

**RICHARD A. BAKER** has directed the U.S. Senate Historical Office since its creation in 1975. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland and master's degrees from Columbia University and Michigan State University. Baker has taught courses in congressional history for Cornell University and the University of Maryland. Before joining the Senate's staff, he served as a specialist in American history at the Library of Congress. He is the author of many articles related to Senate history and several books, including a biography of New Mexico Senator Clinton Anderson and a one-volume history of the Senate. An occasional guest on C-SPAN, Baker most recently assisted that network with its 25th anniversary special programming on the history of the Capitol. He also served on the content development team for the exhibition gallery of the Capitol Visitor Center.



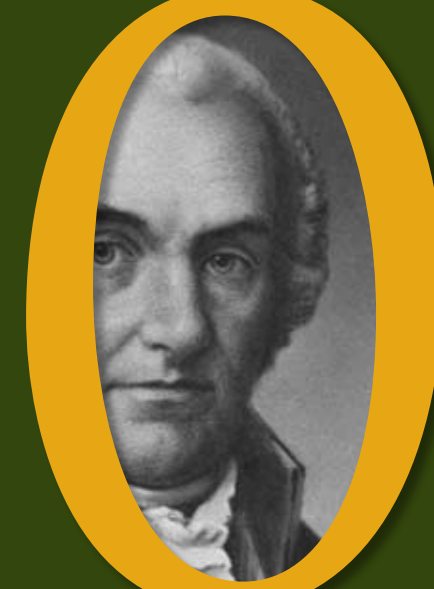
*From the well-known and notorious, to the unusual and even whimsical, these stories are presented to enlighten, inspire, amuse, and inform.*

*Cover illustration: Oliver Ellsworth, senator from Connecticut (1789-1796)*



200 NOTABLE DAYS SENATE STORIES • 1787 TO 2002

# 200



## NOTABLE DAYS

SENATE STORIES • 1787 TO 2002

The United States Senate has inspired thousands of colorful stories. From the first discussions at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 down to our own times, the “World’s Greatest Deliberative Body” has actively engaged storytellers. Many of those storytellers have been among the nearly 1,900 Americans who have represented the nation’s 50 states in the Senate. Rarely have senators been without a rich supply of anecdotes to enlighten family, friends, and constituents. The flood of Senate stories broadens to include those of journalists, gathering them to season their reporting, and of scholars, mining old documents to enliven accounts of bygone times.

Over the past 30 years, drawing from these and other sources, Senate Historian Richard A. Baker has prepared historical narratives to inform senators, staff, constituents, and others who are curious about the traditions, personalities, and legislative landmarks of the Senate. For this book, he has reshaped 200 of those stories into brief sketches to accommodate those who have a strong interest in the subject but lack the time to explore extended historical essays.

There are stories reflecting all areas of Senate activity, from its important constitutional prerogatives—such as confirmation of presidential nominations—to historical milestones of decidedly less importance. An example of the latter occurred in 1930 as senators confronted the choice of continuing with traditional operator-assisted telephones or accepting a daunting new product of communications technology—the dial phone.

From the well-known and notorious, to the unusual and even whimsical, these stories are presented to enlighten, inspire, amuse, and inform. Each story amplifies the narratives that precede and follow it. Read collectively, they provide clear impressions about the forces, events, and personalities that have shaped the Senate of the 21st century.