



JOHN C. STENNIS
of Mississippi

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John C. Stennis, Democrat from Mississippi, served as chairman from 1987 to 1989. He was a member of the committee for 34 years from 1955 to 1989.

Born in Kemper County, MS, on August 3, 1901, Stennis graduated from Mississippi State University in 1923 and received his law degree from the University of Virginia Law School in 1928. That same year, he gained admission to the bar and won election to the State house of representatives. From 1932 to 1937, he served as district prosecuting attorney and then for 10 years, from 1937 to 1947, as circuit judge. In 1947 Stennis won election to the U.S. Senate to fill a vacancy and served for the next 41 years until his retirement in 1989. He chaired the Armed Services Committee for 11 years, from 1969 to 1980, and was President pro tempore of the Senate from 1987 to 1989. After his retirement from the Senate, Stennis moved to the Mississippi State University campus in Starkville, which also is the home of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government and the Stennis Center for Public Service. He died April 23, 1995.

For further reading: Downs, Michael Scott. "Advice and Consent: John Stennis and the Vietnam War, 1954-1973." *Journal of Mississippi History* 55 (May 1993).

Garraty, John A. and Mark C. Carnes, eds. *American National Biography*. New York, 1999. Vol. 20.