

Tim Wirth

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Timothy Endicott Wirth (born September 22, 1939) is a former United States Senator from Colorado. Wirth, a Democrat, was a member of the House from 1975 to 1987 and was elected to the Senate in 1986, serving one term there before stepping down. Additionally, he served both as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Education for part of the Nixon Administration and later for the Clinton Administration as the first Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs for the U.S. State Department.^[1] In the State Department, he worked with Vice President Al Gore on global environmental and population issues, supporting the administration's views on global warming. A supporter of the proposed Kyoto Protocol, Wirth announced the U.S.'s commitment to legally binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions. From 1998 to 2013, he served as the president of the United Nations Foundation, and currently sits on the Foundation's board.

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Early life Career and Family

Wirth is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, received his B.A. and graduate degree from Harvard University and was awarded a PhD from Stanford University in 1973. He has also served as a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers. Wirth is married to Wren Winslow Wirth, the President of the Winslow Foundation; together they have two children, Chris and Kelsey Wirth. Their

Tim Wirth



Wirth at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, 2011

1st Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs

In office

May 12, 1994 – December 23, 1997

President	Bill Clinton
Preceded by	none
Succeeded by	Frank E. Loy

United States Senator from Colorado

In office

January 3, 1987 – January 3, 1993

Preceded by	Gary Hart
Succeeded by	Ben Nighthorse Campbell

Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Colorado's 2nd district

In office

daughter, Kelsey Wirth, is the co-founder of the orthodontic production company Align Technology, makers of Invisalign [1] (<http://www.activistcash.com/biography.cfm/bid/2828>) and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Grist Magazine, The Environmental Working Group and the Winslow Foundation. Their son, Chris Wirth, is founder of Liberty Puzzles, the largest American laser-cut jigsaw puzzle company, based in Boulder, Colorado. His nephew, Peter Wirth, was elected in 2004 to the New Mexico State Legislature. His brother, the late John Wirth, was the Gildred Professor of Latin American Studies at Stanford University.

Political career

Wirth began his political career as a White House Fellow under President Lyndon Johnson and was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Education in the Nixon Administration. In 1970, Wirth returned to Colorado and ran successfully for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974, unseating incumbent Republican Donald G. Brotzman by a 52% to 48% margin. He represented Boulder and the Denver suburbs in Congress from 1975–1987. As a first term Congressman, Wirth organized the “Freshman Revolt” in 1975 unseating a handful of "old bull" committee chairmen, and encouraging others to be more inclusive. Wirth had a number of difficult reelections during his 12 years in Congress, and raised large sums of money to get reelected. With colleagues Norman Mineta, Leon Panetta and Dick Gephardt, he was part of “The Gang of Four” on the House Budget Committee challenging the budget process with bipartisan budget ideas, and developing a high technology and alternative budget in 1982. As Chair of the Telecommunications Subcommittee, he was the lead legislator in bringing competition to the video and telephone industries. Wirth also authored the Indian Peaks Wilderness Act of 1978.

In 1986, Wirth ran for the U.S. Senate and on his party's nomination unopposed to replace Sen. Gary Hart. The general election was more difficult than expected, and he defeated fellow U.S. Representative Ken Kramer by a narrow margin. In the Senate, he focused on environmental issues, particularly global climate change and population stabilization. In 1988, he organized the historic Hansen hearings on climate change. Wirth in an interview to PBS, admitted to staging the hearing by intentionally scheduling it on the historically hottest day of the summer and opening the windows to the hearing room the night before so the air conditioning would not be working.^[2] With his close friend, the late Senator John Heinz (R-PA), he authored “Project 88”, outlining the groundbreaking “Cap and Trade” idea which became law in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. He authored the far-reaching Colorado Wilderness Bill which became law in 1993, and with Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY) he authored major legislation focused on population stabilization. Wirth also organized the Senate Task Force on the Expansion of Major League Baseball, which became a major factor in the awarding of a new expansion franchise to Denver. He chose not to run for re-election in 1992, citing in a front page cover story in the Sunday New York Times Magazine (August 9, 1992), frustration with the ever increasing role of money in politics to the exclusion of focus on public policy.

January 3, 1975 – January 3, 1987	
Preceded by	Donald G. Brotzman
Succeeded by	David Skaggs
Personal details	
Born	Timothy Endicott Wirth September 22, 1939 Santa Fe, New Mexico
Political party	Democratic
Spouse(s)	Wren Winslow Wirth
Children	2
Alma mater	Harvard University Stanford University
Military service	
Service/branch	United States Army
Years of service	1961–1967
Unit	Reserves

After Congressional Service

Following two decades of elected politics, Wirth was national Co-chair of the Clinton-Gore campaign, and served in the U.S. Department of State as the first Undersecretary for Global Affairs from 1993 to 1997. He led U.S. foreign policy in the areas of refugees, population, environment, science, human rights and narcotics. He chaired the United States Delegation at the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development, and was the lead U.S. negotiator for the Kyoto Climate Conference until he resigned from the Administration in late 1997 to accept Ted Turner's invitation to be President of the newly created United Nations Foundation. As President of the UN Foundation (UNF) from 1998 to 2013, Wirth organized and led the formulation of the Foundation's mission and program priorities, which include the environment, women and population, children's health, and peace, security and human rights. The Foundation also engages in extensive public advocacy, fundraising, and institutional strengthening efforts on behalf of the United Nations. By mobilizing these diverse resources, the UN Foundation works with many public and private partners and manages a variety of campaigns to help solve major problems facing the UN and the world community.^[3]

Work with the United Nations Foundation

- Mobilizing resources in support of the eradication of polio with Rotary International, the Gates Foundation, and the World Bank;
- Initiating a global campaign to diminish the impact of measles with the American Red Cross, the Centers for Disease Control and UN Agencies;
- Stimulating a nationwide grassroots program for the purchase of anti-malaria bed nets ("Nothing But Nets") with many partners (including the World Health Organization and the National Basketball Association);
- Organizing support for the special needs of adolescent girls within the UN and many private sector partners with Nike and lead UN Agencies;
- Supporting the United Nations Population Fund, and working with Congress to increase U.S. funding and bring greater focus to AIDS prevention;
- Developing standards for better managing tourism's impact on the environment and contribution to climate change in close partnership with UNESCO and with Expedia and other industry leaders;
- Leading work to develop the UN framework for the post-Kyoto climate negotiations through a close partnership with the UN's leadership and retired heads of State throughout the world (The Club of Madrid);
- Managing a public-private effort with major segments of the agriculture community and UN agencies for better understanding of the promise, challenge and economics of bioenergy; and
- Advancing aggressive standards for energy efficiency in the U.S. and abroad with the U.S.-centered Energy Future Coalition.

The University of Colorado at Denver currently has an endowed Tim Wirth Chair in Environmental and Community Development Policy. The current holder of the chair is the man Wirth replaced in the Senate, Gary Hart.

See also

- Atari Democrat

References

1.

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http://www.unfoundation.org/who-we-are/board/timothy-e-wirth.html

United Nations Foundation biography

2.

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Wirth, Timothy (January 17, 2007). *Hot Politics* (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/hotpolitics/interviews/wirth.html). (Interview). Frontline. Retrieved 2012-08-18.

3.

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UN Foundation Bio (http://www.unfoundation.org/who-we-are/board/timothy-e-wirth.html)

- Tim Wirth (http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=W000647) at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*

External links

- Wirth Leaves State Department for Foundation (http://www.npg.org/newsltr/winter97_lo.htm#Tim%20Wirth)
- United Nations Foundation (http://www.unfoundation.org)

United States House of Representatives		
Preceded by Donald G. Brotzman	Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Colorado's 2nd congressional district 1975–1987	Succeeded by David Skaggs
United States Senate		
Preceded by Gary Hart	U.S. Senator (Class 3) from Colorado 1987–1993 Served alongside: William L. Armstrong, Hank Brown	Succeeded by Ben Nighthorse Campbell

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| Democratic Party members of the United States House of Representatives

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