



FRED & PAMELA  
**BUFFETT CANCER CENTER**

## Bio – Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., represented Delaware for 36 years in the U.S. Senate before becoming the 47th vice president of the United States.

Biden was born Nov. 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pa., the first of four siblings. In 1953, the Biden family moved from Pennsylvania to Claymont, Del. He graduated from the University of Delaware and Syracuse Law School and served on the New Castle County Council. Then, at age 29, he became one of the youngest people ever elected to the United States Senate.

Just weeks after the election, tragedy struck the Biden family when Biden's wife, Neilia, and their 1-year-old daughter, Naomi, were killed and their two young sons critically injured in an auto accident. Biden was sworn into the U.S. Senate at his sons' hospital bedside and began commuting to Washington every day by train, a practice he maintained throughout his career in the Senate.



In 1977, he married Jill Jacobs. Jill Biden, who holds a Ph.D. in education, is a lifelong educator. His son, Beau, was Delaware's attorney general from 2007-2015 and a major in the 261st Signal Brigade of the Delaware National Guard. He was deployed to Iraq in 2008-2009.

Beau died in 2015 after battling brain cancer with the same integrity, courage, and strength he demonstrated every day of his life. Biden's other son, Hunter, is an attorney, and his daughter Ashley is a social worker. Biden has five grandchildren: Naomi, Finnegan, Roberta Mabel ("Maisy"), Natalie, and Robert Hunter.

As a senator from Delaware for 36 years, Biden established himself as a leader in facing some of our nation's most important domestic and international challenges. As chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years, then-Senator Biden was widely recognized for his work on criminal justice issues, including the landmark 1994 Crime Act and the Violence Against Women Act. As chairman or ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 12 years, then-Senator Biden played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. foreign policy. He has been at the forefront of issues and legislation related to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, post-Cold War Europe, the Middle East, and Southwest Asia.

As the 47th vice president of the United States, Biden continued his leadership on important issues facing the nation and represented the country abroad traveling over 1.2 million miles to more than 50 countries. He has convened sessions of the President's Cabinet, led interagency efforts, and worked with Congress in his fight to raise the living standards of middle class Americans, reduce gun violence, address violence against women, and end cancer as we know it. Biden led the White House Cancer Moonshot to enhance cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care and is now launching his own Biden Cancer Initiative.