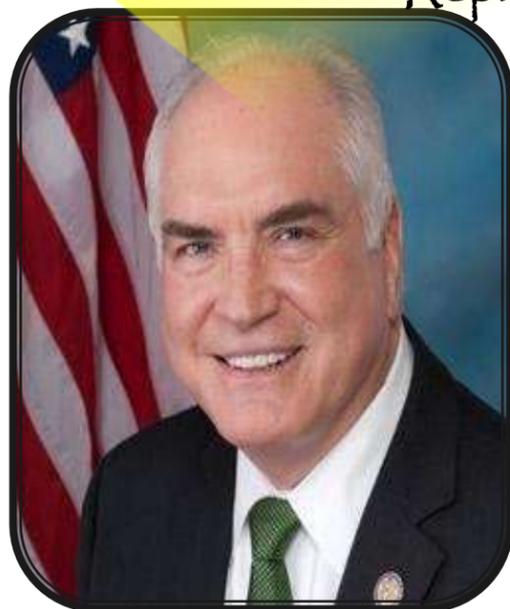


Spotlight Member of Congress

Representative Mike Kelly



Representative Mike Kelly is a Republican from Pennsylvania's 3rd district and is currently in his first term of office. Along with serving on the Education & the Workforce Committee, he also is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Professional

What I Like...

What do you most enjoy about serving in the U.S. Congress?

I most enjoy traveling throughout the Third District, meeting with the people I represent and having the opportunity to hear their thoughts and concerns. As I always say, I'm not Washington's voice in the Third District, I'm the Third District's voice in Washington and I'm there for no other reason than to be the best public servant I can be for the hardworking people of Western Pennsylvania.

One influential person in my career is: My father.

He was one of nine children in a family where everyone had to put in their fair share to get food on the table and keep clothes on their backs. He started his career working as a parts picker in a GM warehouse and then, after he fought in World War II, eventually scraped together enough money to open a one-car dealership. From there he built Kelly Automotive, which I helped run and ultimately purchased from my father in the mid-90s. Anyone who has run a business knows there will be good times and there will be bad times, but my father taught me how to handle both experiences with the type of patience and perseverance that it takes to succeed in business, and in life in general.

Member from the other party that you admire, past or present, and why?

President Kennedy was and remains a hero of mine. I will never forget listening to his inaugural speech and hearing his famous call to action: "Ask not what your country can do for you-- ask what you can do for your country." If every American lived by that one principle alone, we'd be a much stronger nation.

Issue you would most like to be identified with.

The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen, said the greatest threat to our national security is our nation's debt, which now stands at nearly \$16 trillion. I completely agree. We need to get our nation out of this crushing debt so we can grow our economy and start creating jobs for the 13 million Americans who wake up each day without a job to go to. We have one of the lowest labor force participation rates in our nation's history and more and more people are giving up their search for work because they've lost hope that our economy will turn around and employers will start hiring again. We need to restore confidence in our economy and in our government, and that starts with greater fiscal discipline and increased accountability within Washington.

What is the most enjoyable part of working on the Education & the Workforce Committee?

Trying to find solutions to the challenges facing our education system and finding ways to prepare the American workforce to compete and succeed in the 21st century.

Personal

If you weren't in Congress, what would you be doing?

Being the best grandpa I can be to my five grandchildren.

How have you adjusted to living in DC and becoming a Congressman?

I am in Western Pennsylvania every week, so the adjustment hasn't been that great. I surround myself with family and colleagues whom I admire and respect.

Current reading: A Crime So Monstrous by Benjamin Skinner.

It's a book on modern-day slavery and the horrors of human trafficking. It will break your heart but it's so important to understand what's going on so we can work to stop it and stand up for the dignity of every man, woman and child.



His Favorites..

Quote:

"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country"- 1961 Inaugural Speech by President John F. Kennedy.

Vacation spot: *Along the shores of Lake Erie on Presque Isles, located in the northern part of the Third District. It's gorgeous!(picture on bottom left of page)*

Movie: *It's a Wonderful Life*

TV Show: *24*

Music: *Motown*

Teams, Eagles or Steelers? Pirates or Phillies? Steelers. Pirates.

What I Would Like To See.....

More of in Congress: *Bipartisanship*

Less of in congress: *Members of Congress putting their careers before the people they represent*

Change in congress: *We need to have a balanced budget amendment along with spending caps, which I voted for last year.*

BIGGEST ISSUES...

Facing the country: *Debt.*

Facing congress: *The Senate's refusal to pass a budget for more than 1,000 days. It's an utter abdication of the Senate's core legislative responsibilities and it's an outrage that it's gone on this long.*

