McCaul*

Currently serving his third term, Congressman McCaul shares his thoughts about family, Katy people, and the challenges facing our district.

### **Why did you seek a career in politics?**

It's the responsibility of every generation to hand down a better America to the next. My father's generation, often referred to as the Greatest Generation, handed down a better America to mine. The decisions that Congress makes at this critical time in our nation's history will determine whether we meet that challenge.

My father, who was a bombardier navigator in World War II, instilled in me that public service is a noble endeavor. I am proud to have served in the Department of Justice Public Integrity Section fighting public corruption. I also served as deputy attorney general under John Cornyn, fighting crime and protecting children from predators on the Internet. And after 9/11, I served as chief of counterterrorism in the U.S. Attorney's office to protect our nation from terrorists who plot against us. This experience has served me well in Congress, serving both on the Ethics Committee and the Homeland Security Committee.

### **Where were you born and where did you grow up?**

Dallas, Texas.

### **As a child, who was most influential in your life?**

My parents, Jesus Christ, the nuns and priests, and political and historical figures, including the Founding Fathers.

### **What are three adjectives that describe you?**

Passionate, thoughtful, and humble.

### **Do you have time for any hobbies? What are they?**

I spend almost all of my spare time with my wife and five children. We enjoy teaching our kids about American history by traveling to places of historical significance. Most recently, we took the kids to Boston, Philadelphia, and the homes of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

### **What is something that would surprise people to know about you?**

I enjoy playing the guitar. I'm also a son of the American Revolution; fortunately my ancestor fought on that side.

### **How did you meet your wife?**

Linda and I met at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington when I was working as a federal prosecutor in the Department of Justice Public Integrity Section. She was working in Naval Intelligence. I asked her what she did in Naval Intelligence, and she said she tracked Russian subs. I told her I had never dated anyone who tracked submarines for a living and I asked her if she wanted to go out.

### **Tell us about your family.**

Linda and I are proud parents of five beautiful children. We were blessed with our first two daughters, Caroline, 15, and Jewell, 13. Then, we were blessed with triplets - identical twin girls, Lauren and Avery, and a boy, Michael, all age 9.

### **What is it like having triplets?**

It's great - you are never alone! They are the best of friends. It's a handful, but it's very rewarding.

### **Did you always want a large family? If so, why?**

I'm Catholic and I'm pro-life.

### **What do you enjoy most about being a dad?**

Hopefully, being able to pass down a better world to my children. And of course, the love and affection they give to me.

### **What do you hope your children will learn from you?**

Hopefully, that I always tried to do the right thing in difficult circumstances, and that it's important to follow your dreams and achieve them. I also stress to them to always carry yourself with dignity and class and to have a sense of humor.

### **What has been the most rewarding aspect of serving in Congress?**

Fundamentally, that you can really make a difference in the lives of people, and reforming the institution, so that we can take this country back to what the Founding Fathers envisioned. At the end of the day, the test of every man is whether they left this world a better place than when they came into it. I hope that my generation will pass that test.

### **What is your biggest concern for District 10 today?**

Restoring integrity and ethics in the House and regaining the American people's trust. One of the biggest challenges over the last four years was fighting against an agenda that has bankrupted our country and killed jobs. We will be in control of the House again next year and I look forward to passing our legislative priorities that will put this country back on the right track.

### **What are you most proud of accomplishing so far?**

That's a tough question. Career-wise, I'm proud of dealing with public corruption both on the Ethics Committee and as a former federal prosecutor. I'm proud to have protected children against Internet crimes while I was deputy attorney general under John Cornyn. I'm also proud of my service on the House Homeland Security Committee fighting terrorism to protect American lives.

One of the most memorable experiences I had while serving on the Science and Technology Committee was meeting Neil Armstrong, the first man who landed on the moon. I told him that 1,000 years from now, no one would remember anybody except him. He spoke passionately about the NASA Space Program and maintaining our superiority in space. I was proud to have played a role in reauthorizing NASA and rejecting the President's proposal to cut the Constellation program.



Rep. McCaul speaks with Katy students and community members during a Veterans Day ceremony



### **What are your goals for District 10?**

Jobs. We must get the economy turned around and create private sector jobs. We have to ease the tax burden on families and businesses to incentivize private investment in our country. We have to cut our record deficit and make sure we leave a better America to our children and their children.

Representing one of the fastest growing areas of the country also brings greater transportation needs. We will be passing a transportation bill during the next Congress, and I have been working very closely with TxDOT, Judge Ed Emmett, Sen. Dan Patrick, and other elected officials to solve our transportation needs.

### **How much traveling do you do in a year?**

A lot. Too much. I prefer being back home in Texas, but being in Congress requires me to spend more time in Washington than I would like.

In addition to travelling back and forth from Washington, I have participated in Congressional delegations to Afghanistan and Pakistan over the Fourth of July to visit the troops. They are truly inspiring to the next great generation.

I have also travelled to Walter Reed hospital to be with the wounded soldiers returning home. Recently, I visited a soldier who was shot in Afghanistan and who saved his own life on the battlefield. As I visited him in the hospital, I was so inspired when he told me, "Congressman, I am going to be fine, and I am going to go back." It symbolized to me the condition of our nation. Even while we are going through tough times, we're going to be fine and take the country back.

### **Where do you hope to be in five or 10 years?**

I believe that public service is still the most noble profession. Jesus taught us to be a man for others. I hope to continue serving the public in any capacity where I can really make a difference.

### **What do you enjoy most about serving the people of Katy?**

They're red, white, and blue patriotic Americans. And their overall values, I think, reflect the American dream. Their patriotism and resolve is inspiring.

### **You seem to be very in-touch with your constituents. How do you stay so connected in the community?**

I travel in my district more than most members. I enjoy travelling across my diverse district and meeting people of all walks of life - whether they are small business owners, farmers and ranchers, high tech executives, or hard-working families. I especially enjoy travelling through the schools in my district, sometimes with astronauts, to inspire students to achieve their dreams.

I believe it is important to be with the people I represent, rather than the special interests in Washington. I always have an open door policy and I sincerely enjoy people. I listen to their concerns and help them find ways to meet the challenges they face.

### **What is the biggest area of concern facing District 10 today?**

Again, jobs and the economy. Thankfully, much of Texas has weathered the recession much better than the rest of the country, because our taxes are low and we're business-friendly. But we still need to create more jobs in the private sector. Transportation is also up there, especially along the 290 corridor. As I said earlier, I've been working closely with Judge Ed Emmett, Sen. Dan Patrick, and others to come up with ways to best leverage local, state, and federal resources to create more capacity.

### **What do you think about the people you've met in Katy?**

They're solid, patriotic, and self-reliant. The people of Katy embody the American dream.

### **Do you have any favorite places in Katy?**

I love going to high school football games, especially when I get to do the coin toss.

### **Why do you like representing District 10 and the Katy area?**

It goes back to the people and their can-do attitude and values. They inspire me. It's all about the people.

### **Any final words for the people of Katy?**

Despite the challenges we face, I am optimistic about our country's future. I still believe that the best years are ahead of us. As President Reagan said, we are still a shining city on the hill. This is the United States of America, and we are going to take this country back. **KM**