

BILL SARPALIUS
2016

Bill Sarpalius was born on January 10, 1948 and is a former Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives, who represented Texas' large 13th congressional district from 1989 to 1995, which includes the Texas Panhandle eastward to Wichita Falls, Texas.

As a young boy, he and his two younger brothers, and their mother, "Honey," were homeless in Houston, Texas. Honey was a suicidal alcoholic. During this time, Bill was hospitalized due to polio, which he subsequently overcame. In 1960, when he was thirteen, he and his brothers were removed from his mother's care and placed at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch near Amarillo, TX. When he got to Boys Ranch, Bill could not read or write.

By age nineteen, and after many years of trials and tribulations at Boys Ranch, Sarpalius was elected state president of the Future Farmers of America. He first attended Clarendon College in Clarendon, TX. He subsequently received a Bachelor of Science degree in agribusiness from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX and was later named a distinguished alumnus.

In 1972, Sarpalius was hired by Cal Farley's Boys Ranch as a vocational agriculture teacher. In 1975, Honey committed suicide. In 1978, he left Boys Ranch to return to school and received an M.B.A. from West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas. He then started a career in agribusiness.

In 1980, Sarpalius successfully ran for a seat in the Texas State Senate and served until 1989. He was then elected to the United States House of Representatives, where he served as a member of the Agricultural Committee. While in Congress, Bill, as a Lithuanian-American, became deeply involved in the movement for independence of Lithuania and other Baltic states from the Soviet Union that ultimately led to the fall of communism. For his service and efforts in this regard, he was awarded the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas by the President of Lithuania in 1988.

In 1994, Sarpalius was one of a large number of Democrats unseated in the Republican Revolution. Afterwards, he was appointed by U.S. President Bill Clinton as a top official in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bill currently travels as a professional speaker and is the chief executive officer of Advantage Associates International, a Washington consulting firm comprised of former elected officials. He has a son, David Sarpalius, from a former marriage. He is married to Jenny Barnett-Sarpalius, his wife for over eleven years.