JOHN SUNUNU

John Henry Sununu (born July 2, 1939) is a former Governor of New Hampshire (1983-89) and former White House Chief of Staff under President George H. W. Bush. Sununu was born in Havana, Cuba.

He was the first White House Chief of Staff for George H. W. Bush, serving from 1989 to 1991. Sununu was known as an enforcer and was very harsh. He made many enemies from both within and outside the administration and the Republican Party.

From 1968 until 1973, he was Associate Dean of the College of Engineering at Tufts University and Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He served on the Advisory Board of the Technology and Policy Program at MIT from 1984 until 1989.

From 1963 until 1983, he served as President of JHS Engineering Company and Thermal Research Inc. In addition, he helped establish and served as chief engineer for Astro Dynamics Inc. from 1960 until 1965.

Sununu became New Hampshire’s 93rd Governor on January 6, 1983, and served three consecutive terms. He served as chairman of the Coalition of Northeastern Governors, the Republican Governor’s Association, and in 1987, the National Governors’ Association.


Sununu is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a member of the Board of Trustees for the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation. He is married to the former Nancy Hayes, and they have eight children including U.S. Senator John E. Sununu.