Ray Mabus

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Raymond Edwin "Ray" Mabus, Jr. (born October 11, 1948) is the 75th United States Secretary of the Navy. Mabus served as the 60th Governor of the U.S. state of Mississippi from 1988 to 1992 and as United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia from 1994 to 1996.

Contents

- 1 Early life
- 2 Political career
 - 2.1 Mississippi State Auditor
 - 2.2 Governor of Mississippi
 - 2.3 Ambassador to Saudi Arabia
- 3 Business ventures
- 4 Secretary of the Navy
- 5 Awards, honors, community service
- 6 Personal life
- 7 References
- 8 External links

Early life

Mabus was born in Starkville and is a fourth-generation Mississippian; he grew up in Ackerman, the only child of the owner of the local hardware store. After attending public schools, he graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Mississippi, where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi, with a B.A. in English and political science. He earned an M.A. in political science from Johns Hopkins University and a Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. He also served two years in the Navy as a surface warfare officer from 1970 to 1972 aboard the cruiser USS *Little Rock*, [1] and worked as a law clerk in the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Political career

Mabus began his professional career working in Washington as legal counsel to the U.S. House Agriculture Committee. Following the election of Governor William Winter, he returned to Mississippi to work in the governor's office, where the youthful staff—which included Mabus, Dick Molpus, John

Ray Mabus



75th United States Secretary of the Navy

Incumbent

Assumed office

June 18, 2009

President Barack Obama

Preceded by Donald C. Winter

22nd United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

In office

July 5, 1994 - April 25, 1996

President Bill Clinton

Preceded by Charles W. Freeman, Jr.

Succeeded by Wyche Fowler

60th Governor of Mississippi

In office

January 12, 1988 – January 14, 1992

Lieutenant Brad Dye

Preceded by William Allain

Succeeded by Kirk Fordice

37th State Auditor of Mississippi

In office 1984–1988

Preceded by Hamp King

Succeeded by Pete Johnson

Henegan and Andy Mullins— earned the nickname "Boys of Spring" from a rival state legislator.^[2]

Mississippi State Auditor

In 1983, Mabus was elected state auditor and served from 1984 to 1988, during which time he participated in a large FBI sting operation which recovered millions in misspent or stolen public funds.^[3] By the time it was finished, "Operation Pretense" ensnared 57 county supervisors in 25 counties, and all but two supervisors served time in prison.^[4]

Governor of Mississippi

In 1987, he defeated Tupelo businessman Jack Reed in the gubernatorial election by 53% to 47%,^[5] becoming the youngest governor in the nation at the time. Mabus, who ran on the slogan "Mississippi Will Never Be Last Again,"^[6] was billed as "the face of the New South," much like his counterpart in Arkansas at the time, Bill Clinton. Mabus was featured in a 1988 *New York Times Magazine* cover story titled "The Yuppies of Mississippi; How They Took Over the Statehouse" which chronicled his challenges and successes.^[7]

During his time as governor, he passed B.E.S.T. (Better Education for Success Tomorrow),^[8] gave teachers the largest pay raise in the nation;^[9] and was named one of *Fortune Magazine*'s ten "education governors".^[10] Mississippi also had record growth in new jobs, investment, tourism and exports.^[citation needed]

Because of the gubernatorial succession amendment ratified in 1987, Mabus was eligible to become the first governor to serve two successive terms in more than 100 years, and he ran for reelection in 1991. He was narrowly defeated in the general election by Republican Kirk Fordice. [11]

Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

Mabus was appointed by President Bill Clinton to be the United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and served from 1994 to 1996. During his tenure, a 1994 border crisis involving Yemen was defused, ^[12] a 1994 crisis with Iraq was deterred, ^[13] presided over the embassy during the 1995 terrorist attack, ^[14] child abduction cases were addressed, ^[15] and contracts worth more than \$16 billion were signed between Saudi Arabian and American companies such as Boeing, ^[16] and AT&T. ^[17]

Mabus' residence and embassy office in Riyadh were decorated with items of interest from his home state including an Ackerman phone book on his office coffee table and the Mississippi flag next to the American flag. [citation needed]

Business ventures

In August 2007, he joined the board of Enersys, the world's largest manufacturer, marketer and distributor of industrial batteries. [18] From 2006-April 2007, he was Chairman and CEO of Foamex International and helped lead it out of bankruptcy. [citation needed] Less than nine months after his appointment, Foamex emerged from

Personal details October 11, 1948 Born Starkville, Mississippi Political party Democratic Spouse(s) Lynne Mabus Methodist Religion Military service Service/branch United States Navy Years of service 1970-1972 Rank Lieutenant (junior grade) Unit USS Little Rock (CG-4)

Chapter 11.^[19]

Secretary of the Navy

On March 27, 2009, Mabus was nominated by President Obama as Secretary of the Department of the Navy. [20] He was informally sworn in on May 19, 2009, [21] however it was not until an official ceremony at Washington Navy Yard on June 18, 2009 that Mabus was officially sworn in by the Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. [22][23][24][25] In April 2010 a furor arose when it was reported that Mabus made the controversial proposal to name a United States Navy warship after the late Pennsylvania Democrat, John Murtha. Additional naming controversies occurred due to the naming of auxiliary ship after Cesar Chavez, [26] and a corvette/littoral combat ship after Gabrielle Giffords. [27] Secretary Mabus has a presence on Facebook and frequently comments about his daily activities. This is the first case of a branch secretary maintaining a web presence. [citation needed]



Mabus meeting with President Obama in the Oval Office, June 2010.

President Obama has asked him to develop a long-term Gulf Coast Restoration Plan as soon as possible. The plan will be designed by states, local communities, tribes, fishermen, businesses, conservationists and other Gulf residents". [28]

Awards, honors, community service

Mabus has been awarded the U.S. Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award, the U.S. Army's Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Martin Luther King Social Responsibility Award from the King Center in Atlanta, the National Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Award, the King Abdul Aziz Award from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Mississippi Association of Educators' Friend of Education Award.

He is active in many community activities, primarily focusing on education. Following Hurricane Katrina, he founded the *Help and Hope Foundation*, which works to meet the needs of children affected by the storm.

He is a former member of the RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy^[29] and the Council on Foreign Relations, and is the Distinguished Lecturer on the Middle East at the University of Mississippi.

As a photographer, his photographs have raised tens of thousands of dollars for various Mississippi charities.

He has appeared on many television programs as an expert on the Middle East, including "60 Minutes" and "Nightline".

In 2009, Mabus made a cameo appearance on the US drama NCIS as an NCIS Agent named "Ray". [30]

Personal life

Mabus has two daughters, Elisabeth and Annie, with his first wife.

In 1998, Mabus secretly tape recorded conversations he had with his then-wife Julie and a mutual friend (a priest) in attempts to resolve marital difficulties. The conversations provided a basis for Mabus to obtain sole

legal custody of the children from that marriage. Julie (now Hines) filed suit against the reverend, his church, and the diocese. The case was the focus of media attention for issues raised relating to privacy rights in the context of churches. Mabus's actions in the incident were legal and he was not named in the suit. [31]

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	Political offices	
Preceded by Hamp King	State Auditor of Mississippi 1984–1988	Succeeded by Pete Johnson
Preceded by William Allain	Governor of Mississippi 1988–1992	Succeeded by Kirk Fordice
	Diplomatic posts	
Preceded by Charles W. Freeman, Jr.	United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia 1994–1996	Succeeded by Wyche Fowler, Jr.
	Government offices	

Preceded by Donald C. Winter	United States Secretary of the Navy 2009–present	Incumbent
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Johns Hopkins University alumn	i Living people State Auditors of Mississi	ppi
Ambassadors of the United State	s to Saudi Arabia United States Navy office	ers
United States Secretaries of the 1	Navy University of Mississippi alumni Mi	ssissippi Democrats
People from Starkville, Mississip	ppi	

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