

Biography of
THE HONORABLE DAVID WALLACE
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



CO-VICE CHAIR JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE
SENATE DISTRICT 22

Senator Dave Wallace of Leachville represents Senate District 22, which includes all of Mississippi and Poinsett Counties and the southern and eastern parts of Craighead County. He was elected to the Senate in 2016 and was sworn in on the first day of session in 2017.

Senator Wallace is the chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth and the Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Budget Committee. He is a member of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee, the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development Committee, the Senate Ethics Committee and the Legislative Council.

In 2021 Senator Wallace co-sponsored legislation that became the "Justice for Vulnerable Victims of Sexual Abuse Act." The law states that any person can bring a sexual abuse civil suit, no matter when it happened, until the victim reaches the age of fifty-five years old.

Senator Wallace is a past vice chair of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

In 2019, Senator Wallace co-sponsored Act 579, which redefines the scope of practice for optometry to allow optometrists to perform certain procedures that previously could only be done by ophthalmologists, such as injections around the eye, removal of bumps and lesions from the eyelids and certain types of laser surgery.

He was the Senate sponsor of legislation that will replace the two statues from Arkansas in the United States Capitol, with new ones of Daisy Gatson Bates and Johnny Cash.

In 2017, Senator Wallace co-sponsored Acts 78 and 79, which provide more than \$50 million in tax relief to low-income families. He also co-sponsored Act 375 to require new school buses to be equipped with seat belts, if funding is available.

He was the Senate sponsor of Act 50, to shorten the waiting list for treatment and care of developmental disabilities by more than 500 persons.

Senator Wallace was served in the House of Representatives for two years, beginning in 2015.

In 1970 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant from the ROTC program, and for more than 20 years led troops, first as a of Platoon Leader and then as a Company Commander, and finally as a Battalion Commander in Divisions such as The 101st Airborne, First Cavalry Division, the First Infantry Division and the 17th Aviation Group.

During the Vietnam War he was decorated for heroism on seven different occasions while flying Cobra attack helicopters in an Air Cavalry Troop. His helicopter was shot down twice. Senator Wallace was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, an Air Medal for Valor and three Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry.

As a small business owner, Senator Wallace has spent years creating jobs and making a weekly payroll. His company, Wallace Resources, specializes in disaster relief.

Senator Wallace graduated from Leachville High School. He attended Arkansas State University and received a Bachelor of Science in Education. At Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University he received a Business Administration degree.

Senator Wallace was inducted into the Arkansas State University Hall of Heroes in 2010, into the Arkansas Military Veteran's Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame in 2016.

Senator Wallace and his wife, Karen, have two children, Jason and Kelly, and a granddaughter. Karen and he live in Leachville and are members of the Southern Baptist Church.