

OPERA – fiche sociographique - défense

Prénom, Nom:

George O. Withers

Contact :

Catégorie : Législatif

Dates de naissance / décès :

Lieu de naissance :

Genre :

Lieu de résidence (si DC avant l'accession à un poste retenu, avec si possible l'année de l'emménagement à DC):

Formation :

BA/BS	
MA/MS	
PhD	
Law degree (JD...)	
ROTC¹	
Autre	

Profession initiale :

Navy

Carrière :

1978 : entre au congrès, en tant que : legislative director on a personal staff, press secretary puis professional staff member du HASC.

1993 – 2002 : professional staff member, HASC.

2002, novembre : retraite.

Sources biblio/bio, articles, divers.

E2012 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks November 14, 2002

REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF GEORGE O. WITHERS
HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year that we say farewell to some old friends. That's never easy. But it is even

¹ n'est pas une formation mais un programme pour entrer dans l'armée

hard-er when the friend in question spent considerable time and energy helping make us all look good. George Withers, who is leaving the Armed Services Committee staff at the end of this year, came to Capitol Hill in 1978. He had served his country in the Navy during Vietnam. But he has spent twenty-four years proving that national service doesn't end when you take off the uniform. As legislative director on a personal staff, then press secretary and a professional staff member of the committee, George has made America better every day.

A lot of young go-getters come to work on the Hill, Mr. Speaker. But George proved that you don't have to be obnoxious to get things done. His real sense of decency and values have provided a reference and example for not only the Armed Services Committee staff, but all of us who worked with him.

George has been the conscience of the committee staff. He is a devoted advocate for those Americans who most need and deserve Congress's protection. Discussions of national security can get pretty esoteric,, but George makes sure that we keep our focus on people, both those in uniform and those our military exists to protect. As a former enlisted man and NCO, he never lets the former officers on the staff forget who the real troops are.

Mr. Speaker, while our staff works in a non-partisan way,, George is a determined, thoroughgoing, old-school Democrat. But look at the pictures on his office walls. Yes, he has photos of himself with our former colleagues Ron Dellums and Silvio Conte. But there's John Kasich, too, and President Bush. All of which speaks to the fairness and openmindedness with which George approached his job. He lets his political beliefs inform his work, but never get in the way of doing what was right for the country. To my way of thinking, George has only one flaw. The B-2 bomber is the pride of Whiteman Air Force Base, in my district. George led the fight at the staff level against the B-2, and succeeded for quite some time. In gratitude for George's exemplary service, I promise not to have one named for him.

In recent years, George's primary duties have concerned the military construction budget. Every member of this body whose district has received military construction funds—and that's most of us—has George Withers to thank.

But he was also our committee's driving force on policies concerning Latin America. Whether the question was the naval bombing of Vieques or the United States' role in Colombia, George fought for a sensible, humble foreign policy.

George's decency doesn't stop at the Capitol door, either. When he isn't here—during the few hours each year we let the staff out—George actively supports charities. He loves riding his bike, and he loves it even more when he's getting contributions for every mile he rides.

While he will tell you that he loves his work here, just ask him about his children, Sam and Lizzie. You'll see what love really means by the sparkle in his eyes. And we were all thrilled when George married Donna earlier this year. His departure from our little world means that he will have even more opportunities to love and care for them, and even his cat, Tom. But I warn you, George, cats don't always love you back.

I will miss George Withers cheerful counsel personally. The Congress will be poorer for his departure. But the real accolade is that people around the world who will never know his name have better lives today because George Withers was part of this House.

Source : <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CREC-2002-11-14/html/CREC-2002-11-14-pt1-PgE2012.htm>
consulté le 30 nov. 13

Sources additionnelles :

Legistorm, CQ Press, Who's Who, First Street