

## The Honorable John H. Hager



### **Former Lieutenant Governor of Virginia (1998-2002) and an assistant secretary within the U.S. Dept. of Education (2004-2007)**

*The Honorable John H. Hager* graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and from Harvard University with a master's degree in business administration. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves.

A business executive who started at the bottom of the career ladder, he rose quickly through the ranks of The American Tobacco Company to the position of executive vice president. After a near-fatal bout with polio, he rebuilt his life and his career. He continued to work for the company in several capacities and retired as senior vice president for leaf and specialty products when the corporation was sold in 1994. During this time, he expanded his service role across Virginia and led some 30 civic, charity and community organizations.

Mr. Hager was elected lieutenant governor of Virginia in 1997. During four years in that office, he was a strong proponent of better education, improved transportation and a more effective and efficient system of governance. He became the director of homeland security for Virginia from 2001 through 2004. In 2004 he was appointed U. S. assistant secretary for special education and rehabilitative services and served until July 2007 when he was elected chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia to complete the unexpired term of Ed Gillespie.

He now serves as past chairman of the Sorensen Institute, chairman of Virginia Navigator, The Greater Richmond Convention Center and The National Council at Stratford Hall along with service on several nonprofit Boards.

He has been married to the former Margaret Dickinson Chase for 48 years and they have two married sons, Jack and Henry and five grandchildren. They continue to travel around Virginia for community and political activities.

John has been recognized by Purdue University on several occasions including the Distinguished Citizens Award and Engineering and Mechanical Engineering Awards. In 2012 he was named a laureate in the Richmond Business Hall of Fame. He was also recognized by the Virginia General Assembly and was awarded Virginia's Outstanding Citizen award. Easter Seals conferred the national Johanna Plaut Award for community leaders.