



Joe Hackney

Speaker

North Carolina House of Representatives

Personal

- Born September 23, 1945, in Chatham County, N.C., youngest of five children
- Grew up on small dairy farm near Silk Hope in Chatham County.
- Married to Betsy Strandberg of Rocky Mount, N.C. They have two adult children: Dan, a software engineer in Charlottesville, Va.; and Will, a small-business owner and musician in Chapel Hill, N.C.
- Lives with family in southern Orange County near the Chatham County line
- Operates family beef cattle farm in Chatham County with brother, Jack Hackney
- Great-great-grandson of Daniel Hackney, who represented Chatham County in the North Carolina House of Commons in the 1840's and 1850's
- Has travelled widely in Europe, Japan, India, Nepal, Mexico, Argentina, the Caribbean, Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand, Italy, South Africa, China, Tanzania, and in the United States

Education

- Graduated from University of North Carolina Law School in 1970 with J.D. degree
- Attended University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1964-67; Graduated with A.B. in Political Science (with Honors); Wrote honors thesis on the history of the North Carolina corrections system.
- Attended North Carolina State University, 1963-64

- Graduated from Silk Hope High School in 1963. Awarded State Farmer Degree by Future Farmers of America (FFA) in 1962.

Professional

- Partner, Chapel Hill law firm of Epting & Hackney, 1974-present; currently emphasizing civil litigation and domestic relations
- Assistant District Attorney, Orange and Chatham counties, 1971-74
- Research Assistant/Law Clerk to Associate Justice Frank Huskins, 1970-71
- State Government Intern, Summer 1966
- Former president of Orange County Bar Association and District Bar of 15-B
- Lectured at many legal educational seminars on family law, legislative changes, and other topics

Political

- Lifelong active Democrat
- Campaign manager, Congressman Ike Andrews, 1974 primary campaign
- Member, Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, 1992-present
- Keynote speaker, Orange County Democratic Convention, Chatham County Democratic Convention
- Delegate to the 2004, 2008 National Democratic Conventions

Legislative

- Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives, 2007-present
- House Majority Leader, 2005-2006 session
- House Democratic Leader, 2003-2004 session
- Speaker Pro Tempore 1999-2000 Session, 2001-2002 Session
- First elected to House of Representatives in 1980. Currently serving 15th term
- Consistently rated in top ten for effectiveness (out of 120) by peers in North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research survey, when House is in Democratic control.
- Immediate Past President of National Conference of State Legislatures; president, 2008-09; vice president, 2007-08.
- Former chair of National Conference of State Legislatures Environment Committee
- Former co-chair of National Caucus of Environmental Legislators
- Former chair of Southern Legislative Conference Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

- Former chair of N.C. House committees on Judiciary, Energy, Water & Air, Finance (co-chair)
- Also served on committees on Appropriations, Environment and Natural Resources, Rules and Operations of the House (vice-chair)
- Past co-chair with Senator Russell Walker of the Environmental Review Commission, the legislative oversight commission for environmental matters
- Sponsored many pieces of significant legislation, including:
 - Phosphate detergent ban
 - Ethics reform in 2006, which established a State Ethics Commission and strengthened lobbying and financial disclosure laws
 - Waste Management Act of 1989, which established an aggressive policy on reducing solid waste in North Carolina
 - .08 DWI bill, lowering the permissible level of blood alcohol for drivers. Also sponsored DWI reform bills with vehicle seizure and forfeiture provisions.
 - Taxpayer Bill of Rights, giving additional protections to taxpayers dealing with the N.C. Department of Revenue
 - Domestic relations reform measures, including bills to streamline procedures for equitable distribution, alimony and divorce

Awards

- Distinguished Service Award, North Carolina State Veterans Council, 2008
- Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award, National Conference of State Legislatures and State Legislative Leadership Foundation, 2007, for championing ethics legislation
- Jane Sharpe Lifetime Award, Conservation Council of North Carolina, 2007
- Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, 2007
- 4-H North Carolina Alumni Award, 2007
- Award of Appreciation, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, North Carolina, 2007
- Political Leader of the Year, Carolina Recycling Association, 2006
- Centennial Award, jointly by the North Carolina Bar Association and the District 15B Bar, for “Outstanding and Exemplary Community Service,” 2005
- Plott Hound Award, North Carolina Coalition for Lobbying Reform, for “Courage in Government,” 2005
- Public Service Award, Child Care Services Association, 2003
- Friend of Education Award, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Association of Educators, 1999
- Governor's Award as Legislator of the Year, North Carolina Wildlife Federation, 1998
- Certificate of Commendation, by the North Carolina Psychiatric Association, 1997
- Distinguished Service Award, Family Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association, 1996

- Legislator of the Year, North Carolina Citizen Action, 1996, for “outstanding leadership and dedication to the fair protection of North Carolina families, workers and environment”
- Appreciation Award, North Carolina Property Mappers Association, 1993
- Jake Alexander Public Service Award, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Students Against Driving Drunk, and the Governor's Highway Safety Program, 1993
- Service Award, Environmental Quality and Natural Resources Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference, 1991
- Recycling Merit Award, North Carolina Recycling Association, 1991
- Appreciation Award, Chatham County Advisory Council of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, 1990
- "Best Bets For 1990", by the Center For Policy Alternatives, Sustainable Growth Program, 1990, "For Leadership in Reducing Environmental Hazards by Sponsoring Legislation to Establish Free Disposal Sites for Used Tires"
- Legislative Award, North Carolina Chapter, American Planning Association, 1989
- Legislative Award, N.C. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the N.C. Pediatric Society, 1989
- Service Award, Joint Orange Chatham Community Action, Inc. Board of Directors, 1988
- Service Award, North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, 1988
- Triangle Conservation Award, Triangle Land Conservancy, 1987
- Consumer Advocate of the Year, North Carolina Consumers Council, 1987
- Honorary Citizenship of the City of Raleigh, by Mayor Avery Upchurch, in 1987, for efforts in the passage of the phosphate detergent limitation
- Resolution of Appreciation, Governor's Crime Commission, 1987
- Service Award, Orange-Chatham Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- Distinguished Service Award, Research Triangle Group of the Sierra Club, 1986
- Award of Excellence, Triangle J Council of Governments, 1985
- Governor's Award as Legislator of the Year, North Carolina Wildlife Federation, 1985
- Distinguished Service Award, Family Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association, 1981

Miscellaneous

- Participant in many legislative seminars and educational forums, including "Restructuring America: The Challenge of Defense Conversion" at the University of California at Santa Barbara October, 1993, sponsored by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation; the Eighth Annual New York Conference on Solid Waste and Materials Policy, in New York, New York in January, 1992; and "Turning The Tide: Legislative Remedies For Troubled Waters", a conference on Water Quality Management in Puget Sound and other estuarine areas, Seattle, Washington, in December, 1989; 44th Annual Conference, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Wellington, New Zealand, October, 1998; "Criminal Justice Reform: Making Sure

the Guilty are Convicted and the Innocent Are Not" at the University of Chicago in June, 2004, sponsored by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation.

- Study Tour Participant, Use Of Public-Private Partnerships in Environmental Protection and Biotechnology, in Tokyo and Sapporo, Japan, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Agency and the US-Japan Foundation, May, 1991; Study of the Community Corrections Systems in Minnesota and Iowa, sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures, September, 1985; Meeting with Latin American Legislators, sponsored by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in February, 2004, and again in Mexico City, Mexico, in March, 2005.

Personal Interests

- Hiking
- Beef Cattle and Hay
- Genealogy
- College Basketball
- Travel
- Skiing

Contact Information

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