



UNITED STATES SENATOR

JOHN EDWARDS

An Independent Voice for North Carolina

B I O G R A P H Y

Sworn into office on January 6, 1999, Senator John Edwards has emerged as a champion for issues affecting the daily lives of regular people in North Carolina and the nation.

Senator Edwards was a chief sponsor of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act, strong and far-reaching patient protection legislation that passed the Senate in 2001.

Senator Edwards's bipartisan accomplishments also include a major investment in America's public schools, strong antiterrorism measures, modernization of the nation's banking system, sweeping campaign finance reform and legislation to fight corporate corruption.

The News & Observer of Raleigh described Senator Edwards as "smart, disciplined, [and] hard-working" with "a down-home manner." *The Wall Street Journal* called him a senator who "impresses colleagues in behind-doors deliberations." *The Washington Post* said Senator Edwards has "the ability to think on his feet...master complex issues and...communicate in plain language to ordinary people."

Senator Edwards serves on four committees: Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Intelligence; Judiciary; and Small Business.

As part of his commitment to North Carolina, Senator Edwards has been to all 100 counties in the state, from Murphy (where he went to a college) to Manteo (where he honored Andy Griffith). Every week that the Senate is in session, he hosts Tar Heel Thursday, town-hall style meetings open to all North Carolinians visiting Washington.

Born in 1953, Senator Edwards grew up in Robbins, a small town in the Piedmont. His father, Wallace, worked in textile mills for 36 years. His mother, Bobbie, had a number of jobs including working at the post office.

A product of North Carolina public schools, Senator Edwards was the first person in his family to go to college. He worked his way through North Carolina State University and graduated with an honors degree in textiles in 1974. He earned a law degree with honors in 1977 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He met his wife, Elizabeth, when both were law school students at Chapel Hill. They married in 1977, and have had four children. Their first child, Wade, died in 1996. Their eldest daughter, Catharine, is a 2004 graduate of Princeton University. The Edwards household also includes a six-year-old daughter, Emma Claire, and a four-year-old son, Jack.

BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS:

NAME:	John Edwards
BORN:	June 10, 1953
ELECTED:	November 3, 1998
FAMILY:	Married Elizabeth Anania Edwards in 1977: daughters, Catharine and Emma Claire; sons, Wade (1979-1996) and Jack
RELIGION:	Methodist
EDUCATION:	North Carolina State University BS with honors 1974; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, JD with honors 1977
PARENTS:	Bobbie and Wallace Edwards
RESIDENCE:	Raleigh, NC