

*Performing Arts* Center  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

**MIKE HUCKABEE**

Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee is the host of the number one rated weekend hit *HUCKABEE* on the Fox News Channel and is heard three times daily on ABC Radio Network's *Huckabee Report*, one of the nation's fastest growing radio programs. An author of six books, his most recent work, *Do the Right Thing*, spent its first seven weeks of release in the top ten of the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Spanning a decade (1996-2007), Gov Huckabee served as the 44th Governor of Arkansas and was recognized as a national leader by many leading publications and organizations. *Governing Magazine* named him as one of its 'Public Officials of the Year' for 2005, *Time* magazine honored him as one of the five best governors in America, and in the same year, Huckabee received the American Association of Retired Person's Impact Award. In 2007, he was presented with the Music for Life Award by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) in recognition of his commitment to music education. He served as the Chairman of the prestigious National Governors Association as well as the Education Commission of the States and the Interstate Oil and Gas Commission.

Huckabee was sworn into the governor's office in July of 1996 and became one of the country's youngest governors. He was later elected to two full terms in 1998 and 2002 attracting the largest percentage of the vote ever received by a Republican gubernatorial nominee in Arkansas. Prior to his service as governor, he had been elected lieutenant governor in a 1993 special election and was elected to a full four-year term in 1994.

Gov. Huckabee's surprising campaign for the Republican nomination for President in 2008 resulted in a second place finish to Senator John McCain and established a national following for his conservative principles. Upon the conclusion of the race, Huckabee formed HuckPac to assist like-minded Republicans in their quests for public office. Since its formation, HuckPac has amassed an army of volunteers mobilized in all 50 states.

Huckabee's career before politics was spent as a denominational leader and pastor. He became the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's youngest president and led rapidly growing congregations in Pine Bluff and Texarkana. In multiple interviews, he has cited these early experiences as guides to the deep problems facing individuals and families.

The year of 2003 proved a pivotal year in the life of Gov Huckabee. Diagnosed with Type II diabetes, he undertook a nationally recognized effort to improve his weight and ultimately shed 110 pounds. Within two years, he completed four marathons: The 2005 and 2006 Little Rock

Marathons, the Marine Corps Marathon and the ING New York City Marathon. As a result of his accomplishments, The Road Runners Club of America named him its 'Southern Region Runner of the Year' and USA Track & Field has named him their 'Athlete of the Week' for the country. As a result of his personal experiences and interactions with thousands of individuals, Huckabee began a national emphasis on healthy and improved lifestyles. During this time, he completed his fourth book, *Quit Digging Your Grave With a Knife and Fork*, providing a 12-stop program to manage health through lifestyle change rather than simple diet and exercise.

Huckabee is an avid musician and plays bass guitar in his rock-n-roll band, Capitol Offense. The band has opened for artists such as Willie Nelson and the Charlie Daniels Band, and has played the House of Blues in New Orleans and for two presidential inauguration balls. He and house band, "The Little Rockers," are featured each week in the musical segment of his Fox News Channel program. His hobbies also include hunting and fishing. He was named one of the 25 most influential people for conservation by *Outdoor Life* magazine and was previously American Sportfishing Association's Man of the Year.

He and wife, Janet, live in North Little Rock. They have three grown children: John Mark, David and Sarah.

### **TOM DASCHLE**

Born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, Tom Daschle graduated from South Dakota State University in 1969. Upon graduation, he entered the United States Air Force where he served as an intelligence officer in the Strategic Air Command until mid-1972.

Following completion of his military service, Senator Daschle served on the staff of Senator James Abourezk. In 1978, he was elected to the US House of Representatives where he served for eight years. In 1986, he was elected to the US Senate and eight years later became its Democratic Leader. Senator Daschle is one of the longest serving Senate Democratic Leaders in history and the only one to serve twice as both Majority and Minority Leader. During his tenure, Senator Daschle navigated the Senate through some of its most historic economic and national security challenges. In 2003, he chronicled some of these experiences in his book, *Like No Other Time: The 107<sup>th</sup> Congress and the Two Years That Changed America Forever*.

Today, Senator Daschle is a senior policy advisor to the law firm of DLA Piper where he provides clients with strategic advice on public policy issues such as climate change, energy, health care, trade, financial services and telecommunications. Since leaving the Senate, he has distinguished his expertise in health care through the publication of *Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis* and has emerged as a leading thinker on climate change and renewable energy policy. His most recent book, *Getting it Done: How Obama and Congress Finally Broke the Stalemate to Make Way for Health Care Reform*, was published in October, 2010.

In 2007, he joined with former Majority Leaders George Mitchell, Bob Dole, and Howard Baker to create the Bipartisan Policy Center, an organization dedicated to finding common ground on some

of the pressing public policy challenges of our time. Senator Daschle serves on the board of the Center for American Progress, acts as the vice chair of the National Democratic Institute, and is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations.

He is also a member of the Health Policy and Management Executive Council at the Harvard School of Public Health, in addition to the Global Policy Advisory Council for the Health Worker Migration Initiative. He is a member of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation Board of Trustees, the GE Healthymagination Advisory Board, the National Integrated Foodsystem Advisory Board, and the Committee on Collaborative Initiatives at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition, Senator Daschle's board memberships including the Blue Foundation, the Energy Future Coalition, the Committee to Modernize Voter Registration, the US Global Leadership Coalition Advisory Council, and the Advisory Committee on the Trust for National Mall.

He is married to Linda Hall Daschle and has three children and four grandchildren.