
Previously, his father, Philip L. Graham, served as publisher of the newspaper and president of The Washington Post Company. His mother, Katharine Graham, served in a variety of executive positions. Eugene Meyer, Graham’s grandfather, purchased the Post in 1933.

After graduating from Harvard College, where he was president of the Harvard Crimson, Graham was drafted and served as an information specialist with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He was a patrolman with the Washington Metropolitan Police Department from January 1969 to June 1970. Graham joined The Washington Post in 1971 as a reporter and subsequently held several news and business positions at the newspaper and at Newsweek. He was named executive vice president and general manager of the newspaper in 1976. Graham was elected a director of The Washington Post Company in 1974 and served as president from May 1991 to September 1993.

Graham is co-founder and chairman of the District of Columbia College Access Program (DC-CAP), a private foundation that has helped more than 13,000 D.C. public school students enroll in college and has provided scholarships totaling more than $18 million. He is co-founder of TheDream.US, a national scholarship fund for DREAMers, created to help immigrant youth get a college education.

Graham is a trustee of the Federal City Council and of the Philip L. Graham Fund, which was established in 1963 in memory of his father. He is also a director and member of the compensation committee of Facebook, The Summit Fund of Washington, the College Success Foundation and KIPP-DC. Previously, he was a member of the Pulitzer Prize Board.