

DAVID BENDER

For the past three years, David Bender has been an on-air host on Air America Radio, conducting interviews with some of the nation's top political figures ranging from Al Gore, Jimmy Carter, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and Ted Kennedy to activists and artists like Gore Vidal, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Harry Belafonte, Whoopi Goldberg and Michael Moore.

Bender's four-decade career as a political activist began at the age of twelve when he took a "leave of absence" from the 7th grade to become a full-time volunteer in the presidential campaign of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. He was present on June 4, 1968 when Kennedy was assassinated at the Ambassador Hotel after claiming victory in the California primary.

As a young adult, Bender became an aide to the legendary liberal activist Allard K. Lowenstein, the former New York congressman who was also a pivotal figure in the civil rights movement and later in the anti-Vietnam War movement.

In the early eighties, David Bender was one of the first field organizers for the Human Rights Campaign Fund (now HRC), the national political action committee of the gay and lesbian community. Later, he served on the board of GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

David Bender has also been deeply involved in both the television and music industries, serving first as a senior executive in the production company of musician Stephen Stills and later, as vice president of Tom and Roseanne Arnold's television production unit. In 1992, after Bill Clinton's election, Bender worked with the Democratic National Committee as a liaison to the entertainment community.

When the late John Kennedy launched George magazine in 1995, he chose David Bender as its first West Coast contributing editor. Citing Bender's more than thirty years of experience in politics, government and entertainment, Kennedy said, "As long as I've known David Bender, he has been involved in public issues. I think what he's been able to do, rather uniquely, is kind of meld a lot of different worlds and channel them into public issues, whether it be Washington, New York or Los Angeles - particularly within the entertainment industry. I can't really think of anyone who has done it longer or as well as he."

In 2003, David Bender returned to politics as a senior advisor in the presidential campaign of Vermont Governor Howard Dean before joining Air America Radio as its political director during the 2004 election.

David Bender is also the author or co-author of four books, including "Stand and Be Counted," a chronicle of artist activism in the music industry, written with musician David Crosby and "Merv: Making the Good Life Last," with television icon Merv Griffin.