**CIA Director Gina Haspel’s Impressive Career**

Director Haspel was born in Ashland, in Boyd County, in 1951. Service ran deep in her family, and she grew up around the world thanks to her father’s service in the Air Force. She returned home for college, first at the University of Kentucky, and then at the University of Louisville.

After college, Director Haspel worked as a contractor for the Department of Defense before applying to be a clandestine operations officer with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)—a spy. Instead of settling down and seeking a comfortable life, she put the country above herself, and committed to a life of service. As the Chairman Emeritus of the House Appropriations Committee, I’ve interacted with many of these CIA professionals, and their commitment to serving the ideals of our country is unquestionable.

In the years before Director Haspel was named CIA Deputy Director, she held a number of difficult and challenging posts around the globe. She served in Africa and Europe, participated in humanitarian work during the Gulf War, and has been a Chief of Station in an allied country. She was also the Deputy Director of the National Clandestine Service. We also know that she was a Chief of a so-called black site, collecting intelligence after our country was attacked on 9/11.

It is important to note that, until she entered public life in 2017, it was unlikely that anyone but Director Haspel’s closest confidants had any idea how she made a living. She would not have been able to share her successes with friends, nor seek comfort in others with her failures. She understood these sacrifices, and has served with distinction since she first entered the CIA in 1985. I know that she will make our country—and our commonwealth—proud, as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.