

Senator Dan Rutherford Biography

When examining his resume, one quickly realizes that there are very few elected officials in the state of Illinois with the professional and governmental experience of Senator Dan Rutherford, not to mention his love of life and eagerness to make a difference in the lives of others.

Legislative Accomplishments

Dan Rutherford is distinguished by a legislative career of accomplishment. He was first elected to the Illinois Senate in 2002 following a 10-year term in the House of Representatives, where he served as the Assistant Republican leader. As a member of the Senate, he is the ranking Republican serving on the Financial Institutions Committee, and also acts as a member of the Environment and Energy Committee and the bi-partisan Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.



Senator Dan Rutherford has sponsored and shaped legislation intended to help some of Illinois' most fragile citizens. Rutherford was a leading sponsor of important legislation which fundamentally changed the formula for reimbursing nursing homes. Now, reimbursement rates are based on the medical needs of the resident, instead of their geographic location in the state. Senator Rutherford is pleased to report that the new system has resulted in better health care and services for Illinois' treasured elderly community.



Senator Rutherford's legislative efforts have resulted in many accolades from both the public and private sector. He was particularly proud to have been named Legislator of the Year multiple times, in addition to being selected as an "outstanding legislator" by numerous economic, agricultural and conservation organizations, to name a few.

Some of his much recognition include:

2005 Legislator of the Year, Teamsters Joint Council 65

2005 Legislator of the Year, Illinois Association of County Officials

2005 Distinguished Service Award for Agriculture, Livingston County Corn Growers

2003 Legislator of the Year, Illinois Health Care Association

2002 Legislator of the Year, Illinois Health Care Association

2001 Legislator of the Year, Illinois Soil and Water Conservation

2001 Reappointed Assistant House Republican Leader

1999 Appointed the Assistant House Republican Leader

1996 Voice of Employers Award, Management Association of Illinois

1995 Legislator of the Year, Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois

1995 Outstanding Legislator, Illinois Hospital and Health Systems Association

1994 Recognition for outstanding service to Illinois veterans, Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commission

1993 Outstanding Freshman Legislator, Illinois Health Care Association

1986 Selected on of the Chicago Tribune's "People to Watch in 1986"

1980 Outstanding Young Man in America Award

1978 - Who's Who Among Students in Universities and Colleges

1977-78 - President of Student Body-- Illinois State University

The Making of a Leader: A History of Involvement

Senator Rutherford began his career as a Legislative Assistant in Springfield following his graduation from Illinois State University, where he served his school, community and fellow students as Student Body President.

At the age of 24, Rutherford coordinated a Congressional District for Governor Ronald Reagan's campaign. Today, Dan reminisces about driving to O'Hare airport to pick up Nancy Reagan, with one security guard from the California State Police, and driving her to events in northern Illinois, before meeting Ronald Reagan and presenting him with briefing papers when President Reagan came to Illinois.



Following the election Rutherford was offered a position on the Presidential Transition Team. However, within a day of the offer, he received a call from Governor Jim Thompson offering him a position on his staff in Illinois. Although it was a tough decision to make, Dan opted to stay in Illinois, later stating that he knew it was the right decision because it provided him with the opportunity to join the ServiceMaster Company and serve in the General Assembly.

The Business Executive

Dan Rutherford is a graduate of Illinois State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

While on a business trip to Japan in 1984, Dan became familiar with the ServiceMaster Company. A year later he came on board with ServiceMaster, which is headquartered in Downers Grove, DuPage County, Illinois.

Rutherford eventually became responsible for expansion of the company's businesses internationally, licensing services in Chile, Brazil, Honduras, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Guam, Venezuela, South Africa, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Panama, Italy, Mexico and the Philippines. Today he is a Vice President with the Fortune 500 Company.

On the Lighter Side

As a young person, Dan enjoys camping, fishing and adventure. In high school he was a foreign exchange student to Barbados, after graduating college he backpacked across Europe, and in his mid-twenties he took a few months to lead safaris in Kenya.

He learned to sail boats and crewed for numerous Chicago to Mackinaw Island races, competed in regattas off of Melbourne and cruised the southern coast of Australia.

Before his 30th birthday, Dan joined a small group of 12 adventurers and together they took three months to cross Africa in their diesel Bedford truck; camping, bathing in creeks, cooking open fire meals, using sand mats to cross the Sahara, and making sure not to drink from wells that were poisoned because of the war with Libya. He began in Algeria and went south through Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Zaire and Burundi.

Having been on all the continents of the world but one, Dan was determined to get to Antarctica before his 40th birthday. A lot of luck, a few connections and he found himself in the Falkland Islands meeting a Russian icebreaker with a group of naturalists who were exploring the continent. The former commander of Operation Deep Freeze was a member of the group, in addition to many other experienced scientists. Whales were a common sight, often accompanying the ship as it made its way through the icy waters. The breaker crushed the ice when needed. Dan has particularly fond memories of Christmas that year, which he spent floating on a tabular iceberg in the Antarctic Sound.

Always looking for excitement, Dan skydived in college and learned to fly at a relatively young age, before he decided to master scuba diving. He is an Advanced Certified Diver, logging well over 100 dives. His most recent trip was to Saba Island, but he has also dove the Turks & Caicos, Bali, Mozambique, Cape Town and Apo Island.

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