



★ PART TWO ★

Current Women Members



★ INTRODUCTION TO ★

Current Members' Profiles

IN THE 90 YEARS SINCE REPRESENTATIVE Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress, a total of 229 women have served in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Many themes central to the larger saga of American democracy resonate in the history of women in Congress: pioneering spirit, struggle, perseverance, gradual attainment of power, advancement through unity, and outstanding achievement.

The legacy of that dynamic history serves as prologue to the 84 women who now serve in the 109th Congress (2005–2007). The 67 Representatives, three Delegates, and 14 Senators constitute the largest group of women to serve in the history of the institution (15.5 percent of the total lawmakers in both chambers). In fact, they account for more than one-third of all the women who have ever served in Congress. All were sworn in to Congress after 1976; most first took office in the 1990s.

Part II of *Women in Congress* provides biographical profiles of these individuals in a format that echoes former Member entries—with information on pre-congressional careers, first House or Senate campaigns, committee and leadership positions, and legislative achievements. But because these are careers in progress, definitive accounts of current Members must await a later date. Current Members were given the opportunity to review their individual profiles prior to publication. In addition, Part II profiles differ in tone and style from, and they are half the length (750 words) of, most former Member entries. Part II profiles are also arranged alphabetically rather than chronologically, further distinguishing current Members from their predecessors. This section includes the 75 women who have served during two or more Congresses. The nine freshman Members elected to the 109th Congress—at the time of this writing—are covered separately in a résumé format in the book's first appendix.

Among the individuals covered in Part II is Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland—whose 29 years of congressional service make her the institution's longest-serving current woman. First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976, Mikulski served 10 years before winning election to the Senate in 1986—where she is that body's longest-serving current woman. Also included in this section are Representatives Nancy Johnson of Connecticut and Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, both of whom were first elected in 1982 and are now the deans of House women. Women's ascent to leadership is a recent development. Part II also includes profiles on the highest-ranking House women in the history of either of their respective parties—Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Republican Conference Chairwoman Deborah Pryce of Ohio.

As incumbent Members retire from public service, the editors of this volume hope that their profiles will be expanded to capture their full careers and fitted into the chronology of former Members. The publication of a companion, online version of *Women in Congress* will permit regular updates to the stories of these individuals' contributions to the rich history of women in Congress.

KEY TO MEMBER TITLES



★ SENATOR ★



★ REPRESENTATIVE ★



★ DELEGATE ★

Tammy Baldwin

1962–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM WISCONSIN

1999–



Image courtesy of the Member

TAMMY BALDWIN ACCOMPLISHED TWO “FIRSTS” when she was elected to the House from Wisconsin in 1998: She became the first woman to represent her state in Congress and the first nonincumbent openly gay candidate to run and win election to the federal legislature.¹

Tammy Baldwin was born in Madison, Wisconsin, on February 11, 1962. She was raised there by her mother and maternal grandparents. Baldwin graduated from Smith College in 1984 and earned a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1989. From 1986 to 1994 Baldwin served on the Dane County, Wisconsin, board of supervisors. She also served briefly on the Madison city council, filling a vacancy in 1986. In addition, Baldwin maintained a private law practice from 1989 to 1992. At about the same time she joined the Dane County supervisors, Baldwin “came out” about her sexual orientation. “The fundamental lesson of the civil rights movement is that coming out—whether as an individual, part of a same-sex couple, or as a straight ally—is crucial,” Baldwin once wrote.² In 1993, at 31 years old, she was elected to the Wisconsin legislature, where she served until 1999. During her first term, Baldwin chaired the committee on elections, constitutional law and corrections— becoming one of the first freshman lawmakers in Wisconsin history to head a standing committee.

In 1998, after Republican Congressman Scott Klug retired from the Wisconsin district that included the capital city of Madison, Baldwin won the seat in a close race against Republican Josephine Musser. In a well-financed campaign, she ran on a liberal platform that called for universal health care coverage, publicly financed childcare, and stronger environmental laws. Baldwin’s victory was a grass-roots success, mobilizing so many voters (Madison, the district’s biggest city, had a 62 percent turnout) that polls were forced to stay open until late in the night as city

officials photocopied extra ballots. Baldwin claimed 52 percent of the vote to become the first woman from Wisconsin to serve in Congress. In 2000, she was re-elected by a slimmer margin, defeating Republican John Sharpless, a professor from the University of Wisconsin, by fewer than 9,000 votes—51 percent. In 2002 and 2004, Baldwin was elected by comfortable margins of 66 and 63 percent of the vote, respectively.³

In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), Baldwin was named to the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its Subcommittee on Healthcare, seats she had pursued tenaciously since her first term. Her driving motivation in politics is to pass legislation that will guarantee health care for all in America. She is working with conservative as well as liberal thinkers to craft proposals to meet this goal.

Previously, Baldwin served on the House Budget and Judiciary Committees. She also joined the Progressive Caucus, a group of liberal Democrats. Baldwin has been an advocate for health care reform and the preservation of Social Security and Medicare. On the Judiciary Committee she played a key role in the successful passage of the extension of the Violence Against Women Act in 2000. She earned a reputation as a supporter of a liberal policy agenda who, nevertheless, was a pragmatist. “I can’t get legislation passed without Republicans,” she once noted.⁴ A strong supporter of civil rights legislation to promote social equality, Baldwin is one of the most ardent proponents of hate crime legislation, arguing that they “are different from other violent crimes because they seek to terrorize an entire community. This sort of domestic terrorism demands a strong federal response, because this country was founded on the premise that a person should be free to be who they are without fear of violence.”⁵

Baldwin also has looked out for the interests of her largely rural and agrarian district. In 1999, she and other Members of the Wisconsin delegation fought to reverse a Depression-Era milk pricing system that paid farmers more money for their milk the farther they were from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Strong farming interests in New England blocked the initiative, which won national attention. That same year, Baldwin also lobbied for an extension of Chapter 12 of the bankruptcy code to protect economically distressed farmers in the Midwest. “The family farm is the backbone of our rural economy in Wisconsin and all over this nation,” Baldwin declared in a House Floor speech. “Without Chapter 12, if economic crisis hits a family farm, that family has no choice but to liquidate the land, equipment, crops and herd to pay off creditors, losing the farm, a supplier of food, and a way of life.”⁶

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Tammy Baldwin,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

Wisconsin Historical Society, Archives Division. *Papers*: 1981–1998, 1.4 cubic feet. Papers documenting Baldwin’s early political career through her tenure in the Wisconsin state assembly. *Oral History*: In *Gay Madison: a History*, 0.1 cubic foot and 13 tape recordings. Oral histories conducted by Brian J. Bigler.

NOTES

- 1 “Tammy Baldwin Biography,” <http://tammybaldwin.house.gov/page.asp?pageffaboutTammy> (accessed 14 June 2002).
- 2 Tammy Baldwin, “Harvey Milk and Tammy Baldwin,” 15 August 2000, *The Advocate*: 32.
- 3 “Election Statistics,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 1099.
- 5 *Congressional Record*, House, 106th Cong., 2nd sess. (7 June 2000): 3933.
- 6 *Congressional Record*, House, 106th Cong., 1st sess. (9 March 1999): 1033; see also *Politics in America*, 2002: 1100.

Shelley Berkley

1951–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM NEVADA

1999–



Image courtesy of the Member

SHELLEY BERKLEY, A FORMER NEVADA STATE LEGISLATOR with long ties to Las Vegas, won election as Representative in one of the nation's fastest-growing congressional districts. During her first terms in office, Congresswoman Berkley led the opposition to the federal government's plan to ship the nation's nuclear waste to a centralized site in Nevada.

She was born Rochelle Levine in New York City on January 20, 1951. Her parents moved the family to Las Vegas when she was 11. After graduating from Valley High School, she became the first member of her family to attend college, earning a B.A. from the University of Nevada–Las Vegas in 1972 and a J.D. from the University of San Diego Law School in 1976. She married and raised two sons, Max and Sam. In March 1999, she remarried, to Dr. Larry Lehrner, and gained two stepchildren, Stephanie and David. Berkley had wide experience in the private sector, including employment as vice president for government and legal affairs for a major Las Vegas resort. She also chaired the board of the Nevada Hotel and Motel Association. Berkley was elected to the Nevada state assembly in 1982 and served until 1985. She also was appointed to the board of regents of the university and community college system of Nevada in 1990 and then elected to a six-year term ending in 1998.

When Nevada Representative John Ensign relinquished his Las Vegas House seat in 1998 to run for the U.S. Senate, Berkley entered the open seat contest. Berkley narrowly defeated Republican Don Chairez and, in 2000, was re-elected by an eight-point margin over Republican Jon Porter, 52 to 44 percent. In subsequent elections, Berkley faced a unique challenge—trying to keep name recognition among a rapidly growing constituency (by 2001, Las Vegas was absorbing more than 6,000 new residents per month).¹ By 2004, she had secured her position in the Democratic-leaning district, convincingly defeating her GOP challenger by 35 percentage points.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Shelley Berkley,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 William Booth, “In Las Vegas Area Contest, All Bets on a Win Are Off; Ever-Changing Voter Population Means Names and Issues Don’t Stick Easily,” 23 October 2000, *Washington Post*: A13; see also, George F. Will, “In Vegas Politics, All Bets Are Off,” 12 May 2002, *Washington Post*: B7; “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 621.
- 4 Edward Walsh, “Vote on House ‘Managers’ Draws Out Differences Among Freshmen,” 7 January 1999, *Washington Post*: A8.
- 5 Matthew L. Wald, “House Panel Backs Nevada as Site to Bury Atomic Waste,” 26 April 2002, *New York Times*: A26; *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (8 May 2002): 2180.
- 6 Nick Anderson, “House Backs Nuclear Dump Site,” 9 May 2002, *Los Angeles Times*: A13.

As a freshman in the 106th Congress (1999–2001), Berkley was assigned to three committees: Transportation and Infrastructure, Veterans’ Affairs, and Small Business. During the 106th Congress, colleagues elected Berkley vice president of the Democratic freshman class. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003) she exchanged her Small Business assignment for a seat on the International Relations Committee, where she sits on the Middle East and Central Asia and Europe and Emerging Threats subcommittees. Berkley has served as a Regional Whip since the 107th Congress. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), Berkley was appointed Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Berkley, who bills herself as a moderate, joined the centrist New Democratic Coalition. Shortly after her election, she advocated expanding health care coverage to cover the costs associated with bone mass measurements, a procedure important for women susceptible to osteoporosis. In 2001, she sponsored a bill with Republican Patrick Toomey of Pennsylvania to curtail the power of Medicare administrators to cut off payments to health care providers, while also allowing those charged with improper billing to challenge such rulings.³ Like many western state politicians from both parties, Berkley opposed additional gun control while supporting several gun safety measures.

As the Representative for the nation’s fastest-growing congressional district, much of Berkley’s focus was local—on water controls and “protecting my major industry” of gambling and entertainment.⁴ Berkley has sought to increase federal funding for highways, other transportation projects, and school construction. Additionally, she advocates increased use of Nevada’s federal lands for renewable energy development.

Berkley also emerged as a leader on the state’s hot-button political issue: opposition to a federal plan to place radioactive nuclear waste from 42 states at Yucca Mountain, about 90 miles northwest of her Las Vegas district. Berkley led the Nevada delegation in laying out several arguments against the proposal: The geographically unstable mountain was prone to earthquakes; it sat atop an underground flood zone; trains transporting the waste were prone to accident or terrorist attacks; and the project was a “financial boon-doggle,” costing much more than was appropriated.⁵ “Nevada does not produce one ounce of nuclear waste,” Berkley said in the spring of 2002 when the measure came to a vote. “Yet Nevada is being asked to carry the burdens of a problem it had no part in creating.”⁶ The House passed the measure 306–117. After it passed the Senate and was signed into law by President George W. Bush, Berkley vowed to fight the measure in the courts.

Judith Biggert

1937–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM ILLINOIS

1999–



Image courtesy of the Member

MODERATE ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN JUDY BIGGERT has emerged as one of the party's leading advocates for education reform and childcare programs. A former lawyer and state legislator, Representative Biggert is a regular face on C-SPAN as one of the few women Members who frequently presides over the House or chairs the Committee of the Whole.

Judith Borg was born in Chicago, Illinois, on August 15, 1937, the daughter of Alvin Andrew Borg and Marjorie Virginia (Mailler) Borg. She graduated from Stanford University in 1959 with a degree in international relations and earned a J.D. in 1963 from the Northwestern University Law School. After graduating from Northwestern, she clerked for the Honorable Luther M. Swygert in the U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit. She married Rody Biggert, and the couple raised four children: Courtney, Alison, Rody, and Adrienne. Judy Biggert operated a home-based private law practice specializing in real estate, estate planning, and probate law from 1975 to 1998. She became active in local politics, serving as school board president of Hinsdale Township High School District 86. She also chaired the Visiting Nurses Association of Chicago and served as president of the Junior League of Chicago. In 1992, Biggert won election to the Illinois house of representatives and served three consecutive terms (1993–1999), including two terms as assistant republican leader. In the state legislature, she passed strict anticrime laws, worked to balance the state budget without raising taxes, and sponsored tort reform legislation.

In 1998, Biggert ran for a congressional seat representing the southwest Chicago suburbs, vacated by retiring Republican Harris W. Fawell. Biggert topped a more conservative primary challenger, 45 to 40 percent. During the campaign, Biggert responded to remarks made by a high-ranking U.S. Senate Republican that were widely construed as being anti-gay. "It does bother me when people are discriminatory, and maybe that's because I've been discriminated against myself," she said. "What I will do is change their minds. . . . If I can't change them, then I will have to work with them."¹ She later remarked that women politicians "are held to an awfully high standard. We have to work three times as hard."² In the general election, Biggert defeated Democrat Susan W. Hynes, a business

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Judith Borg Biggert,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

1 William Grady, “Biggert Seeking Unity with GOP Foes; Candidacy of Hynes May Help Her Do That,” 28 June 1998, *Chicago Tribune*: D1.

2 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 331.

3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

4 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

5 *Congressional Record*, House, 106th Cong., 1st sess. (21 September 1999): 8442; *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (14 February 2001): 191.

executive, with 61 percent of the vote.³ In 2000 and 2002, Biggert was re-elected by wide margins against mortgage broker Thomas Mason. In the 2004 elections, she was returned to a fourth consecutive term, defeating educator Gloria Andersen by a 65 to 35 percent margin.⁴

In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), Biggert was appointed to three committees: Government Reform; Banking Financial Services; and Science. She later left Government Reform for assignments on the Education and Workforce Committee and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Biggert also co-chaired the Women’s Caucus. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Biggert was appointed chair of the Energy Subcommittee of the Science Committee.

Biggert made her mark in the House as an advocate for education reform, child care for low income families, and expanded assistance for victims of domestic violence. In early 2001, Biggert introduced the McKinney–Vento Homeless Act of 2001, a bill which built upon 1980s legislation to extend educational opportunities to homeless children. According to Biggert’s research, 45 percent of the approximately 1 million homeless children nationwide did not attend school on a regular basis. Her bill sought to ensure their enrollment and reduced bureaucratic red tape that might prevent children in homeless families from attending class. The bill also expanded federal funding to help states better track and aid these students. “Being without a home should not mean being without an education,” Biggert said in a House Floor speech in 1999.⁵ Much of her bill was passed by the House in the 1999 Students Results Act. When she submitted another version in 2001, the bill moved quickly through the Congress and was signed into law as part of the No Child Left Behind Act by President George W. Bush on September 20, 2001.

As chairman of the Energy Subcommittee, Biggert has emerged as a leading proponent of basic science research and development. She authored the Energy Research, Development, Demonstration, and Commercial Application Act of 2005, which later was incorporated into the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and was signed into law as P.L. 109-58. She cofounded and co-chairs, with physicist and New Jersey Democrat Russ Holt, the Congressional Research and Development Caucus.

Alarmed at studies showing that most young Americans lack the most basic understanding of economic and financial concepts, Biggert sponsored legislation that created the Office of Financial and Economic Literacy at the Department of the Treasury and secured federal funding for the Excellence in Economic Education (EEE) program. To raise awareness of the problem, she is the annual sponsor of the House resolution marking April as Financial Literacy Month, and she cofounded and co-chairs, with Democratic Representative Rubén Hinojosa of Texas, the Congressional Caucus on Financial and Economic Literacy.

Marsha Blackburn

1952–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
REPUBLICAN FROM TENNESSEE

2003–



Image courtesy of the Member

WITH ONLY FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN ELECTIVE POLITICS under her belt, Marsha Blackburn ran for the 108th Congress (2003–2005) to “effect a change for her family and fellow Tennesseans” through fiscal and social conservatism.¹ After arriving in Washington, D.C., Congresswoman Blackburn became a Republican Party star and won praise for her conservative voting record.

Marsha Blackburn was born on June 6, 1952, in Laurel, Mississippi. Her father was an oil industry salesman.² She graduated from Northeast Jones High School in Laurel, Mississippi, as an honors student and earned a bachelor of science degree at Mississippi State University in 1973. She married Chuck Blackburn in 1975, and the couple had two children, Mary and Chad. Marsha Blackburn worked as a businesswoman and owned her own marketing company. Heavily involved in Republican politics, she was elected chair of the Williamson County (Tennessee) Republican Party and served in that post from 1989 to 1991. In 1992, as a relative unknown, Blackburn challenged the Democratic incumbent U.S. Representative Bart Gordon. She ran on the issues of a balanced budget amendment and term limits, receiving 40 percent of the vote in a losing effort. From 1995 to 1997, she served as executive director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission. Determined to make a difference, Marsha Blackburn continued to run for elective office and was elected a Tennessee state senator in 1998, where she served for four years, eventually rising to the minority whip post. She gained state and national recognition as a leader in a statewide grass-roots campaign to defeat the proposed Tennessee state income tax.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Marsha Blackburn,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “Marsha Blackburn,” Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 2002.
- 2 “Members of Congress Remember Their Father,” 12 June 2003, Scripps Howard News Service.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 4 C. Richard Cotton, “Blackburn Chows Down With the Home Folks,” 23 January 2003, *The Commercial Appeal*: NE 1.
- 5 “Guide to Congress,” 8 September, 2003, *Roll Call*.
- 6 “Guide to Congress.”
- 7 Larry Bivins, “Several Tennessee Lawmakers Would Back Gay Marriage Ban,” 26 February 2004, *The Tennessean*: 14A.

In 2002, Blackburn ran for the congressional seat vacated when Tennessee Representative Ed Bryant campaigned for the U.S. Senate. In the Republican primary for the district including suburbs stretching from Memphis to Nashville, Blackburn faced three Memphis-area politicians: David Kustoff, Brent Taylor, and Mark Norris. Running on a platform that opposed the introduction of state income tax for Tennessee, Blackburn prevailed with 40 percent of the vote. The district had been a safe GOP seat since 1973 and, in the general election, Blackburn easily defeated Democrat Tom Barron with 70 percent of the vote. Pegged as one of the rising Republican stars in the House, Blackburn was re-elected to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) without opposition.³

As a freshman Member of Congress, Blackburn was assigned to three committees: Judiciary, Education and Workforce, and Government Reform. She believed that her appointment on the Government Reform Committee would improve her knowledge of homeland security and benefit her district.⁴ Blackburn served as vice chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management, where she targeted waste, fraud, and abuse in federal government operations. Blackburn also was appointed to the Majority Whip’s team in the 108th Congress and was mentioned as a potential Senate candidate to succeed Republican Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, who announced his decision to retire from Congress in 2007.⁵

Upon taking office, Blackburn declared that she wanted to scale back the size of government. During the 108th Congress, she sponsored three bills to require across-the-board spending cuts in the federal budget. She supported the proposed tax relief measures advocated by President George W. Bush. Blackburn also voted along conservative lines for a number of social initiatives: school prayer, capital punishment, a constitutional amendment to protect marriage, and increased restrictions on abortion.⁶ On the constitutional marriage amendment, Blackburn wanted to see marriage defined in conjunction with “faith, family, and freedom.”⁷ In the 109th Congress, Blackburn left her previous committee assignments to accept a seat on the prestigious Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mary Bono

1961–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM CALIFORNIA

1998–



Image courtesy of the Member

THOUGH SHE NEVER HELD ANY ELECTIVE OFFICE PRIOR to winning election to the House, and arrived amidst a presidential impeachment scandal, Mary Bono made the transition from the wife of a celebrity-turned-Member-of-Congress to a Representative in her own right.

Mary Whitaker was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 24, 1961, one of four children raised by Clay and Karen Whitaker. In 1984, she earned a B.F.A. in art history from the University of Southern California. In February 1986, she married the entertainer Sonny Bono and eventually raised two children with him, Chesare and Chianna. From 1988 to 1992, Mary Bono served as the first lady of Palm Springs, California, while her husband was mayor. In 1994, Sonny Bono was elected to the U.S. House as a Republican in a district encompassing the city of Palm Springs.

On January 5, 1998, Sonny Bono died in a skiing accident in South Lake Tahoe, California. Mary Bono entered and won the April 7 special election to fill her husband's seat by defeating Democratic candidate, actor Ralph Waite, with 65 percent of the vote. For the remainder of the 105th Congress (1997–1999), she served on the Judiciary and National Security committees. In November 1998, Bono again defeated Waite, this time with 60 percent of the vote, for the full term in the 106th Congress (1999–2001). In 2000, she compiled a similar re-election victory against Democrat Ron Oden.¹

While initially filling some of her husband's committee assignments, Representative Bono eventually relinquished them as she developed her own legislative interests. In the 106th Congress, she held her Judiciary assignment and received a seat on both the Armed Services and Small Business committees. But in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Bono gave up her other assignments to join the Energy and Commerce Committee and three of its subcommittees: Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection; Energy and Air Quality; and Environment and Hazardous Materials. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), she was appointed to the Health Subcommittee.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Mary Bono,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 2 Lorraine Adams, “Keepers of the Flame,” 1 November 1998, *Good Housekeeping* 227 (no. 5): 136; Jeanne Marie Laskas, “Oh, My God, We’re Not Blond Anymore: The Transformation of Mary Bono,” 1 July 1999, *Esquire* 132 (no. 1): 122.
- 3 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 148–149.
- 4 “Official Biography of Mary Bono,” <http://www.house.gov/bono/bio.html> (accessed 15 February 2005).
- 5 Frank Bruni, “The Widow’s Run,” 29 March 1998, *New York Times Magazine*: 34.
- 6 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

Following the precedent set by many prior congressional widows, Bono’s term in the 105th Congress was, in part, a memorial to her late husband.² She generally supported Sonny Bono’s legislative positions as an advocate for decentralized government authority and greater local control, particularly in the field of education. A critic of the existing tax structure, she favored tax reform and a reduction in the size of the federal bureaucracy. She continued Sonny Bono’s work to enact stricter environmental regulations to preserve the Salton Sea, a southern California lake, half of which lies in her district. In late 1998, Congresswoman Bono and other California Representatives convinced the House to fund an environmental study and begin the process of cleaning the Salton Sea. Mary Bono also directed through the House a copyright extension bill which had been introduced by her husband.

The biggest vote of Representative Bono’s first term came with her assignment on the House Judiciary Committee, which had opened impeachment proceedings against President William J. Clinton. As the committee’s most junior member, she began by often yielding her time for questions to other members. But by the end of the process she had largely won favorable reviews with her thoughtful examination of witnesses. Bono supported bringing an impeachment motion to the House Floor and, along with the Republican majority, later voted to impeach President Clinton.

Representative Bono also carved out her own legislative interests—different from her husband’s. In 2000, she helped pass legislation establishing the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument in her district. She also cosponsored legislation to bar national forests from charging fees to recreational users. “To tax the great outdoors is offensive to the concept of the national forest system,” Bono said.³ On trade and labor, she disagreed with her husband, who supported “fast-track” legislation to ease trade restrictions, believing such a policy could hurt agricultural workers in her district. Representative Bono authored successful legislation requiring country-of-origin labeling for fresh fruits and vegetables.⁴ She also differentiated herself from fellow Republicans on the contentious abortion issue. While supporting parental notification and opposing federal funding for abortions and partial-birth abortions, Bono said, “But in the end, it’s between a woman, her family and her God. It’s a moral decision, and she has to make it on her own. The federal government does not belong in it.”⁵

After several terms in Congress, Representative Bono had established herself as an up-and-coming figure within the party, one who could appeal to the “soccer mom” demographic. Bono won re-election to the House in 2002, defeating Democrat Elle Kurpiewski with 65 percent of the vote. In 2004, Bono earned a fifth term in Congress by defeating Democrat Richard Meyer, 66 to 34 percent.⁶

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

1933–

DELEGATE

DEMOCRAT FROM GUAM

2003–



Image courtesy of the Member

A LIFETIME PUBLIC SERVANT FROM THE PACIFIC U.S. Territory of Guam, Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo won election in 2002 as the first woman to serve as Guam’s Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. “I know how important it is to tell America about Guam,” Bordallo said after being elected. “I would never retreat from what I feel is good for the people of Guam. It has always been my philosophy to fight for the will of the people.”¹ Bordallo brings to Congress more than 40 years of public service experience in the executive and legislative branches of the government of Guam and numerous nongovernmental organizations.

While Delegate Bordallo has lived her entire adult life in Guam, she was born on May 31, 1933, in Graceville, Minnesota. In 1948, she moved to Guam with her parents, Chris and Evelyn Zeien, when the U.S. Navy hired her father as principal of Guam’s only high school. Graduating from Guam’s George Washington High School in 1951, she attended St. Mary’s College in South Bend, Indiana, and graduated in 1953 with a degree in music and voice from St. Catherine’s College in St. Paul, Minnesota. After returning to Guam that year, she married Ricardo J. “Ricky” Bordallo, a successful businessman from a family with a long political history in the territory.² They have a daughter, Deborah, and a granddaughter, Nicole.

Delegate Bordallo began her public career with local radio and television broadcaster KUAM in 1954. From 1959 until 1963, she produced a television program, “The Women’s World,” and narrated children’s stories on the radio and on television. Her involvement in the community also has been extensive, with Bordallo founding the Guam Council of Women’s Clubs, the Guam Symphony Society, *Y Inetnon Famalaoan* (Women for Service), and the Marianas Association for Persons with Disabilities. She also served as president of the Federation of Asian Women’s Association and has taken a leadership role in dozens of other community organizations.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Madeleine Bordallo,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “Highest Vote-Getters Look Ahead,” 6 November 2002, *Pacific Daily News*: 5A.
- 2 “Bordallo for Congress,” www.mzbforgcongress.com/aboutmadeleine/bio.shtml. (accessed 27 November 2002).
- 3 “Bordallo for Congress.”
- 4 “Biodata of Madeleine Z. Bordallo” http://ns.gov.gu/webtax/litgov_bio.html (accessed 27 November 2002).
- 5 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 1099.

Bordallo was introduced to politics through her husband Ricky, who was a founding member of Guam’s Democratic Party and served as Governor of Guam from 1975 to 1978 and 1983 to 1986. She first became Guam’s Democratic National Committeewoman in 1964, a post she held for 40 years—the longest such service in the nation. As first lady of Guam, Bordallo was a strong advocate of promoting the indigenous Chamorro culture and the arts, both of which are lifelong passions. She entered elective politics herself when she became the first woman from the Democratic Party to win a seat in the Guam legislature, serving a total of five terms.³ Following the death of her husband in 1990, she made an unsuccessful bid for governor, becoming the first woman in Guam’s history to lead her party’s ticket.⁴ In 1994, she was elected to the first of two consecutive terms as Guam’s first woman lieutenant governor. In this role, she championed the cause of island beautification as a way to enhance Guam’s tourism-based economy.

In 2002, Bordallo was elected to the 108th Congress (2003–2005) as Guam’s fourth Delegate to Congress, winning the open seat with 65 percent of the vote.⁵ Delegate Bordallo was appointed to the Armed Services Committee, where she serves on the subcommittees on Readiness and Projection Forces. Bordallo has emphasized the importance of Guam’s strategic location as the military considers force realignment in the region. She also serves on the Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over territorial matters, with positions on the Subcommittees on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans and National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands. Bordallo also is a member of the Committee on Small Business and serves as Secretary of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Seven of Delegate Bordallo’s bills were signed into law by the President during her first term. Some of her successful legislative initiatives in the 108th Congress included amending Guam’s Organic Act to create an independent and unified judiciary, increasing federal assistance for the impact of immigration resulting from Compact Treaty obligations, and authorizing greater federal funding for the control and eradication of the invasive Brown Tree Snake. Bordallo’s legislative efforts have benefited from the close relationships she has established with other territorial delegates, the Hawaiian delegation, and committee leadership on both sides of the aisle. She also has worked in a bipartisan approach with other elected officials from Guam to address federal issues that are important to the island. In 2004 and 2006, Delegate Bordallo ran unopposed for re-election.

Barbara Boxer

1940–



Image courtesy of the Member

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 1983–1993
UNITED STATES SENATOR, 1993–
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

A FORCEFUL ADVOCATE FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN, consumers, the environment, and her state of California, Barbara Boxer became a United States Senator in January 1993 after 10 years of service in the House of Representatives. In 2004, she received more than 6.9 million votes, the highest total for any Senate candidate ever.

Barbara Levy was born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 11, 1940, to Ira Levy and Sophie Silvershein Levy. She graduated with a B.A. from Brooklyn College in 1962 and married Stewart Boxer. The family relocated to northern California in 1965, where the Boxers raised two children: Doug and Nicole. From 1974 to 1976 Boxer worked for Congressman John Burton, who represented the California district encompassing Marin County. In 1976, she won election to the Marin County board of supervisors, serving as its first chairwoman.¹

In 1982, John Burton decided to retire from the U.S. House and endorsed his protégée, Boxer. In the general election she defeated Republican Dennis McQuaid with 52 percent of the vote. Subsequent re-election campaigns provided no serious challenger, and Boxer remained in the House for four more terms. While serving in the House, Boxer was a member of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, the Budget Committee, the Armed Services Committee, the Committee on Government Operations, and the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families.²

In 1992 Representative Boxer declared her candidacy for the U.S. Senate. She defeated Bruce Herschensohn, a conservative Los Angeles media commentator, by a margin of 48 to 43 percent. Her two subsequent re-elections to the Senate have seen her through with much more comfortable margins.³

As a U.S. Senator, Boxer is a strong proponent of medical research to find cures for diseases. Among the first in Congress to recognize health maintenance organization (HMO) abuses, she authored a Patients' Bill of Rights in 1997 and continues to fight for these protections and for affordable health care.

The Senate's leading defender of a woman's right to choose, Senator Boxer authored the Freedom of Choice Act of 2004 and helped lead the floor fight for passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. She also continues to take a prominent role in the efforts to prevent congressional opponents of abortion from weakening a woman's constitutional right to choose.

Senator Boxer has been recognized for her efforts to create a cleaner, healthier environment. She authored the amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that drinking water standards are set to protect children and other vulnerable populations. She has been a leader in the fight to remove arsenic from drinking water, to block oil drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and along California's coast, and to revitalize the Superfund by making polluters pay to clean up the toxic waste they leave behind.

Senator Boxer has fought for policies that help women succeed at home and at work, from equal pay to family and medical leave. A leader in expanding quality after-school options for families, Boxer authored landmark legislation providing federal support for programs to increase student performance while decreasing juvenile delinquency and crime. Today, federal funding for after-school programs has risen dramatically from \$750,000 in 1995 to almost \$1 billion per year, covering about 1 million children each year. She is now pushing to reach 2.5 million children by 2007.

Senator Boxer joined colleagues to pass the 1994 Crime Bill, which banned assault weapons and established the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, helping local law enforcement reduce crime to its lowest rate in 25 years. Her bill to prevent the criminal use of personal information obtained through motor vehicle records was signed into law and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. She also authored the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) while serving in the House and helped steer it through the Senate; it, too, is now law. She has authored the Violence Against Children Act, based on the successful VAWA.

In response to the September 11th attacks, Senator Boxer authored a bill to protect commercial airliners against attacks by shoulder-fired missiles, and she wrote the law allowing airline pilots with special training to carry guns in the cockpit. She wrote the law to ensure that air marshals would be on board high-risk flights, and she continues to press for implementation of this measure to make the skies as secure as they can be. She has also authored legislation on port security, rail security, and providing assistance to first responders.

Senator Boxer serves on the Senate Committees on Commerce, Foreign Relations, and Environment and Public Works, and is also the Democratic Chief Deputy Whip.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Barbara Boxer," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Boxer, Barbara. *Strangers in the Senate: Politics and the New Revolution of Women in America* (New York, 1993).

Mikulski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: William Morrow, 2000).

NOTES

1 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 65–66; "Official Biography of Barbara Boxer," <http://boxer.senate.gov/about/index.cfm> (accessed 16 December 2004).

2 *Current Biography*, 1994 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1994):63–66.

3 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

Corrine Brown

1946–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM FLORIDA

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

In 1992, Corrine Brown became one of the first African Americans elected to the U.S. House from Florida since the close of the Reconstruction Era. During her House career, from her seats on the Transportation and Infrastructure and the Veterans' Affairs committees, Congresswoman Brown regularly brought federal programs into her Jacksonville district. She also earned a reputation as a tireless advocate of civil rights.¹

Corrine Brown was born in Jacksonville, Florida, on November 11, 1946, and grew up in the city's Northside neighborhood, graduating from Stanton High School. As a single mother, she raised a daughter, Shantrel. She earned a bachelor of science degree at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University in 1969 and an M.A. from the same institution in 1971. In 1972 Brown graduated with an Ed.S. degree from the University of Florida. She taught at the University of Florida and Edward Waters College before settling at Florida Community College in Jacksonville, where she taught and served as a guidance counselor from 1977 to 1992. Her close friend and political mentor, Gwen Cherry, was the first African-American woman elected to the Florida house of representatives. Cherry's death in a 1979 car crash prompted Brown toward elective politics. In 1980, she was a delegate for presidential candidate Senator Edward Kennedy at the Democratic National Convention. Two years later, Brown won a seat in the Florida legislature, where she served for a decade.

In 1992, reapportionment created a new district in northeastern Florida spanning the area from Jacksonville to Orlando. Brown won the Democratic nomination and ran a general election campaign that focused on improving the district's educational system, bringing more jobs to the area, and protecting Social Security and Medicare for the elderly. She won by 18 percentage points, making her one of three Florida candidates elected that year (including Alcee Hastings and Carrie Meek) who were the first African Americans to represent the state since Reconstruction. In her subsequent six elections, Brown won by comfortable margins. In 2004, she was elected to her seventh term without opposition in a district which still covered much of her original Jacksonville base.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Corrine Brown,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Bruce I. Friedland, “Jacksonville’s Pragmatic liberal U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown Passionately Pushes Her Causes and Delivers Bacon Back to City,” 19 July 2000, *Florida Times-Union*: A1.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 215–216.
- 4 “Candidates’ Forum,” 6 November 1994, *Orlando Sentinel*: G7.
- 5 Conference Report on H.R. 3295, Help America Vote Act of 2002, *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (10 October 2002): 7836.
- 6 “Testimony of Congresswoman Corrine Brown,” 13 June 1994, Judiciary Subcommittee on International Law, Immigration, and Refugees, Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony.

When Representative Brown took her seat in the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), she received assignments on the Government Operations Committee, the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, and the Public Works and Transportation Committee (later named Transportation and Infrastructure). In the 104th Congress (1995–1997), she resigned from Government Operations. Brown also served as vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and as a member of the Women’s Caucus.

Brown’s primary focus is on improving the economy within her district, steering federal funds and projects into the north Florida region. She led the effort to construct an \$86 million federal courthouse in Jacksonville, while using her influence on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to initiate Florida rail projects to meet the state’s booming transportation needs. In 1998, Brown orchestrated a nearly 60 percent increase in funding for federal transportation programs in Florida.³ While supporting reduction of the federal deficit by cutting welfare programs, Brown believed the system must be made “more advantageous for welfare recipients to get off welfare” by providing jobs and job training. “We must make sure that changes in the welfare system do not inadvertently hurt children,” she added.⁴ Brown also supported military defense spending, in part, reflecting the large military presence in her district, most notably the Jacksonville Naval Air Station. But Brown wanted more of the money to flow into personnel training, describing the military as a place where working-class Americans could find opportunities unavailable elsewhere. From her seat on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Brown was particularly attentive to the needs of women veterans and health issues. After the 2000 elections, Brown was one of the most vocal advocates for voting reforms. To improve the voting process, especially in minority precincts, Representative Brown supported the Help America Vote Act of 2002, to streamline balloting procedures and provide money to modernize voting systems as a first step toward reform.⁵

Her interests have at times moved Brown’s attention outside her district. In 1993, shortly after arriving on Capitol Hill, she began working behind the scenes to push the William J. Clinton administration to restore a democratic government in Haiti by installing deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. She also urged U.S. officials to process the thousands of Haitians who arrived in the U.S. seeking political asylum.⁶ Brown also has taken up the cause of Liberians, pushing to extend temporary visa status for thousands who came to America after a civil war in the African country during the early 1990s.

Virginia “Ginny” Brown-Waite

1943–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM FLORIDA

2003–



Image courtesy of the Member

WITH NEARLY 30 YEARS' POLITICAL EXPERIENCE in two states, Ginny Brown-Waite approached her freshman term in the 108th Congress (2003–2005) with the goal of looking out for the interests of her Gulf Coast constituency that includes large numbers of retirees and veterans. Formerly the president *pro tempore* of the Florida senate, and a seasoned political aide in New York state, Brown-Waite pursued her legislative interests from her three influential committee assignments: Budget, Financial Services, and Veterans' Affairs.

Virginia Brown was born in Albany, New York, on October 5, 1943. She graduated from Albany's Vincentian High School in 1961 and was married that same year. In the next five years she had two daughters, Danene and Lorie (she would later adopt a third daughter, Jeannine). In the early 1970s, Brown took a job with New York state senator Walter Langley. She began a 17-year career in the state legislature, where she also worked for Long Island senator Owen Johnson. While working full time, Brown earned a bachelor of science in public administration from the University of New York at Albany in 1976 and was the first member of her family to earn a college degree.¹ She later earned her labor studies certificate from Cornell University.² Brown continued her education at Russell Sage College, in Troy, New York, where she earned her M.S. in public administration in 1984. After divorcing her first husband, Brown married Harvey Waite, a New York state trooper.

Brown-Waite's career in electoral politics began after the family relocated to Brooksville, Florida, along the Gulf Coast north of Tampa, following Harvey Waite's retirement. After finishing her duties in Albany, Brown-Waite began to care for her elderly mother. Her mother died a year later, and Brown-Waite became involved in local Florida politics, serving on the Hernando County board

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Virginia Brown-Waite"
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Ginny Brown-Waite, "SGS '84: Newest Sage Graduate in College," *Sage Crossroads*, Winter 2003: 3. Available at www.sage.edu./TSC/news/pdfs/crossroads_winter2003.pdf (accessed 11 March 2004).
- 2 "Ginny Brown-Waite for U.S. Congress," available at www.brown-waiteforcongress.com/bio.htm (accessed 6 November 2002).
- 3 "Ginny Brown-Waite for U.S. Congress."
- 4 "How Brown-Waite Ousted Thurman," 7 November 2002, *St. Petersburg Times*: 1.
- 5 "Ginny Brown-Waite," 1 September 2002, *Lakeland Ledger*: S6; "Virginia 'Ginny' Brown-Waite," 8 September 2002, *Orlando Sentinel*: G6.
- 6 *Politics in America*, 2004: 228.
- 7 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

of commissioners from 1991 to 1993. In 1992, Brown-Waite won election to the Florida state senate by defeating a 24-year veteran state legislator. She served for three terms, chairing several committees: natural resources and conservation, health care, and criminal justice. She also was vice chair on the rules and calendar and fiscal policy committees. Brown-Waite became known for her work on welfare and health care reform and veterans' issues.³ She climbed the GOP ranks and was named the majority whip in 1999 and served as president *pro tempore* of the Florida senate from 2001 until 2002. Meanwhile, she also worked as an adjunct professor at Springfield College's Tampa campus.

In 2002, redistricting favored Brown-Waite in the race for Florida's west central congressional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Formerly a solidly Democratic district, it had been redrawn and was evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. Brown-Waite won the GOP primary in September 2002 and focused her energies in what she dubbed a "sleep-optional" campaign against the five-term incumbent, Democrat Karen Thurman. She depended on grass-roots volunteers for most of her campaigning, stating, "We knew it was going to be won on the ground, not the airwaves."⁴ In a district populated by many retirees, Brown-Waite's platform focused on revamping Social Security, improving prescription drug benefits to seniors, and tax cuts as a catalyst for economic growth.⁵ Brown-Waite prevailed over Thurman in a hard-fought campaign.⁶

Taking her seat as part of the Republican majority in the 108th Congress, Brown-Waite was appointed to the Financial Services Committee, serving on the Subcommittees on Capital Markets, Insurance and GSE's, Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, and Oversight and Investigations. As she represented a large number of veterans in Florida's 5th District, she also gained an appointment to the Veterans' Affairs Committee, serving on the Subcommittees on Benefits and on Health. Brown-Waite also acted as the vice chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. She remained loyal to her party and supported President George W. Bush, voting in favor of criminalizing partial-birth abortion, issuing private school vouchers in the District of Columbia, and supporting the President's tax cuts. She also cosponsored legislation which overhauled Medicare and created a prescription drug benefit. In 2004, Brown-Waite was elected to a second term, defeating Democrat Robert Whittel 66 to 34 percent.⁷

Maria E. Cantwell

1958–



Image courtesy of the Member

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 1993–1995
UNITED STATES SENATOR, 2001–
DEMOCRAT FROM WASHINGTON

MARIA CANTWELL HAS SERVED WASHINGTON STATE in both chambers of the U.S. Congress. In 1992, she won a House term during the “Year of the Woman” and, in 2000, was elected to the U.S. Senate when she unseated a three-term incumbent. A former high-tech company executive and state legislator, Senator Cantwell has focused on issues important to the Washington economy—*aerospace, software, biotechnology, and agriculture.*

Maria Cantwell was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 13, 1958, the second of five children raised by Paul Cantwell, a city councilman and state legislator, and Rose Cantwell. She earned a B.A. in public administration from Miami University of Ohio in 1981, becoming the first in her family to receive a college degree.¹ In 1983, she moved to Washington state to direct Alan Cranston’s presidential campaign in the northwest U.S. She also worked in public relations and, later, opened her own consulting company. At age 28, Maria Cantwell was elected to the Washington legislature, and she served as a representative from 1987 to 1993. She chaired the trade and economic development committee, working to draw biotech companies to Washington. Former state house speaker Joe King recalled Cantwell as “the best legislator I ever served with.”²

When suburban Seattle Republican Representative John Miller announced his retirement in 1992, Cantwell declared her candidacy by invoking President John F. Kennedy’s inaugural call to service.³ The district—which included the northern suburbs of Seattle in King and Snohomish counties and extended across Puget Sound to take in Bainbridge Island and parts of Kitsap County north of Bremerton—was affluent and politically moderate.⁴ Describing herself as a “pro-business Democrat,” Cantwell ran on a platform that called for universal access to health care, proposed a 5 percent cut in federal discretionary spending, supported the presidential line-item veto, and backed the Brady Handgun Bill, which created a waiting period before buying a gun.⁵ With 55 percent of the vote, Cantwell defeated a Republican state senator; it was the first time in more than 40 years that a Democrat won the district.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress,
“Maria Cantwell,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

When Cantwell took her seat in the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), she received assignments on three committees: Foreign Affairs, Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and Public Works and Transportation. She specialized in high-technology issues.⁶ In August 1994, Congresswoman Cantwell introduced the Electronic Freedom of Information Act, which built on the original FOIA bill to make government more accountable for storing digital information.⁷ On trade issues, she supported the North American Free Trade Agreement. Cantwell also voted for the landmark Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and earned a reputation as an environmental advocate.

Cantwell left public office in 1995, after losing re-election during the “Republican Revolution” of 1994. For five years, she worked as a marketing executive for a growing Internet software company in Washington. She eventually served as the company’s vice president of consumer products as it expanded by about 1,000 jobs.

In 2000, Cantwell challenged three-term incumbent Republican Senator Slade Gorton of Washington. In a narrow race not decided until after a December recount, Cantwell prevailed by a margin of 2,229 votes (one-tenth of one percent of all the votes cast). Hers was the last Senate seat still contested, and her win evenly split the chamber 50–50.⁸ Upon taking office in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Cantwell pledged to follow in the footsteps of the legendary Washington Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson.⁹ She received assignments on four committees: Energy and Natural Resources, Judiciary, Small Business, and Indian Affairs. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Cantwell left her Judiciary assignment to serve on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

One of the first issues that Senator Cantwell took up in the Senate was campaign finance reform. “Until we craft a campaign system with a shorter, more intensive campaign period, funded with finite and equal resources available to candidates, we will not govern well,” Cantwell said.¹⁰ She supported the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, which became law in 2002. Cantwell’s legislative priorities have centered on agricultural trade, high-technology business, and the environment. She has sought to open foreign markets to Washington’s diverse agricultural products. She also has been a Senate leader in prohibiting energy price manipulations and empowering law officers and consumers against identity theft crimes. Senator Cantwell also wrote legislation to create the largest expansion of Mt. Rainier National Park in 70 years, passed a bill to establish the Lewis & Clark National Historic Park, and pushed for the creation of the Wild Sky Wilderness Act and has defended key provisions in the Marine Mammals Protection Act.¹¹

- 1 *Politics in America, 2002* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 1062; *Almanac of American Politics, 2002* (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2001): 1598–1599; Richard Jerome, Macon Morehouse, Mary Boone, “Up in a Down Market: Dot-com Dollars Depleted, Maria Cantwell Focuses on Her New Life in the Senate,” 21 May 2001, *People*: 179.
- 2 “Official Biography of Maria Cantwell,” <http://cantwell.senate.gov/about/index.html> (accessed 14 December 2004).
- 3 Marla Williams, “State Legislator Cantwell to Run for Miller’s Seat,” 11 February 1992, *Seattle Times*: D2.
- 4 *Politics in America, 1994* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1993): 1611–1612.
- 5 Susan Gilmore, “Cantwell May Shatter Tradition in 1st District,” 31 October 1992, *Seattle Times*: A12; Williams, “State Legislator Cantwell to Run for Miller’s Seat.”
- 6 *Politics in America, 1996* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1995): 1398–1399.
- 7 *Congressional Record*, House, 103rd Cong., 2nd sess. (8 August 1994): 1676.
- 8 Ben White, “A Flush Candidate’s Debt Worries; Sen. Cantwell Owes \$3 Million, and Her Portfolio Is in the Tank,” 15 March 2001, *Washington Post*: A12; for more on what companies each candidate “represented,” see Chris Taylor, “One More Digital Divide; A Tech Millionaire Takes on ‘Senator Microsoft,’” 30 October 2000, *Time*: 42.
- 9 *Congressional Record*, Senate, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (3 January 2001): 11.
- 10 *Congressional Record*, Senate, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (27 March 2001): 2096.
- 11 “Official Biography of Maria Cantwell,” <http://cantwell.senate.gov/about/index.html>.

Shelley Moore Capito

1953–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
REPUBLICAN FROM WEST VIRGINIA

2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, DAUGHTER OF ONE OF West Virginia's most successful Republican politicians, made her own mark on state politics by running as a GOP candidate in a heavily Democratic district in 2000 and following her father into the U.S. House.

Shelley Moore was born in Glen Dale, West Virginia, on November 26, 1953, to Arch A. Moore, Jr., a Republican who served 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and another dozen as governor of West Virginia, and Shelley Riley Moore. Raised in West Virginia and Washington, D.C., she graduated with a B.S. in zoology from Duke University in 1975 and earned an M.Ed. from the University of Virginia in 1976. She married Charles Capito, Jr., and the couple raised three children: Charles, Moore, and Shelley. Shelley Moore Capito worked as a counselor at West Virginia State College and as the educational information center director for the West Virginia board of regents. In 1996, Capito was elected to the West Virginia house of delegates, where she served from 1997 to 2001. Her legislative career included service as minority chairperson of the health and human services committee, where she focused on areas of children's health and domestic violence.

In 2000, when incumbent West Virginia Representative Bob Wise retired from his congressional seat covering the central swath of the state, including the state capital, to run for governor, Capito challenged former Democratic state senator Jim Humphreys for the vacancy. At one point early in the race, she trailed Humphreys by more than 30 points—in addition to facing a heavy Democratic advantage in the number of registered voters.¹ Humphreys won the support of labor, including the United Mine Workers, but Capito closed the gap with a late infusion of national GOP support and her own extensive political network.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Shelley Moore Capito,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Sandra Basu, “Shelley Moore Capito’s Uphill Climb,” May 2001, *Campaigns & Elections*: 22.
- 2 Lawrence Messina, “The Sins of Her Father: Arch Moore Casts Shadow in Daughter’s Congressional Race,” 1 November 2000, *Charleston Gazette*: 1C.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (20 June 2001): 3349.
- 5 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (26 February 2002): 529.

She benefited from family name recognition but insisted on her independence. “There’s a whole myth out there my father is running my life and my campaign and it’s not true. I am a 46-year-old woman. I have an independence of spirit.”² She defeated Humphreys with 49 percent to 46 percent of the vote. In doing so, Capito became only the second woman ever elected from West Virginia and the first Republican Representative elected from the state since 1980. In 2002, Capito again faced Humphreys, prevailing with 60 percent of the vote. She won election to a third term in 2004 by defeating Democrat Erik Wells, 57 to 41 percent.³

When she took her seat in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Capito received assignments on the Financial Services, the Small Business, and the Transportation and Infrastructure committees. She also served as a vice chairwoman of the Woman’s Caucus.

During her first term, Capito hewed to a legislative agenda that focused on the constituents in her district. In the summer of 2002, as California energy woes and national energy policy were at the forefront of debate, Capito argued for a “smart plan” for energy, emphasizing coal and natural gas deposits in West Virginia. In a House speech, she said that “many of these resources have lain asleep, untapped, due partly to the effect of the overly restrictive regulations that have prevented the extraction, the production and the transportation of these sources of energy . . . I think West Virginia’s abundant resources can be used effectively, can be burned environmentally in a cleaner fashion; and it can give us, I think, a good baseline of the energy production that we so desperately need in this country.”⁴ She also cosponsored the reauthorization of the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARC), first created in 1965, to boost economic and industrial development in rural Appalachia. “Whether it is building new roads, providing employee training or assisting local communities with flood damage, the ARC has proven itself to be a tremendous asset for West Virginia and the rest of the region,” Capito said while urging her colleagues to reauthorize the bill in 2002.⁵

Her interest in health care and prescription drug legislation led Speaker J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois to appoint Congresswoman Capito vice co-chair of the House Prescription Drug Task Force. She expressed concern about prescription coverage for West Virginia’s large senior population, more than a quarter of whom live below the poverty level. She pressed for catastrophic coverage for expensive drugs and especially called attention to the plight of older, widowed women with no source of income. Additionally, Capito, known for her energy and accessibility, fought hard to preserve West Virginia jobs.

Lois Capps

1938–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1998–



Image courtesy of the Member

WIFE AND POLITICAL CONFIDANTE OF A theology professor-turned-politician, Lois Capps won a special election to the U.S. House after the death of her husband, Walter Capps. In the subsequent Congresses in which she served, Capps carved out her own niche as an advocate for health care and environmental protection.

Lois Ragnhild Grimsrud was born in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, on January 10, 1938, to Jurgen and Solveig Grimsrud. Lois Grimsrud earned a B.S. degree in nursing from Pacific Lutheran University in 1959 and an M.A. in religion from Yale University in 1964. She received an M.A. in education from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1990. Lois married Walter Holden Capps in 1960, and the couple raised three children: Lisa, Todd, and Laura. From 1960 to 1964, Lois Capps worked as a nursing instructor and head nurse at the Yale New Haven Hospital and also as a staff nurse in Hamden, Connecticut. When the family relocated to California, Capps worked as an elementary school nurse in Santa Barbara County, California, from 1968 to 1970 and from 1977 to 1996. She also taught part-time at the Santa Barbara City College from 1983 to 1995. In 1996, she worked on her husband's successful Democratic congressional campaign for a California U.S. House seat, which the GOP had held since World War II.

On October 28, 1997, Representative Walter Capps died suddenly of a heart attack, and in early 1998 Lois Capps announced her candidacy to fill the vacant seat encompassing California's central coast. Capps defeated Republican state assemblyman Tom Bordonaro in the March 9, 1998, special election, 53 to 45 percent.¹ On March 17, 1998, Capps was sworn in to the 105th Congress (1997–1999), where she received her husband's assignments on the International Relations and Science committees. She again faced Bordonaro in the general election for the 106th Congress (1999–2001) later that fall, winning with 55 percent of the vote. In the 106th Congress, she relinquished her two committee assignments to take a seat on the Commerce Committee, renamed the Energy and Commerce Committee in the 107th Congress (2001–2003). In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Representative Capps secured a spot on the Budget Committee.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Lois Capps,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

1 Todd Purdum, “Democrat’s Widow Wins California House Race,” 12 March 1998, *New York Times*: A 12; “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>. For a summary of Capps’s legislative efforts related to health care, see *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2003): 110.

Capps draws on her health care background in her committee and subcommittee assignments and in many of the caucuses she chairs. She is a founder and co-chair of the House Nursing Caucus and the Democratic Vice Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues. Capps also serves as co-chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, the House Cancer Caucus, the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, the Congressional School Health and Safety Caucus, the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus, and the House Democratic Task Force on Health.

Capps’ experience in health care has made her a respected leader in Congress on issues of public health. In 2002 she passed the Nurse Reinvestment Act, legislation to address the national nursing shortage. Capps’ legislation, the Domestic Violence Screening, Treatment and Prevention Act, focused on the health care aspects of domestic violence and was passed as part of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which became law in 2006. Capps also passed legislation to curb underage drinking, improve mental health services, provide emergency defibrillators to local communities, bring CPR instruction to schools, and provide immediate Medicare coverage to patients suffering from Lou Gehrig’s disease. In 2006 Capps introduced two bills, the HEART for Women Act and the Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act, dedicated to improving public health and reflecting her commitment to patient advocacy.

Capps has also been at the forefront of environmental protection. Capps repeatedly led efforts to stop new oil and gas development off our coasts and on our public lands. The House repeatedly passed her amendments to continue the longstanding ban against new offshore oil and gas development. In 2005 Capps introduced the Los Padres National Forest Conservation Act (H.R. 3149), legislation to permanently ban new oil and gas development in the forest. Capps also led the effort to remove the harmful MTBE liability provision in the Energy Act of 2005, protecting consumers from shouldering the financial burden of cleaning up MTBE contamination in their water supplies. In 2006 she co-founded the National Marine Sanctuary Caucus.

In 2002, Representative Capps faced Republican businesswoman Beth Rogers in a newly apportioned California district and won election to a fourth term with her widest margin to date, 59 to 38 percent. Two years later, Capps earned a seat in the 109th Congress (2005–2007) when she defeated Republican Don Regan by a 63 to 34 percent margin.

Julia May Carson

1938–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM INDIANA

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

OVERCOMING POVERTY AND RACISM, Julia Carson served nearly two decades in the Indiana legislature and in Indianapolis administrative office before winning election to the U.S. House in 1996. Representative Carson, the first African American and woman to represent the Indiana state capital, has focused on issues affecting working-class Americans.

Julia May Porter was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on July 8, 1938. Her mother, Velma Porter, was single and moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, to find work as a domestic. Julia Porter grew up working a series of part-time jobs before her 1955 graduation from Crispus Attucks High School in Indianapolis. Shortly thereafter, she was married, raised two children, and subsequently divorced. She later studied at Martin University and Indiana University. In 1965 she was working as a secretary at a United Auto Workers local chapter when newly elected Indiana Congressman Andy Jacobs hired her as a caseworker and district aide. She worked for Jacobs until 1972, when he encouraged her to run for office in the Indiana legislature. From 1973 to 1977, Carson served in the state house of representatives before winning election to the Indiana senate. She served in the upper chamber until 1990, sitting on its finance committee and eventually holding the minority whip position. Throughout her state legislature service, Carson was employed as the human resources director at an engine company, a job she held from 1973 to 1996. In 1991, Carson won election as a Center Township Trustee. In that post, she administered welfare payments in central Indianapolis and was successful at erasing the agency's crippling debt—a \$20 million deficit—leaving \$7 million in the bank prior to winning a seat in Congress.

When Representative Jacobs retired in 1996, Carson won his endorsement and entered the Democratic primary for the open seat. The district encompassed the state capital of Indianapolis, a traditionally moderate political district that was 68 percent white and 30 percent black. In the Democratic primary she topped the

former district party chair, with a margin of 49 to 31 percent. In the general election campaign against Republican Virginia Blackenbaker, who shared Carson's liberal support for abortion rights and opposition to the death penalty, Carson prevailed with 53 percent. In her subsequent four re-election campaigns, Carson has won by slightly larger margins in her competitive district. Reapportionment in 2001 added more than 100,000 constituents, many of them Republican. Nevertheless, Carson was re-elected in 2004 to her fifth consecutive term, defeating Republican Andrew Horning, 54 to 44 percent.¹

Carson, who underwent heart surgery shortly after her election, was sworn in to office from her hospital bed on January 9, 1997. When Carson recuperated and claimed her seat in the 105th Congress (1997–1999) in March 1997, she received posts on two panels: the Banking and Financial Services Committee (later renamed Financial Services) and the Veterans' Affairs Committee. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005) she left Veterans' Affairs to accept assignment on the powerful Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In the 108th Congress, she had risen to become the third-ranking member on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

Carson's legislative interests ranged from national issues affecting children and working Americans to local programs that affected her Indianapolis constituency. In the 108th Congress, she sponsored the largest Amtrak reauthorization bill in history. The National Defense Rail Act provided for the development of new rail lines including high-speed rail corridors. Amtrak's largest repair facility is located near Indianapolis. Carson also supported placing restrictions on the North American Free Trade Agreement, arguing that it has taken low-wage manufacturing jobs some of which are in her district.² Carson has also worked to bring about greater use of ethanol as a fuel to decrease pollution and U.S. dependence on foreign oil. She also co-chairs the Zoo Caucus.

From her seat on the Financial Services Committee, Carson has authored legislation to reform the debt consolidation industry. In order to increase the "financial literacy" of average Americans, she has helped create the Indiana Mortgage and Foreclosure Hotline to counsel homeowners and potential buyers on the mortgage process.³ Carson supported measures to curb smoking among minorities and to promote child safety features on guns.⁴ She also has been an advocate for moderating cuts to the welfare system, noting that a social safety net "can work if we are committed to weeding out excessiveness, abuse and apathy."⁵ One of her crowning legislative achievements came during the 106th Congress (1999–2001), when Congresswoman Carson authored and introduced a bill, signed by President William J. Clinton, conferring the Congressional Gold Medal to civil rights activist Rosa Parks.⁶

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Julia May Carson,"
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,"
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 2 *Politics in America*, 2004
(Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 373–374.
- 3 "Official Biography of Julia Carson,"
<http://juliacarson.house.gov/display2.cfm?idff778&typeffNews>
(accessed 14 June 2002).
- 4 Karen Foerstel, *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women*:
(Westport, CT: Praeger, 1999): 52.
- 5 "Julia Carson," *Contemporary Black Biography* 23 (Detroit: Gale Research, 1999).
- 6 For a history and full list of Congressional Gold Medal Recipients, see
http://clerk.house.gov/histHigh/Congressional_History/goldMedal.html.

Donna M. Christensen

1945–

DELEGATE

DEMOCRAT FROM THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

DELEGATE DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN WON ELECTION to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1997, the first woman to represent the U.S. Virgin Islands, a multi-island territory in the eastern Caribbean. The islands became part of the United States of America when they were purchased from Denmark in 1917. Since 1973, the territory has had nonvoting representation in the House of Representatives.¹ During her tenure, Christensen has focused on improving the social, political, and economic dynamic of the islands, especially as it relates to federal issues.

Donna Christensen was born on September 19, 1945, to the late chief judge of the Virgin Islands District Court, Almeric Christian, and Virginia Sterling Christian. She earned a B.S. from St. Mary's College at Notre Dame in 1966 and an M.D. from George Washington University School of Medicine in 1970. In addition to running an active family practice, Christensen also worked as a health administrator, rising to the position of assistant commissioner of health for the Virgin Islands.

Concurrently, she began her political career in 1980 as part of the Coalition to Appoint a Native Judge, which emphasized judicial appointments from within the community and later on as part of the Save Fountain Valley Coalition, which called for the protection of St. Croix's north side from overdevelopment. She served as Democratic National Committeewoman from 1984 to 1994 and vice chair of the Territorial Committee of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands and on the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Committee. From 1984 to 1986, she served as a member of the Virgin Islands board of education and was appointed to the Virgin Islands Status Commission from 1988 to 1992.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Donna Marie Christian Christensen,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “America’s Caribbean Paradise: History and Geography,” http://www.house.gov/christian-christensen/vi_history.htm (accessed 29 December 2004).
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 “Official Biography of Donna M. Christensen,” <http://www.house.gov/Christian-christensen/biography.htm> (accessed 11 June 2003); *Politics in America, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 1130.
- 4 “Official Biography of Donna M. Christensen”; *Politics in America, 2004*: 1130.

Christensen lost her first bid for Delegate to Congress in 1994, failing to secure the Democratic nomination. Two years later, she not only won the party’s nomination, but also went on to defeat freshman Independent incumbent Victor Frazer after a three-way general election and a run-off election. In 1997, as a Member of the 105th Congress (1997–1999), she became the first female physician to serve in the House. Christensen has since won re-election to the House by at least 66 percent of the vote.²

As a Member of the House, she has served on the Resources Committee, which oversees the affairs of the offshore territories and where she is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. She has also served on the Small Business Committee and, during the 108th Congress (2003–2005), gained a seat on the newly created Select Committee on Homeland Security, primarily because of her expertise in public health.

Christensen has focused on strengthening the Virgin Islands’ economy and stabilizing its fiscal condition. Expanding traditional tax incentives that are central to the economy of the Virgin Islands and introducing legislation to encourage fiscal discipline have been the hallmarks of her tenure. She has also worked to expand business, housing, health, and educational opportunities in the territory.³

Delegate Christensen, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, chairs the Health Briantrust and has been at the forefront of efforts to end health disparities, fight the HIV/AIDS threat both nationally and internationally, and extend health insurance coverage to as many Americans as possible.⁴

Delegate Christensen is married to Christian O. Christensen of St. Croix. She has two daughters from a previous marriage, Rabiah and Karida Green, and one granddaughter, Nia Hamilton.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

1947–

UNITED STATES SENATOR
DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON WAS ELECTED to the United States Senate by the people of New York on November 7, 2000, after years of public service on behalf of children and families. She is the first First Lady of the United States to hold elective office.

Hillary Diane Rodham was born on October 26, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois, the oldest of three children of Hugh Ellsworth Rodham and Dorothy Howell Rodham. She attended Wellesley College, where she became a campus leader and was chosen by her classmates as the first student commencement speaker.¹ After earning a B.A. in political science in 1969, Hillary entered Yale Law School and finished her J.D. in 1973. Inspired by the work of Marian Wright Edelman, a Yale alumna and children's rights activist who later founded the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), Hillary worked for the CDF after graduation. In 1974, during the Watergate impeachment inquiry, she joined the staff of the House Judiciary Committee special counsel. Following her work with the committee, she accepted a teaching position at the University of Arkansas School of Law and, in 1975, married William J. "Bill" Clinton, whom she had met at Yale. They have a daughter, Chelsea.²

In 1977, President James Earl "Jimmy" Carter appointed Hillary to the board of Legal Services Corporation, an organization that disbursed federal money to legal aid bureaus nationally. She founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and, in 1978, was named to the CDF board (chairing it from 1986 to 1989). In 1992, she campaigned widely for her husband, who was elected U.S. President that November. For eight years, Hillary served as an active First Lady, working on health care reform, children's issues, and women's rights.

In 1999, when senior New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan announced his retirement, Hillary joined the race to succeed him.³ On November 7, 2000, she prevailed with 56 percent of the vote over New York Republican Representative Rick Lazio.⁴

Senator Clinton serves on three committees: Environment and Public Works; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and the Senate Special Committee on Aging. She is the first New Yorker ever appointed to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee. As the first woman to represent New York in the Senate, Hillary's efforts to master the chamber's legislative processes and her ability to work across the aisle have made her an effective and respected Member of the Senate.⁵

Senator Clinton's work has focused on building a better future for New York families, including greater opportunity through economic development; increased access to health care and education; energy independence through development of alternative fuel and energy resources; and security at home and abroad. She won support for legislation to clean up industrial pollution for economic development, to ensure the safety of children's medicine, and to repair and modernize schools. After the September 11, 2001, attacks, Senator Clinton worked tirelessly to enable New York to recover, including ensuring adequate federal funds for rebuilding. She also won passage of legislation improving communication for federal and local emergency first responders.⁶ As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Senator Clinton led the bipartisan effort to extend health care benefits to members of the National Guard and Reserve.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Hillary Rodham Clinton," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Clinton, Hillary Rodham. *It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996).

———. *Living History* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003).

NOTES

1 "Hillary Rodham Clinton" *Current Biography*, 2002 (New York: H. W. Wilson and Company, 2002): 93–94.

2 *Current Biography*, 2002: 94–95; *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 671.

3 Adam Nagourney, "The Senate Campaign—the First Lady," 18 September 2000, *New York Times*: A 1.

4 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>; *Politics in America*, 2002: 671.

5 *Politics in America*, 2002: 671; *Almanac of American Politics*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc.): 1047.

6 *Congressional Record*, Senate, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (3 December 2001): 12298; Frank Bruni, "Show Us the Money," 16 December 2001, *New York Times Magazine*: 60. See also John F. Harris, "Hillary's Big Adventure," 27 January 2002, *Washington Post Magazine*: W 8; "Official Biography of Hillary Rodham Clinton," http://Clinton.senate.gov/about_hrc.html (accessed 14 December 2004).

Susan Margaret Collins

1952–

UNITED STATES SENATOR
REPUBLICAN FROM MAINE

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

A LONG-TIME CONGRESSIONAL AIDE AND ADMINISTRATOR, Susan Collins won election to the Maine U.S. Senate seat once held by her political idol, Margaret Chase Smith. Senator Collins has developed a reputation as a fiscal conservative whose moderate views on health care, education, and election reform make her one of the chamber's most independent Members. In 2003, Senator Collins became one of just five women in Senate history to chair a full committee when she was named head of the Governmental Affairs Committee (later renamed Homeland Security and Government Affairs).

Susan Margaret Collins was born on December 7, 1952, in Caribou, Maine, one of six children raised by Don and Patricia Collins. After earning a B.A. in government from St. Lawrence University in 1975, Collins served as an aide to Maine Representative Bill Cohen; she followed him when Cohen won election to the U.S. Senate in 1978. In 1981, Collins became staff director of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management. Six years later Maine's Republican Governor John McKernan, Jr., appointed Collins commissioner of the state department of professional and financial regulation. From 1992 to 1993, Collins served as director of the New England Office of Small Business Administration. In 1994, Collins was the unsuccessful GOP candidate for governor of Maine. She later served as executive director of the Center for Family Business at Husson College.¹

When her mentor William Cohen left the Senate to serve as President William J. Clinton's Secretary of Defense in 1996, Collins won the three-way Republican primary to succeed him. In the general election she faced former Maine Governor Joseph Brennan. Collins ran as a fiscal conservative who supported a balanced budget amendment, and proposed reducing estate taxes to help families keep small businesses intact from one generation to the next. At the polls, Collins prevailed with 49 percent of the vote.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Susan Margaret Collins," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Mikulski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate*. (New York: Morrow, 2000).

NOTES

1 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 442–443; *Almanac of American Politics, 1998* (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc, 1997): 697–698.

2 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

3 *Politics in America*, 2002: 442–443; Michael Winerip, "Susan M. Collins: A Moderate's Moment," 20 July 1997, *New York Times Magazine*: 18.

4 Lorraine Adams, "A Freshman With an Endgame Idea; As Unassuming Advocate, Collins Hopes 'Findings of Fact' Will Send Message," 29 January 1999, *Washington Post*: A 1.

As a new Member of the 105th Congress (1997–1999), Senator Collins received assignments on three committees: Governmental Affairs, Labor and Human Resources (later renamed Health, Education, Labor and Pensions), and the Special Committee on Aging. On Governmental Affairs she became the first freshman to chair the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, focusing on consumer issues. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), she was named to the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problems. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Collins left the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to serve on the Armed Services Committee in 2001. In 2003, Collins also received an assignment on the Joint Economic Committee.

Senator Collins has specialized in education and health care legislation, earning a reputation as an independent legislator. As a member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator Collins co-authored the 1998 Higher Education Act which reauthorized federal education programs through 2003 and expanded government aid to college students. Collins added two amendments which allowed working students to earn more money before losing eligibility for federal tuition aid and increased aid for lower income students. Teaming up with Illinois Senator Richard Durbin, Collins wrote successful legislation which repealed a \$50 billion tax break for tobacco companies. Collins also was an ardent supporter of campaign finance reform, supporting the McCain–Feingold measure from its inception.³

Perhaps her most notable accomplishment during her first term was to provide a compromise plan in late 1998 to end an impasse over how the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton would proceed in the Senate. Collins suggested to then-Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi that the Senate adopt "findings of fact" which detailed Clinton's misconduct, prior to the vote on the two articles of impeachment. Not convinced that the President had committed impeachable offenses, she nonetheless noted, "A lot of us are concerned about the message a straight acquittal would send to the White House and to the American people."⁴ Though Collins helped craft the procedural settlement that laid the groundwork for the impeachment process, she and a small minority of Republicans eventually voted with Democrats to acquit Clinton on the two articles of impeachment.

In 2002, Collins won re-election with 59 percent of the vote against Democrat Chellie Pingree, the Maine state senate majority leader. When the 108th Congress (2003–2005) convened, Collins became chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee. From that post she co-authored and helped shepherd through the Senate an intelligence agency reform bill that incorporated many of the suggestions put forward by the *9/11 Commission Report* in 2004, which represents the most sweeping changes to the U.S. intelligence community in more than 50 years.

Barbara L. Cubin

1946–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM WYOMING

1995–



Image courtesy of the Member

AS THE FIRST WOMAN TO REPRESENT WYOMING in Congress, Barbara Cubin quickly established herself as a defender of western state interests in the House. Congresswoman Cubin also became one of the highest-ranking women in the GOP, serving as Secretary of the House Republican Conference and chairing the Committee on Resources' Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Barbara Sage was born in Salinas, California, on November 30, 1946, the daughter of Russell and Barbara Sage. She was raised in Casper, Wyoming, and graduated from Natrona County High School. In 1969, Sage earned a B.S. in chemistry from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. She later took graduate courses in business administration at Casper College. She worked as a chemist, a substitute math and science teacher, and a social worker for the elderly and disabled. Barbara Sage married Frederick W. Cubin, a physician, and they raised two sons, William and Eric. From 1975 to 1994, while Barbara Cubin managed her husband's medical practice, she also was active in the local parent teacher association and as a shelter volunteer. In 1986 she won election to the Wyoming house of representatives, where she chaired the joint interim economic development subcommittee. Cubin also served as the Natrona County chairman for Craig Thomas during his successful bid for Wyoming's At-Large seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1992, Cubin won a Wyoming senate seat, where she served on the revenue committee.

In 1994, when Representative Thomas campaigned for the U.S. Senate, Cubin won the five-way primary to succeed him in the At-Large House seat. In the general election, she ran on a pro-life platform and pledged to curb federal control of western lands. In a three-way race, Cubin prevailed with 53 percent of the vote, becoming the first woman to represent the "Equality State" in Congress. She has won her five re-election bids.¹

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Barbara L. Cubin,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 2 Joel Achenbach, “See You in September: The GOP Freshmen Had a Giddy First Semester, but the Grading Gets Tougher When They Return,” 14 August 1995, *Washington Post*: D1.
- 3 Charles Davant, “Away from Spotlight, Wyoming Congresswoman Prepares for Business,” 8 January 1999, *States News Service*.
- 4 Chris George, “Cubin Favors Seeking New Energy Sources, Drilling in Arctic Lands,” 15 August 2000, *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle*: A6.
- 5 “House Expresses Dismay at Murder of Gay Student in Wyoming,” 16 October 1998, *Washington Post*: A24.
- 6 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 1121–1122.
- 7 John Bresnahan, “Cubin Launches Leadership Bid; Wyo. Member Joins Conference Secretary Race,” 3 July 2000, *Roll Call*.

When she claimed her seat in the 104th Congress (1995–1997) in January 1995, Representative Cubin received assignments on the Resources and Science committees. In the 105th Congress (1997–1999), she resigned the Science Committee assignment for a spot on the Commerce Committee (now Energy and Commerce). On the Resources Committee, Cubin chaired the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee from the 105th Congress through the 108th Congress (2003–2005).

Cubin focused on western land, mineral, infrastructure, and transportation issues and earned a reputation as a tenacious fighter for western interests.² With the federal government owning half of Wyoming land, much of Cubin’s legislative program was aimed at relaxing federal land use restrictions and bringing her state a higher profile in Washington. As a cofounder of the Congressional Mining Caucus, Cubin drew attention to the mining industry in her state, particularly coal and trona (a soda ash used in glass and baking soda) extraction. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), she looked to nationalize a Wyoming pilot program allowing mining companies that worked on public lands to pay federal taxes in minerals rather than dollars. She also pushed for the placement of a federal meat inspector in Wyoming to encourage growth of meat packing plants in the state.³ Cubin backed the George W. Bush administration’s national energy policy in 2001. She advocated the development of alternative sources of energy, including coal, nuclear, hydroelectric, and wind.⁴

In October 1998, when a gay University of Wyoming student was brutally murdered—singled out for his sexual orientation—Cubin, whose sons also attended the school, led the chorus of indignation. “We cannot lie down, we cannot bury our heads, and we cannot sit on our hands,” she said, cosponsoring a motion expressing the House’s outrage over the incident.⁵ Cubin also has spoken out about the importance of family values and stability. She has been a staunch opponent of abortion rights. She also has been an unwavering critic of gun control. In 2000, she was elected to the National Rifle Association’s board of directors.⁶

Cubin rose into the GOP leadership quickly, serving in her early terms as a Deputy Majority Whip. In the 107th Congress, she was elected Secretary of the Republican Conference, the sixth-ranking GOP leadership position in the House. During the race, she called for regional balance and a western state perspective in leadership circles. “I believe the views of a Member from a Mountain West public lands state have too long been absent from the leadership table,” she explained. “Achieving a better working relationship through issue education with Members who don’t have to deal with an absent landlord is important to me and to the well-being of our conference.”⁷ Cubin also joined the Steering Committee, which parcels out committee assignments.

Jo Ann Davis

1950–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
REPUBLICAN FROM VIRGINIA

2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

FROM HUMBLE ORIGINS, JO ANN DAVIS EMERGED as a successful businesswoman, state delegate, and U.S. Representative. Just four years after winning her first political office in the Virginia general assembly, Davis won election in an eastern Virginia district along the west shore of the Chesapeake Bay as the first Republican woman to represent her state in Congress. With seats on the Armed Services, International Relations, and Intelligence committees, where she serves as chairman of the Intelligence Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counter-Intelligence, Davis has positioned herself as a strong advocate for the defense-related interests which dominate her district.

Jo Ann Davis was born in Rowan, North Carolina, on June 29, 1950. When she was nine years old, her family moved to Hampton, Virginia. Her upbringing—she recalls spending much of her childhood living in a trailer park—was modest. In 1968, she graduated from Kecoughtan High School in Hampton and later attended the Hampton Roads Business College. Afterwards she became an executive secretary at a Newport News real estate company.¹ She married Chuck Davis and they raised two children, Charlie and Chris, in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Jo Ann Davis earned a real estate license in 1984 and opened a property management company in 1988. She then established her own realty business in 1990. In 1997, one of her employees pulled her aside and said, “Jo Ann, come here. Have you ever thought about running for public office?” Davis replied that was a “crazy” idea.² She soon changed her mind, however, and ran a successful campaign that unseated a well-financed incumbent state delegate in 1996. She was re-elected with more than 70 percent of the vote. Davis served in the Virginia house of delegates from 1997 to 2001.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Jo Ann Davis,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2004
(Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 1039.
- 2 Hugh Lessig, “Can Davis Make Her Mark in Politics?” 15 October 2000, *Norfolk Daily Press*: C1.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 Michelle Boorstein, “Entrenched Incumbent Faces Foe of Big Government,” 10 October 2004, *Washington Post*: C5.
- 5 “Jo Ann Davis,” 28 October 2004, *Washington Post*: Virginia Extra Section, T6.
- 6 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

When nine-term U.S. Representative Herb Bateman of Virginia announced his retirement in September 2000 (he subsequently died before the general election), Davis entered the Republican primary with four other candidates. Utilizing an effective grass-roots campaign, she earned the Republican nomination. Davis, whose platform included a call to bolster defense and support for school choice and pro-life family values, easily won the general election in the heavily Republican district with 57 percent of the vote against a 30-year political veteran who was the former mayor of Fredricksburg, Virginia.³ In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Davis landed assignments on three committees: Armed Services, Government Reform, and International Relations. In 2004 she left her Government Reform post, where she had risen to chair the Civil Service and Agency Reform Subcommittee, to join the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

From her post on the Armed Services Committee, Davis was attuned to the needs of her district, with naval and air force installations in the Hampton Roads area, the Quantico Marine Corps Base, and a group of smaller military and NASA installations scattered throughout the region. Once in office, she became a leading proponent for expanding the Navy fleet by nearly 60 ships, to 375. She supported a pay raise for military personnel and backed a veterans’ benefits bill, the Veterans Opportunities Act of 2001. Davis introduced her own legislation, the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance Adjustment Act, which sought to retroactively raise the family benefits for dependents of servicemen and servicewomen killed in the line of duty. The legislation passed the House in March 2002 and was signed into law several months later. She also led an effort to increase funding for a major overhaul of the aircraft carrier *Dwight D. Eisenhower* at the Newport News ship facilities.

Davis developed an environmental record that has won praise from both Democrats and Republicans. She was able to secure \$48 million in federal funding to clean up and remove a portion of the “ghost fleet” of dilapidated decommissioned naval ships from a site on the James River near Newport News. Another one of Davis’s environmental projects has been her longtime opposition to the growing trash importation industry in Virginia. She also opposed the construction of a Newport News water reservoir that would have flooded hundreds of acres of wetlands.⁴ On the contentious issue of developing oil reserves in Alaska’s north range, Davis voted with her party to allow exploratory drilling.

Davis has been a vocal supporter of the post–September 11th foreign policy of President George W. Bush, voting to authorize the war against Iraq and supporting the administration’s defense budget increases. “To continue protecting the homeland and fighting the war on terror is certainly one of the greatest priorities for my district,” Davis said.⁵ Davis ran unopposed in her 2002 re-election campaign. Two years later, she won re-election to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) by defeating an independent candidate with 80 percent of the vote.⁶

Susan A. Davis

1944–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

SUSAN DAVIS, A MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER, served her San Diego community in the California legislature before upsetting an incumbent to win a seat in the U.S. House in 2000. “I’m probably one of the most apolitical people,” Davis told the *San Diego Union-Tribune* during her first House election campaign. “I do this because I see it as a public service. When I can make some changes, even simple things, it’s all worth it.”¹

Susan Carol Alpert was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on April 13, 1944, the younger of two daughters raised by Lithuanian immigrant parents. Her pediatrician father moved the family to Richmond, California, when she was young. She earned a B.A. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1965 and an M.A. in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1968. In college she met Steven Davis, a physician. They married, lived in Japan for two years, and settled in San Diego, where they raised two sons, Jeffery and Benjamin. Susan Davis worked as a community producer for a San Diego public television station. She also became politically active, serving as president of the local League of Women Voters. Davis was elected to the San Diego board of education in 1983, serving until 1992. For three years she also served as executive director of the Aaron Price Fellows Program, designed to teach multiethnic high school students leadership and citizenship skills. She won election to the California assembly and served from 1994 to 2000. Davis chaired the women’s caucus and the government efficiency and economic development committee and also created and co-chaired a select committee on adolescence.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Susan A. Davis,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

1 Dong-Phuong Nguyen, “Davis Left Suburban Comforts to Make a Difference for Others,” 5 November 2000, *San Diego Union-Tribune*: B1; see also, Mark Murray, “The Newly Elected: California 49th House District: Susan Davis,” 8 November 2000, <http://nationaljournal.com/members/campaign/2000/profiles/Cal49.htm> (accessed 26 November 2000).

2 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 157; *Congressional Directory*, 108th Cong., 1st sess. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2003).

3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

4 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (19 March 2002): 387; *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (4 September 2002): 1490; *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (5 April 2001): 552.

5 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (21 June 2002): 1131.

In 2000, after being recruited by California Representative Nancy Pelosi, Davis launched a campaign to unseat three-term incumbent Republican Brian Bilbray in a competitive San Diego district in which Bilbray had won less than 50 percent in two of his prior campaigns. Davis was unopposed for the Democratic nomination and ran a highly effective door-to-door campaign. In a race that had about 10,000 votes siphoned off by Libertarian and Natural Law candidates, Davis defeated Bilbray by a four-point margin with 50 percent of the vote. In her subsequent two re-election campaigns, Davis won by comfortable margins over 65 percent in the reapportioned district which encompassed much of her previous suburban San Diego constituency.³ In the 107th Congress (2001–2003) she was appointed to the Armed Services and Education and the Workforce committees. She served one term on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee during the 108th Congress (2003–2005).

Davis introduced a number of bills in the U.S. House, based on her previous legislative experience. Two health care bills—the Women’s Obstetrician and Gynecologist Medical Access Now Act (2001) and the Second Opinion Coverage Act (2002)—were directly influenced by patients’ rights bills that Davis crafted in the California assembly. The former allowed women in health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to skip bureaucratic paperwork by visiting their OB-GYNs without first seeking a referral from their primary care physician. The Second Opinion Bill would require HMOs to pay for patients facing major medical treatments to get another opinion from a specialist inside or outside their plan. Another of her bills would provide more timely health care coverage for hospitalized veterans. In 2002, based on her experience with her father’s late-life care needs, Davis authored the Long-Term Care Support and Incentive Act, which provided a tax credit and insurance deductions for seniors and their caregivers. “By encouraging people to plan ahead for the future and purchase long-term care insurance, we can ensure that seniors live dignified and independent lives,” Davis said on the House Floor.⁴

Congresswoman Davis’s legislative interests also extended to issues that directly affected Californians: environment, energy, and the military, with a major naval presence in her San Diego district. From her seat on the Armed Services Committee, she introduced the Military Pay Gap Act of 2002, to phase out pay inequities between the private sector and the military by 2013. Davis noted that men and women in the military “understand that a lifestyle of service entails a certain amount of sacrifice. In exchange for all their sacrifices, they have a simple request: that their nation make a commitment to them that parallels their commitment to the nation.”⁵ During the height of the California energy crisis in the summer of 2001, Davis introduced the Renewable Energy Act for Credit on Taxes, which provided for federal tax incentives further allowing homeowners to choose systems that were less reliant on fossil fuels and fossil fuel, generated electricity.

Diana L. DeGette

1957–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM COLORADO

1997–



Congressional Pictorial Directory
109th Congress

IN 1997, FOURTH-GENERATION DENVER RESIDENT Diana DeGette succeeded Pat Schroeder, one of the most colorful and influential women's rights advocates in the House. As a freshman House Member, Representative DeGette earned a seat on the prestigious Energy and Commerce Committee, from which she has focused largely on health care issues. In her first five terms, DeGette has steadily climbed the ranks of Democratic Caucus leadership, being promoted from Floor Whip to Chief Deputy Whip for the 109th Congress (2005–2007).

Diana DeGette was born on a U.S. Air Force base in Tachikawa, Japan, on July 29, 1957, the oldest of five children. Her parents—her father was an architect and her mother a teacher—returned to their hometown of Denver soon thereafter. After graduating from Denver's South High School in 1975, DeGette earned a B.A. in political science and philosophy from Colorado College in 1979. She was awarded a J.D. from New York University in 1982. After graduation, DeGette served as a deputy state public defender in Colorado from 1982 to 1984 before going into private practice. In 1985, she married attorney Lino Lipinsky; the couple has two daughters, Raphaela and Francesca. In 1992, DeGette was elected to the Colorado house of representatives, serving from 1993 to 1996. After just one term she was appointed assistant minority leader.

DeGette entered the race for the open congressional seat vacated by Denver Representative Pat Schroeder, the dean of women in the House and a liberal icon, in 1995. With the endorsement of Schroeder and influential environmental and labor groups, DeGette easily defeated Denver councilman Tim Sandos in the Democratic primary.¹ In the general election, she faced Republican Joe Rogers, a lawyer who was the first African American to seek national office in Colorado. DeGette ran on a platform that included health care and education reform as well as environmental protection. She also regularly criticized the Republican efforts to slash core entitlement programs in the 104th Congress (1995–1997), arguing that the government must preserve programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Head Start, child nutrition, and prenatal care. DeGette cruised to a 57 to 40 percent win in the heavily Democratic district. In four re-election bids, DeGette has never seriously been challenged, winning between 66 and 73 percent of the vote.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Diana DeGette,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Guy Kelly, “DeGette Easily Wins 1st District Over Sandos; Former State Representative Favored for Schroeder’s Seat,” 14 August 1996, *Denver Rocky Mountain News*: 5A.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 “It Doesn’t DeGette Any Better; Congressional Representative Diana DeGette, Mother of Diabetic Child,” *Diabetes Forecast* 52 (1 June 1999): 44.

Representative DeGette has held a coveted seat on the Energy and Commerce Committee since her first term. In 2005, she was also named to the House Democratic Leadership as a Chief Deputy Whip after serving two years as Floor Whip and four years as a Regional Whip. On the Energy and Commerce Committee, DeGette serves on three subcommittees: Health; Oversight and Investigations; and Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

Even as a minority party member, Representative DeGette has shown an ability to work across the aisle to get legislation passed. DeGette focused on health care for children, introducing an amendment for “presumptive eligibility” for Medicaid for children from poor families, that allowed hospitals and doctors to start the application process for government aid. She also authored successful legislation that provided a higher priority for children on waiting lists for organ donations.

Using skills honed as a trial attorney in Colorado, DeGette played a leading role in a number of prominent committee hearings. These included the 2002 hearings into the corporate accountability scandals and the 2004 investigations into the safety of dietary supplements and the practice of prescribing antidepressants to children. In 2006, DeGette took a leadership role in the growing problem of child exploitation over the Internet.

As part of her work on health issues, DeGette emerged as one of the congressional leaders in the debate over embryonic stem cell research. In 2005 legislation to expand federal funding of embryonic stem cell research authored by DeGette passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support despite strong opposition from President George W. Bush. DeGette’s personal experience as the mother of a diabetic child factored into her work as the co-chair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, a group that seeks to educate Members on the disease and advance legislation on research and medical care.³

DeGette was a dependable vote for much of the Democratic Party’s legislative agenda. She supported abortion rights and opposed the death penalty. In 2000, she supported permanent normal trade relations with China—a move welcomed by business but opposed by labor. DeGette also has focused on growth issues within her rapidly expanding Denver district. She sponsored a successful amendment to increase federal funding for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Brownfields program which identifies and restores abandoned urban spaces. Since 1999, she has sponsored the Colorado Wilderness Act, a plan to protect 1.4 million acres of federal land on the western slope of the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

Rosa DeLauro

1943–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRAT FROM CONNECTICUT

1991–



Image courtesy of the Member

FROM HER WORKING-CLASS ROOTS, Rosa DeLauro worked as a political organizer, consultant, and aide before launching her own successful House career. With a seat on the powerful Appropriations and Budget committees and posts in the House Democratic leadership, Congresswoman DeLauro has become a leading advocate for working families and women's issues.

Rosa DeLauro was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on March 2, 1943, into a politically active family with roots in the Italian Wooster Square neighborhood of New Haven. Her parents, Ted, an insurance salesman, and Luisa DeLauro, a sweatshop seamstress, were New Haven aldermen. Luisa DeLauro was the city's longest-serving alderman, holding office from 1965 to 1998. Rosa DeLauro received a B.A. in history and political science from Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York, in 1964. She also attended the London School of Economics and earned an M.A. in international politics from Columbia University in 1966. DeLauro worked as a community organizer on urban renewal and initiatives to place minorities and women, and served as an executive assistant to the mayor of New Haven. DeLauro married Stanley Greenberg, an associate professor at Yale and, later, head of a national polling firm. She has three stepchildren—Anna, Kathryn, and Jonathan, and one grandchild, Rigby. From 1980 to 1986, DeLauro served as Connecticut Senator Christopher J. Dodd's chief of staff. She was executive director for "Countdown '87," a national campaign to stop U.S. military aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. From 1989 to 1990 she served as executive director for EMILY'S List, a political action group that supports pro-choice women candidates.¹

In 1990, when four-term Democrat Bruce Morrison retired from the House, DeLauro ran for his vacant seat encompassing New Haven in the southern part of Connecticut. She easily won the Democratic nomination and, in the general election, emphasized her Italian working-class roots and support for middle class tax cuts and universal health care. Her platform called for economic and transportation initiatives, particularly effective in a state that already was suffering from a recession

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Rosa L. DeLauro,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov/>

NOTES

- 1 *Current Biography*, 2000 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 2000): 145–147; *Who's Who in American Politics*, 1999 (New York: Bowker, 1999).
- 2 *Current Biography*, 2000: 145–147.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 “Official Biography of Rosa L. DeLauro” <http://www.house.gov/delauro/biography.html>; *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 191–192; *Almanac of American Politics*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2003): 347.

that would take on national dimensions in late 1991.² DeLauro won her first (and narrowest) election with 52 to 48 percent of the vote. In her subsequent seven re-election campaigns from 1992 to 2004, DeLauro was never seriously challenged, winning election to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) with 72 percent of the vote.³

When DeLauro was sworn in to the 102nd Congress (1991–1993) in January 1991, she received assignments on the Government Operations and Public Works and Transportation committees, as well as on the Select Committee on Aging. In the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), she gave up those posts to join the Appropriations Committee. She left Appropriations briefly to serve on the National Security Committee in the 104th Congress (1995–1997) but returned in the following term and has remained on Appropriations since. DeLauro joined the Budget Committee in the 108th Congress (2003–2005) and became the Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture in the 109th Congress.

In addition to her prominent committee assignments, DeLauro ranks among the Democratic leadership. In the mid-1990s, she served as Chief Deputy Whip. She twice lost races for the Democratic Caucus chair in 1998 and 2002, the latter by a single vote. In 1999, Democratic colleagues elected her to a newly created position—Assistant to the Democratic Leader. It made her one of the highest ranking Democratic women in the House. In 2002 and 2004, DeLauro was appointed co-chair of the House Democratic Steering Committee.

Representative DeLauro was described by one nationally syndicated columnist as a “hero for working families” for her work on labor and health issues. Inspired by her experience as a survivor of ovarian cancer, DeLauro authored legislation requiring health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to cover a 48-hour of hospital stay after mastectomies and secured research funding for cervical and ovarian cancer. She also has worked aggressively with a bipartisan group of legislators to lower the rising costs of prescription drugs. As a result of her efforts, the U.S. House passed legislation in the 108th Congress allowing the importation of drugs from countries like Canada. With rising instances of food safety and foodborne illness a concern for many Americans, DeLauro cofounded the Congressional Food Safety Caucus to explore remedies to secure the food supply. DeLauro supports an increase in the minimum wage and has authored legislation that would guarantee men and women equal pay for equal work. She led the effort in Congress to restrict the activities of corporate expatriates, U.S. corporations that avoid U.S. taxes by reincorporating offshore. DeLauro also has established numerous civic initiatives to improve children’s lives, including the “Anti-Crime Youth Council,” a program that sought to engage high school students on issues of violence, the “Kick Butts Connecticut” program, which recruits middle school students to act as antismoking counselors for elementary school children, and “Rosa’s Readers,” a program to interest first graders in reading outside the classroom.⁴

Elizabeth Dole

1936–

UNITED STATES SENATOR

REPUBLICAN FROM NORTH CAROLINA

2003–



Congressional Pictorial Directory
109th Congress

ELECTED IN 2002 AS THE FIRST WOMAN SENATOR FROM North Carolina, Elizabeth Dole has one of the most impressive public service careers of any American elected official. Her role as a Cabinet officer for two Presidents, her own bid for the Republican nomination for President in 2000, and her campaign work for her husband, former Senator Bob Dole, give Senator Elizabeth Dole a deep reserve of political experience to bring to her freshman term.

Mary Elizabeth Hanford was born on July 29, 1936, in Salisbury, North Carolina, to John Van Hanford, a flower wholesaler, and Mary Ella Cathey Hanford. In 1958, Hanford earned a B.A. from Duke University in political science. In the summer of 1959, she studied British history at Oxford University. Hanford subsequently moved to Boston and earned an M.A. from Harvard University in education and government in 1960. She completed a Harvard law degree in 1965, one of only 24 women in a class of 550.

After graduation, Elizabeth Hanford was drawn to the nation's capital, claiming "Washington was like a magnet."¹ In more than 30 years in the capital, she accumulated a formidable political résumé. Her first involvement in national politics was serving as the White House consumer affairs aide for President Richard Nixon. While serving as a consumer advocate for the Federal Trade Commission, Elizabeth Hanford met Kansas Senator Bob Dole, whom she married in 1975.² In 1981, President Ronald W. Reagan named her an assistant for the public liaison. From 1983 to 1987, Dole was the first woman to serve as Transportation Secretary.³ Increased safety was her priority, promoting measures such as a third rear-brake light and airbags in all vehicles, as well as raising the drinking age to 21 years. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush named Dole as his Labor Secretary.

In 1991, Dole left her Cabinet position to become the president of the American Red Cross. During her first year at the helm of the nonprofit organization, she accepted no salary, and she improved the organization's financial health through corporate fundraising.⁴ Elizabeth Dole also gained valuable political experience campaigning for her husband during his bids for Vice President in 1976 and for President in 1980, 1988, and 1996. She eventually sought the Republican nomination for President for herself and, before exiting the race in October 1999, was considered the first serious woman contender for the nomination in U.S. history.⁵

When longtime incumbent North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms announced his retirement in 2002, Elizabeth Dole decided to seek his seat in the U.S. Senate. Dole easily won the GOP primary, taking 80 percent of the vote against six opponents. She faced Democratic nominee Erskine Bowles in a hard-fought general election. She ran on a platform dubbed the "Dole Plan," which promoted new jobs in the economically depressed region. In a proposal inherited from Helms, both Dole and Bowles supported a tobacco buyout plan, that put money from the 15 percent tobacco tax towards paying producers more per pound. Dole's strength proved to be statewide, as she defeated Bowles with 53 percent of the total, garnering votes in both the coastal and the mountainous regions.⁶ She received the highest percentage for any of the state's Senate candidates since 1978.

Upon her election, Senator Dole's long political service afforded her some important committee assignments. She serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Dole also sits on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee—an important seat to her constituents, since Charlotte, North Carolina, continues to evolve as a financial hub. She also serves on the Select Committee on Aging. Her legislative agenda has reflected her background, particularly her humanitarian work. Nutrition and hunger are specific concerns, as Dole introduced a joint resolution recognizing hunger as a worldwide problem, provided legislation that expands eligibility for subsidized school lunches, and submitted a bill to provide tax benefits to trucking companies transporting food to distribution centers.⁷ Her attention to her North Carolina constituents is reflected in the successful passage of the tobacco buyout program, accomplishing one of her biggest campaign promises. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), Senator Dole serves as chairwoman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Elizabeth Hanford Dole," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Dole, Elizabeth, and Bob Dole. *Unlimited Partners: Our American Story*. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996).

NOTES

1 *Current Biography*, 1983 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1983): 117.

2 *Current Biography*, 1997 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1997): 146.

3 Quoted in *Current Biography*, 1983: 119.

4 *Current Biography*, 1997: 148.

5 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 744–745

6 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>; John Morrill and Mark Johnson, "Dole Beats Bowles to Take Helms' Seat in the U.S. Senate," 6 November 2002, *Charlotte Observer*: 1.

7 These measures were introduced in the 108th Congress. See S. Con. Res. 114, S. 1549, and S. 2494.

Jo Ann Emerson

1950–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM MISSOURI

1996–



Image courtesy of the Member

THOUGH JO ANN EMERSON NEVER HELD ELECTIVE OFFICE prior to succeeding her late husband, Representative Bill Emerson, her upbringing, work experience, and marriage suited her to the task. Within a short period, Congresswoman Emerson established herself as one of the Republican Party's leading women. "I never sought this job. Fate put me here," she said. "So I want to take the skills that I have, whether it's coalition building or strategy or being able to solve problems, and put them to work. I'm very locally oriented. I want to get things done for the folks back home."¹

Jo Ann Hermann was born in Bethesda, Maryland, on September 16, 1950, daughter of Ab Hermann, a former professional baseball player and executive director of the Republican National Committee, and Sylvia Hermann. She grew up near Washington and was initiated into politics at an early age. Hale Boggs, the Louisiana politician who eventually became House Majority Leader, was a neighbor and the families socialized often. Jo Ann Hermann earned a B.A. in political science from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1972 and pursued a career in public affairs as a lobbyist, first working for the National Restaurant Association. In 1975, she married lobbyist Bill Emerson of Missouri, and the couple raised five children. In 1980, Bill Emerson defeated an incumbent Democrat from a district representing the sprawling agricultural and mining region in rural southeast Missouri to win a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Jo Ann Emerson worked as deputy communications director for the National Republican Congressional Committee in the early 1980s. She later served as senior vice president of public affairs for the American Insurance Association.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Jo Ann Emerson,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Lloyd Grove, “The Congresswoman’s House of Memories; Jo Ann Emerson, Following in Her Husband’s Footsteps,” 27 November 1996, *Washington Post*: B1.
- 2 *Politics in America*, 2004: (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 590–591; *Congressional Directory*, 108th Cong. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2003): 153.
- 3 Grove, “The Congresswoman’s House of Memories; Jo Ann Emerson, Following in Her Husband’s Footsteps.”
- 4 *Ibid.*
- 5 Lorraine Adams, “Keepers of the Flame,” 1 November 1998, *Good Housekeeping*.
- 6 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 7 Deirdre Shesgreen, “Emerson Says Cuba Visit Was Productive Despite Failure to Get Results,” 17 April 2001, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*: A4.
- 8 James Collins, “Rep. Emerson Suggests Strong Link Between Hunger, Terrorism; Feeding Children Abroad Is Good for U.S. Farmers, National Security, She Says,” 5 July 2002, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*: A5.

Shortly before his death from lung cancer in June 1996, Bill Emerson asked his wife to consider taking his seat, a request repeated by his staff and constituents.³ Emerson agreed, and her first campaign reflected her husband’s conservative philosophy and skills as a consensus builder. Her slogan was “Putting People First.” She recalled that she had planned to make the seat “a living memorial to Bill.”⁴ For a role model, Emerson looked to Lindy Boggs, who served with distinction for nearly two decades after succeeding her husband in 1973 when he was killed in an airplane crash.⁵ Two elections were scheduled for the same day that following November: a special election to fill the last two months of Bill Emerson’s unexpired term and an election for the full term in the 105th Congress (1997–1999). Jo Ann Emerson received the Republican nomination for the unexpired term, but for the general election, she was unable to meet a filing deadline for the GOP primary won by Richard Kline. Emerson entered that contest as an Independent (later affiliating herself with the Republicans), winning the unexpired term with 63 percent and the full term with 51 percent. In each of her four re-election campaigns, Emerson has been returned to office without difficulty, capturing a high of 72 percent of the vote in 2002 and 2004.⁶ In January 2000, Emerson married St. Louis labor lawyer Ron Gladney.

When Representative Emerson entered the 105th Congress in January 1997, she received assignments to three committees: Agriculture, Small Business, and Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), Emerson earned a seat on the prestigious Appropriations Committee which required her to give up her other assignments. She serves on three Appropriations subcommittees: Agriculture, Homeland Security, and Energy and Water Development.

In her early House career, Emerson’s legislative interests were firmly local: improving Missouri’s highways and securing federal funds for a bridge over the Mississippi River, as well as support for mining and timber interests, more student loan grants, and agricultural research. She also played a role in revitalizing the Rural Caucus in 2000, serving as one of its two co-chairs. Representing an agricultural district, Emerson has focused on trade issues. She has worked in bipartisan fashion with Democrats to prod U.S. officials to reopen trade with Cuba. In the spring of 2001, Emerson traveled to Havana, where she and a delegation of lawmakers opened a dialogue with Cuban leader Fidel Castro about expanding agricultural trade relations, to free the flow of American-grown rice and other commodities to the island nation.⁷ Teaming up with Massachusetts Democrat Jim McGovern, Emerson has led efforts to fund international food aid for schoolchildren using U.S. commodities as part of the McGovern–Dole Food for Education program.⁸

Anna Georges Eshoo

1942–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

ANNA ESHOO REPRESENTS THE 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

which includes Silicon Valley, hub of the American high technology industry. Much of Eshoo's legislative focus has involved incorporating that technology into education, medicine, government, and Americans' everyday lives.

Anna Georges was born in New Britain, Connecticut, on December 13, 1942. Her mother, Alice Babaian Georges, was of Armenian descent; her father, Fred Georges, was of Assyrian descent. She earned an associate degree in English literature from Cañada College in Redwood City, California, in 1975, and an honorary degree from Menlo College. She also is a graduate of the Coro Foundation. She is the mother of two children, Karen and Paul. She served as a Democratic National Committeewoman from 1980 to 1992. From 1981 to 1982, Eshoo was chief of staff to Leo McCarthy, speaker of the California assembly. In 1982, she was elected to the board of supervisors of San Mateo County, serving for 10 years. She also was a member of the California National Commission on Presidential Nominations.

Eshoo was elected to Congress in 1992, when she won the U.S. House seat in California's 14th Congressional District. When Republican Tom Campbell retired from his seat to run for the U.S. Senate, Eshoo entered the Democratic primary and edged out two well-known Democrats, California Assemblyman Ted Lempert and San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan. In the general election, Eshoo faced Republican Tom Huening, another San Mateo County supervisor. She ran on her experience of establishing a managed-care health plan in the county, environmental protection, and sound budgeting. Eshoo won a resounding 57 to 39 percent victory.¹ In subsequent campaigns, Eshoo has extended her margins of victory several points each year to 70 percent in 2004.²

When Eshoo entered the 103rd Congress (1993–1995) she received assignments on two committees: Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and Science, Space, and Technology. In the 104th Congress (1995–1997), she was elected to serve on the powerful Commerce Committee, later renamed Energy and Commerce. In 2003, she was appointed by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California to the House

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Anna Georges Eshoo,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- ¹ *Almanac of American Politics, 1994* (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 1993): 121–124; Bill Workman, “Democrat Favored in 14th District; GOP Candidate May Miss His Own Reform Session,” 29 October 1992, *San Francisco Chronicle*: A 21; “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- ² “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. She co-chairs the Congressional E-911 Caucus and the House Medical Technology Caucus, and serves as the Vice Chair of the 21st Century Health Care Caucus.

For more than a decade in Congress Representative Eshoo has defended consumers, promoted American competitiveness and innovation, fought for access to health care for families and children, and protected the environment. She has authored landmark legislation that created the use of electronic signatures, making legally binding digital documents possible and allowing online commerce to flourish; provided discounts to schools and libraries to increase public Internet access; secured funding for emergency call centers to obtain the necessary technology to locate mobile phone users when they call 911; promoted better labeling and testing of pharmaceuticals for children; exempted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation grants from income taxes, saving homeowners from being required to pay the government for vital damage prevention; ensured that low-income women who are diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer receive treatment; and required insurance companies to pay for reconstructive surgery for cancer patients.

Representative Eshoo has sponsored legislation aimed at “cleaning up the House” to restore the confidence of the American people in their government. She has co-sponsored numerous reform bills to require more transparency and accountability in lobbying, as well as a more fair and open legislative process. From her position on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Eshoo has authored legislation to protect national security and civil liberties, as well as legislation to require that any surveillance or intelligence gathering be conducted in accordance with the law, requiring court warrants based upon probable cause. Her legislative efforts also have sought to reform the U.S. intelligence community, in part, by increasing human intelligence to better meet the security challenges of the 21st century.

In 2005, Rep. Eshoo led House Democrats in introducing “The Innovation Agenda—A Commitment to Competitiveness to Keep American #1.” This comprehensive policy plan was developed in conjunction with leaders from the high technology, biotechnology, academic, and venture capital communities. The agenda calls for a national commitment to achieve U.S. energy independence in the next decade by developing legislation to increase investment in research and development to promote sustainable bio-fuels and hybrid technology. It also calls for the creation of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, a new laboratory within the Department of Energy to engage in high-risk, high-reward experimentation to yield discoveries of new sustainable energy sources. Education is a key element of the plan, with a national commitment to advance and enhance training and instruction in math and science.

Dianne Feinstein

1933–

UNITED STATES SENATOR

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1992–



Image courtesy of the Member

DURING A PUBLIC CAREER SPANNING FOUR DECADES, Dianne Feinstein has merged her string of firsts as a woman politician with a reputation as an effective legislator whose political ideology is “govern from the center.” As California’s senior Senator, Feinstein holds key posts as the Ranking Member on the Judiciary Committee’s Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security Subcommittee and the Appropriations Committee’s Military Construction Subcommittee.

Dianne Emiel Goldman was born on June 22, 1933, in San Francisco, California, to Leon and Betty Rosenberg Goldman. She graduated with a B.S. from Stanford University in 1955. In 1960, California Governor Pat Brown appointed her to the state Women’s Board of Terms and Parole, where she served until 1966.¹ In 1962, she married Bert Feinstein, who died of cancer in June 1978. Several years later, Feinstein married investment banker Richard Blum. Her daughter, Katherine Mariano, is now a superior court judge in California. During the 1970s, Feinstein’s political star rose quickly. In 1969 she became the first woman elected to the San Francisco board of supervisors, serving from 1970 to 1978 and acting as board president for five of those years. The day she disclosed her intention to retire from the board, November 27, 1978, a supervisor assassinated Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. Feinstein discovered the crime scene and found Milk’s body. She succeeded Moscone as the city’s first woman mayor and, the next year, won election to the first of two four-year terms. Feinstein earned national prominence as a tough-on-crime, pro-business mayor with a moderately liberal social agenda. Compelled to leave by the city’s two-term limit in 1988, she ran unsuccessfully for California governor in 1990 as the first woman on a major party ticket.

In 1992, Feinstein entered the special election for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Republican Pete Wilson, who had won the governorship in 1990 and appointed an associate, John Seymour, to a two-year Senate term. Feinstein capitalized on the sentiment that women had been excluded from the political process. Her campaign paraphernalia proclaimed “Two percent is not enough,” a reference to the fact that only two of the Senate’s 100 Members were women. In the Democratic primary she handily defeated state controller Gray Davis and, in the general election, defeated

Seymour with 54 percent of the vote.² Feinstein took the oath of office on November 10, 1992, becoming the first woman to represent California in the U.S. Senate. Two years later, she won election to a full six-year term against Republican candidate Michael Huffington.

Senator Feinstein received assignments on the Appropriations, Rules and Administration, Select Intelligence, and Joint Printing committees. She also was one of a small group of women ever appointed to the Judiciary Committee. Most recently, she joined the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 2001. When the Democrats controlled the Senate Chamber during the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Feinstein chaired the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information.

Senator Feinstein joined the moderate Senate New Democrats and the Centrist Coalition, becoming a strong proponent for issues such as women's reproductive rights, gay rights legislation, and gun control. One of her signal achievements was the passage of a ban on semi-automatic military weapons in 1994, the so-called Assault Weapons Ban. "I've lived a life that's been impacted by weapons," Senator Feinstein once wrote. "So this is not an esoteric, academic exercise for me."³ Also concerned with environmental issues, Feinstein successfully steered the California Desert Protection Act through the Senate—an unprecedented measure which placed more than 7 million desert acres into the Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks, as well as the East Mojave National Preserve. In 2000, she also authored the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which authorized \$300 million in federal money over 10 years to match California and Nevada conservation funds for the lake.⁴

Having lost her father and a husband to cancer, Senator Feinstein also has been a leader in the fight against the disease. She sponsored the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act in the 1990s, raising more than \$50 million for research. In 2002, she introduced the National Cancer Act, which proposed the modernization and restructuring of national cancer policy.⁵ In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Senator Feinstein teamed up with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas to author legislation creating the national "Amber Alert" system for missing children. With Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona, Feinstein also won passage of the Victims of Violent Crimes Act, giving victims a core set of procedural rights under federal law and ensuring they have standing to assert their rights before a court. She sponsored the Combat Meth Act with Jim Talent of Missouri, which is now law, placing limits on the purchase of ingredients that can be used to manufacture methamphetamine. And she authored one of the first bills to help promote stem cell research, which offers hope to millions of people with catastrophic diseases. Feinstein won re-election to a second full term in 2000, defeating former U.S. Representative Tom Campbell with 56 percent of the vote.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Dianne Feinstein," <http://bioguide.congress.gov/>

Mikuski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: Morrow, 2000).

Morris, Celia. *Storming the Statehouse: Running for Governor With Ann Richards and Dianne Feinstein* (New York: Scribner's Sons, 1992).

Roberts, Jerry. *Dianne Feinstein: Never Let Them See You Cry* (San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins West, 1994).

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

University of Oklahoma (Norman, OK), The Julian P. Kanter Commercial Archive, Department of Communication. *Film and Video Reels: 1971–1994*, one film reel and 29 video reels. Includes 67 commercials used during Feinstein's campaigns for the 1971 mayoral election in San Francisco, the 1990 gubernatorial, and the 1992 and 1994 U.S. senatorial elections in California.

NOTES

1 *Current Biography, 1979* (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1979): 130.

2 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

3 Barbara Mikuski et al., *Nine and Counting* (New York: Morrow, 2000): 140.

4 "Official Biography of Dianne Feinstein," <http://feinstein.senate.gov> (accessed 12 December 2004).

5 *Politics in America 2002* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 64.

Kay Granger

1943–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM TEXAS

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

KAY GRANGER, THE FORMER MAYOR OF FORT WORTH, won election in 1996 as the first Republican woman from Texas to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congresswoman Granger quickly ascended the House leadership, serving as a Deputy Majority Whip and earning positions on the influential Appropriations Committee and the Select Homeland Security Committee. Her experience as a successful businesswoman and single mother of three children continues to influence her legislative work.

Kay Mullendore was born in Greenville, Texas, on January 18, 1943. Her parents divorced while she was a young teenager, leaving her mother, Alliene, to raise the family. “I was not self-made,” she recalled years later. “I was made by my mother.”¹ She earned a bachelor of science degree magna cum laude from Texas Wesleyan University in 1965 and considered a career in fashion design but followed her mother into teaching. She worked in the Birdville school district for nine years, teaching English literature and journalism. She married, raised three children, and later was divorced. To pay the mortgage and save for college tuition, Granger pursued a career as a life insurance agent. She opened a successful insurance agency, solidifying her ties to many key future constituents in the Fort Worth business community. From 1981 to 1989 she served as a member of the Fort Worth zoning commission. In 1989 she won election to the Fort Worth city council and, in 1991, was elected mayor, where she served until 1995. She brought an ambitious agenda to jump-start the Fort Worth economy that reeled from defense layoffs and a soaring per-capita crime rate. Granger’s “Code: Blue” programs included citizen patrol initiatives that halved the rampant crime rate and joint public–private sector programs that drew major businesses to the city. Her resuscitation of Fort Worth’s flagging economic fortunes drew national attention.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Kay Granger,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Jacquelyn Floyd, “Kay Granger: With Fort Worth in the Limelight, Its Mayor Basks in the Glow,” 9 January 1994, *Dallas Morning News*: 1E; *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 979.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 Karen Foerstel, *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1999): 100–101.
- 4 Foerstel, *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women*: 101; *Politics in America*, 2002: 978.
- 5 “Official Biography of Kay Granger,” <http://kaygranger.house.gov/bio.asp> (accessed 10 December 2004).
- 6 Foerstel, *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women*: 101; *Politics in America*, 2002: 978.

In 1996, when the incumbent Democratic Congressman for the Texas district encompassing Fort Worth decided to retire, Granger was the favorite to run for the seat. The mayoral post was nonpartisan, and both major parties enticed her to run under their banner. Running as a Republican in the November general election, Granger won by a 17 percent margin and, in her four subsequent re-election campaigns, has never been seriously challenged. As testimony to her popularity, Representative Granger is the first Republican in more than 100 years to represent the district which produced, among others, a former Democratic Speaker of the House. In 2004, Granger was elected in the newly reapportioned district, still covering Fort Worth, with 72 percent of the vote.²

When Congresswoman Granger was sworn into the 105th Congress (1997–1999) in January 1997, she was assigned immediately as a Deputy Whip and was named to an advisory board that consulted Speaker Newt Gingrich. She also received seats on three high-profile committees: Budget, House Oversight, and Transportation and Infrastructure. In 1997, she was appointed to the National Security Committee to fill the spot left vacant by the death of California Congressman Sonny Bono. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001) she resigned her previous posts to accept a seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee, where she currently serves on the Defense Subcommittee and the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.³ In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Granger took on an additional assignment as a member of the newly created Select Homeland Security Committee.

Congresswoman Granger’s personal experience shaped many of her initiatives. In 1997, Granger successfully introduced legislation for tax-free education savings. When Republicans introduced a “comp time” bill to permit businesses to either pay over-time or give time off to employees who worked extra hours, Granger, as a working mother, defended the measure by arguing it would give workers more flexibility to deal with family matters.⁴ A strong advocate for a balanced budget, Granger participated in developing historic balanced budgets in the late 1990s as a Budget Committee member. She also has secured funding for defense projects centered in her district, particularly companies which have worked to develop the Joint Strike Fighter, the F-22 Raptor, and the V-22 Osprey.⁵ In the 106th Congress she served as vice chair of the Women’s Caucus, supporting abortion rights and pushing the caucus to broaden its agenda to include women’s retirement security and fair workplace standards. She also was a member of an informal group called the Renewal Alliance, a coalition of about two dozen House and Senate Republicans who support public–private partnerships to meet social needs and problems. Her fiscal conservatism coincided with moderation on social issues, including her support for affirmative-action admissions in public universities.⁶ She has authored a book about American values, *What’s Right About America*. As co-chair of the Iraqi Women’s Caucus, Granger was the congressional leader in assisting Iraqi women to gain equal rights and to attain leadership positions.

Jane F. Harman

1945–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1993–1999; 2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

JANE HARMAN WON ELECTION TO THE HOUSE of Representatives in 1992, the landmark “Year of the Woman.” Harman has become a leading figure in Congress on defense issues as a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Homeland Security. In 2001, after leaving Congress for a term in an unsuccessful run for California governor, Harman won re-election to her old seat, joining a handful of women to serve nonconsecutive terms in Congress.

Jane Margaret Lakes was born in New York City on June 28, 1945, to Adolph N. Lakes and Lucille Geier. Raised in Los Angeles, she graduated from University High School in 1962. After earning a B.A. in government from Smith College in 1966, she received a J.D. from Harvard Law School three years later.¹ She married Richard Frank and worked for two years at a Washington, D.C., law firm before joining the staff of California Senator John V. Tunney in 1972. In 1975 she was appointed chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights. She served as deputy secretary to the Cabinet of President James Earl “Jimmy” Carter in 1977 and as a special counsel to the Department of Defense. In 1980 she divorced Richard Frank and later married Sidney Harman, the founder of a major audio electronics company. Over the next decade, Jane Harman worked as a corporate lawyer and as a director of her husband’s multimillion dollar company. The Harmans have four children: Daniel, Justine, Brian, and Hilary.

In 1992, Harman first pursued elective office when she ran for a congressional seat in southern California. In the general election, she faced Republican Joan Milke Flores, a Los Angeles city councilwoman, and three minority party candidates. Harman employed a socially liberal but fiscally conservative message on her way to a 48 to 42 percent victory against Flores.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Jane F. Harman,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

Smith College (Northampton, Massachusetts), The Sophia Smith Collection. *Papers*: 1993–1998, 151 linear feet. Restricted access.

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2004
(Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2003): 136.
- 2 Paul Jacobs, “Defense Firms Were Key Donors to Harman Races; Gubernatorial Candidate Says She Backed Industry in Congress to Protect Jobs in South Bay,” 11 May 1998, *Los Angeles Times*: A1.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 Cathleen Decker, “Showdown for Davis, Lungren: Voters Reject Millionaires Checchi and Harman in State’s First Blanket Primary,” 3 June 1998, *Los Angeles Times*: A1; Cathleen Decker and Mark Barabak, “Davis’ 4th-1st Comeback ‘Proved Pundits Wrong,’” 5 June 1998, *Los Angeles Times*: A1.
- 5 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

In Congress Harman served as a watch guard of the high-tech defense industry that resided in her district. From her seat on the influential Armed Services Committee (later renamed the National Security Committee) she kept the Los Angeles air force base off the list of post-Cold War closings. Despite a sharp decline in defense spending, Representative Harman steered lucrative military weapons and space defense projects into her district. Yet she also prodded the industry at home to retool for a peacetime economy. As a member of the Science Committee, with a seat on the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, Harman brought work to companies looking for nonmilitary projects. She said, “I have viewed it as a major part of my job to help my district transition from defense-dependence, which was a deadend strategy, to the robust diverse economy which it now enjoys.”²

In 1994, running in one of the most evenly divided districts in the country, Harman nearly became a victim of the “Republican Revolution.” She pulled out a thin 812-vote win against her Republican opponent, Susan Brooks. When Harman faced Brooks again in 1996, in an election that became a referendum on the Republican “Contract with America,” she won by 19,000 votes. Subsequent races bore out the contention that neither party could dominate the competitive southern California district.³

Harman’s record in Congress straddled the ideological middle ground that her district occupied. She cast her vote for President William J Clinton’s 1993 budget, which increased spending and taxes, but by 1996, she advocated spending cuts, the balanced budget amendment, and the line-item veto. In 1995, Congresswoman Harman co-authored the Deficit Reduction Lockbox, requiring that spending cuts be applied to the deficit. She voted against the North American Free Trade Agreement but backed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Harman favored pro-choice measures and a partial ban on semiautomatic weapons but also supported the death penalty.

In 1998, Harman declined to run for a fourth consecutive term in the House to pursue the Democratic nomination for governor of California. She lost in the Democratic primary.⁴ Harman reclaimed her House seat by narrowly defeating her congressional successor, Republican Steve Kuykendall, in the 2000 general election. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Harman received assignments on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a nod to her experience and continued influence. Shortly thereafter, she was promoted to Ranking Member of the Intelligence Committee. In the 2002 elections, she defeated GOP candidate Stuart Johnson with 61 percent of the vote. She won election to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) in 2004 by defeating Republican Paul Whitehead by a 62 to 34 percent margin.⁵

Katherine Harris

1957–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM FLORIDA

2003–



Image courtesy of the Member

THE 2000 PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT RECOUNT IN FLORIDA thrust Katherine Harris into the national spotlight in her role as the state's chief election officer, but it also obscured her meteoric career and deep political roots. Having worked to bring business into Florida both as a state senator and as secretary of state, Harris won election to the House in 2002 and secured seats on the influential Financial Services, International Relations, and Homeland Security committees.

Katherine Harris was born on April 5, 1957, at the Key West Naval Base in Florida, to George Walter Harris, a banking executive, and Harriett Griffin Harris. Katherine Harris is the granddaughter of Ben Hill Griffin, Jr., a citrus magnate and Democratic state senator. She attended Bartow High School and graduated in 1979 from Agnes Scott College with a B.A. in history; she later earned an MPA from Harvard in 1996. After graduating from college, Harris worked as a marketing executive for a major computer corporation and then served as vice president of a Sarasota commercial real estate company. In 1996, she married Anders Ebbeson, a business executive, and they raised one child, Louise. Harris decided to enter politics in 1994 when she made a successful run for the Florida state senate. During her four years as a state legislator, she chaired the commerce and economic development committee. In 1998, Harris successfully ran for the Florida secretary of state post and was responsible primarily for handling corporate filings and implementing state election procedures. She used her office to attract international business, the arts, and historic preservation into the state. In 2000, she was named the Florida co-chair for the George W. Bush presidential campaign. Harris garnered national attention as Florida's top election official during the state's historic ballot recount which eventually decided the election in George W. Bush's favor by a slender margin. In 2002, she published a book about the experience, *Center of the Storm*.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Katherine Harris," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Harris, Katherine. *Center of the Storm: Practicing Principled Leadership in Times of Crisis* (Nashville, TN: WND Books, 2002).

NOTES

1 Manuel Riog-Franzia, "The Last Laugh: Florida's Katherine Harris Knows About Winning Elections. Just Count the Ballots," 19 October 2002, *Washington Post*: C1.

2 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

3 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 243.

4 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

In 2002, when five-term GOP Representative Dan Miller retired from Florida's west central gulf coast district seat encompassing much of Sarasota and Bradenton, Harris declared her candidacy. Harris had the advantage of a longtime connection to the area as a patron of the arts and civic philanthropist. She won the GOP primary by more than a 2-1 margin. Harris, who faced Democratic challenger Jan Schneider, ran on a general election platform that broadly supported the George W. Bush administration's war on terror, including increased defense spending. Harris backed tax cuts, school vouchers, and medical savings accounts. She also opposed U.S. funding for United Nations family planning programs.¹ In the general election she defeated Schneider by a margin of 55 percent to 45 percent.²

In the 108th Congress (2003-2005), Harris received committee assignments on Financial Services and International Relations. She had three subcommittee appointments for Financial Services: Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises; Housing and Community Opportunity; and Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology. Harris also held two subcommittee assignments on the International Relations Committee. She served as vice chair of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee and also held a seat on the Middle East and Central Asia Subcommittee. The leadership also tapped her for a seat on the Republican Policy Committee and made her an Assistant Whip. In the 109th Congress (2005-2007), she also received a seat on the Homeland Security Committee.

During the first year of her freshman term, Harris supported the overhaul of the Medicare program and the creation of a prescription drug benefit, as well as a measure to outlaw the partial-birth abortion procedure except in cases where it was used to save a woman's life. She sponsored the American Dream Downpayment Act, a program to help low-income families and individuals purchase their first home, which was signed into law by President Bush in December 2003. Key provisions of her "Carlie's Law" legislation, making any sexual crime or crime against children a crime of violence for the first time ever, can be found in the Children's Safety and Violent Crimes Act, which has passed the House. Harris voted for a \$330 billion tax cut between 2003 and 2013 and backed a budget resolution that called for \$1.3 trillion in tax cuts over 10 years. Also in line with her campaign promises, she supported a measure to create a pilot private school voucher program in Washington, D.C., that supporters hoped would become the basis for a national program.³ In 2004, Harris won re-election, defeating Schneider by a similar margin, 55 to 45 percent.⁴

Melissa A. Hart

1962–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
REPUBLICAN FROM PENNSYLVANIA

2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

SPURRED INTO POLITICS BY WHAT SHE PERCEIVED AS HIGH taxes and inefficient government, Melissa Hart entered elective politics at age 28, winning a seat in the Pennsylvania senate. After a decade in state politics, Hart was elected to the U.S. House in 2000—the first Republican woman to represent Pennsylvania in Congress. Representative Hart has focused on pro-life issues and reviving the economic prospects of her southwestern Pennsylvania district.

Melissa Ann Hart was born on April 4, 1962, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, daughter of Donald Hart, a research chemist, and Albina Hart. After her father's sudden death, Hart and her two siblings worked their way through school to contribute to the family finances.¹ Hart graduated from North Allegheny High School and then majored in business and German, earning her bachelor's degree in 1984 from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania. She also joined the Young Republicans as an undergraduate. She completed her jurist doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh in 1987. For a while, she practiced as a lawyer in Pittsburgh. In 1990, at age 28, Hart won election to the Pennsylvania state senate. She told a local newspaper that her political career was spurred by a high property tax increase. "I had never thought of running for office until . . . I realized the money being taken from us wasn't being spent in an effective way," Hart said.² Despite hailing from an overwhelmingly Democratic district, she was re-elected twice by wide margins. During her tenure in the state legislature, she chaired the finance committee, helped implement \$4 billion in state tax breaks, and served as vice chair of the urban affairs and housing committee. Phil English, Hart's chief of staff during her Pennsylvania senate career, later became a U.S. Representative.

Hart's ambition to serve in the U.S. Congress began in 2000, when four-term incumbent Democratic Representative Ronald Klink retired from his House seat to campaign for the U.S. Senate. Hart entered the race to succeed him. The district encompassed a large portion of southwestern Pennsylvania that included six counties. Though socially conservative, its history of union support usually kept it in the Democratic column. Hart's platform supported simplifying the tax code, ending married couples' tax penalties, and increasing economic development in

western Pennsylvania, which had missed much of the 1990s high-technology boom. Hart also supported pro-life positions on the abortion debate. She ran unopposed in the GOP primary and won the general election against her Democratic challenger, a state representative, with 60 percent of the vote, becoming the first Republican elected in the district since 1976. In her subsequent two re-election campaigns, Hart won by similarly comfortable margins.³

After arriving at the start of the 107th Congress (2001–2003) in January 2001, Hart was appointed to the three prominent committees: Science, Judiciary, and Financial Services. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), she was named the vice chair of the Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution.

Over the course of her career in the U.S. Congress, Representative Hart has achieved several significant legislative successes. In the 108th Congress, she authored the Unborn Victims of Violence/Laci and Conner’s Law. The measure, which passed Congress and was signed into law by President George W. Bush, provided that in a federal crime of violence against a pregnant woman in which her unborn child is harmed, the perpetrator can be prosecuted for two crimes against two victims. Hart also has opposed the partial-birth abortion procedure and has introduced legislation that would withhold federal funding from universities that provide their students access to the morning-after birth control pill. Also during the 108th Congress, Hart inserted language into the final signed version of the CAN-SPAM Law requiring sexually explicit e-mails to be labeled so that parents can protect their children from Internet predators. Additionally, Hart introduced legislation to assist in the cleanup of old industrial sites (“brownfields”) prevalent in her district and legislation reauthorizing the “Metals Initiative,” which aims to make the domestic steel industry competitive.

Hart’s principal legislative focus has been to boost the economy in her district. Along with other lawmakers from steel-producing districts, she has urged the Bush administration to impose quotas on imported steel. She also has backed legislation to help laid-off airline workers; Pittsburgh is a major airline hub. Hart also has offered legislation to provide business tax breaks to fund Army Corps of Engineers projects in her district and to expand the boundaries of metropolitan Pittsburgh to increase federal aid to the area.

In January of 2005, Hart won a seat on the House Ways and Means Committee. Serving on this powerful committee—with jurisdiction over taxes, Social Security, and Medicare—will allow Hart to work on the issues critical to Western Pennsylvanians and all Americans.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Melissa A. Hart,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

1 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 863.

2 *Politics in America*, 2004: 863.

3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

Stephanie Herseth

1970–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRAT FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

2004–



Image courtesy of the Member

ON JUNE 1, 2004, STEPHANIE HERSETH BECAME THE FIRST woman from South Dakota elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Hailing from one of the state's prominent political families, Congresswoman Herseth emerged on the national scene by winning a special election to the state's vacant At-Large seat. One of the newest women in Congress, Herseth was appointed to three committees important to her South Dakota constituents: Agriculture, Veterans' Affairs, and Resources.

Stephanie Herseth was born on December 3, 1970, to Lars and Joyce Herseth and was raised on her family's farm and ranch near Houghton, South Dakota. Her grandfather, Ralph Herseth, was once the state's governor; her grandmother, Lorna B. Herseth, was the secretary of state. Lars Herseth served in the South Dakota state legislature for 20 years and was a Democratic gubernatorial nominee. Stephanie Herseth graduated as a valedictorian from Groton High School in Groton, South Dakota. In 1993, she earned a B.A. from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., graduating *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in government. Four years later she earned her J.D. from Georgetown with honors and was a senior editor of the *Georgetown Law Review*. While in law school, Herseth worked for the South Dakota public utilities commission and the legal counsel for the elderly. After being admitted to the South Dakota bar, Herseth served as a faculty member of the Georgetown University Law Center and taught classes in the Czech Republic about the American system of government. Herseth later clerked for a U.S. District Court judge in Pierre, South Dakota, and for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Maryland. In 2003 and 2004, she served as the executive director of the South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Stephanie Herseth,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Peter Harriman, “Herseth Savors Return, Race for House,” 22 September 2002, *Sioux Falls Argus Leader*: 1A.
- 2 Stephen Kinzer, “The Voters in South Dakota Send a Woman to Washington for the First Time,” 3 June 2004, *New York Times*: 18; Joe Kafka, “Democrat Wins in South Dakota Special Election,” 1 June 2004, Associated Press.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.

In 2002, when Republican John Thune decided to retire from South Dakota's sole U.S. House seat to run for the U.S. Senate, Herseth entered the race to succeed him.¹ She won the Democratic nomination, defeating three other challengers, with 59 percent of the vote. In the general election, she faced the state's popular four-term governor, Republican William J. Janklow. Herseth campaigned for fiscal responsibility, affordable health care for South Dakotans, expansion of ethanol and value-added agriculture, and tax credits for parents who need childcare. She also called for federal aid to improve the quality of life on South Dakota's Indian reservations. Herseth ultimately supported the George W. Bush administration's push for war against Iraq on the basis of Saddam Hussein's apparent development of weapons of mass destruction but cautioned early about the need for a strong coalition and warned that intervention in Iraq could sap resources from the nation's focus on terrorist threats. Janklow won, but Herseth made a close race of it—closing a double-digit gap in the pre-election opinion polls and eventually garnering 46 percent to the governor's 54 percent.

When Representative Janklow resigned his House seat on January 20, 2004, Herseth was an immediate favorite to run in the special election to fill the remainder of Janklow's term. She won the Democratic nomination and faced Republican Larry Diedrich, a farmer and former president of the American Soybean Association, in the special election. On June 1, 2004, Herseth won by a plurality of fewer than 3,000 votes out of nearly 260,000 cast, a 51 to 49 percent margin.² In November 2004, in a rematch against Deidrich, Herseth won by a 53 to 46 percent margin, polling more votes than any other candidate for statewide national office.³

On June 3, 2004, South Dakota's two Democratic Senators, Minority Leader Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson, escorted Herseth into the House Chamber to take the oath of office. Representative Herseth received assignments on several key committees. Her post on the House Agriculture Committee gave her a voice on issues important to South Dakota's primary industry—farming. Additionally, Herseth's seat on the Resources Committee allowed her to play a role in deciding matters of significance to her state, including Native American policy, forests, national parks, and wildlife. By the end of the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Congresswoman Herseth had introduced several measures, including a bill to amend the Social Security Act to preserve Social Security cost-of-living adjustments. As co-chair of the House Democratic Rural Working Group, Herseth is a leader for the needs of rural America, including the development of a strong renewable fuels industry.

Darlene Kay Hooley

1939–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM OREGON

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

A FORMER OREGON PUBLIC SCHOOLTEACHER, Darlene Hooley began a long climb in state politics in the 1970s, inspired initially by defective equipment at a local playground. Hooley served in city, county, and state government for 20 years before winning election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1996. During her tenure in Congress, Representative Hooley has focused on identity theft and data security, education funding, affordable health care and prescription drug coverage, the National Guard, and veterans' health care.

Darlene Olson was born on April 4, 1939, in Williston, North Dakota, to Clarence Alvin Olson and Alyce Rogers Olson. When she was eight years old, her family moved to Salem, Oregon. Darlene Olson earned a B.S. in education from Oregon State University in 1961, and pursued postgraduate work at Oregon State University and Portland State University from 1963 until 1965. She also taught reading, music, and physical education in Oregon. Darlene Olson married John Hooley, a fellow teacher, and they raised two children, Chad and Erin, before they divorced in 1997. The lack of city response to playground equipment maintenance issues at a local public park, where her son had fallen off a swing onto the asphalt, convinced Hooley to enter politics. In 1976, she was the first woman elected to the West Linn city council. Four years later, she earned a spot in the state house of representatives, where she served until 1987. In the legislature, she chaired the environmental and energy committees where she helped pass energy conservation measures, recycling legislation, and a rewrite of land use planning laws. In her third term, she served on the Oregon house of representatives' ways and means committee, chairing its education subcommittee. She focused on establishing public kindergarten, passing pay equity laws, and reforming the state's welfare system. In 1987, she became the first woman member of the Clackamas County commission where she served until her election to Congress.¹

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Darlene Hooley,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 847–848; *Almanac of American Politics*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2003): 1344–1345; “Official Biography of Darlene Hooley,” <http://www.house.gov/hoooley/biography.htm> (accessed 24 November 2004).
- 2 “Election Information, 1920 to Present,” Office of the Clerk, <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 3 “Official Biography of Darlene Hooley,” <http://www.house.gov/hoooley/biography.htm>; *Politics in America*, 2004: 847–848.

In 1996, Hooley entered the race for an Oregon seat in the U.S. House of Representatives covering much of the northern Willamette Valley from West Linn in the north to the state capital, Salem, and the university town of Corvallis to the south. With backing from major women’s political action committees such as EMILY’s List, Hooley prevailed in the three-way Democratic primary with 51 percent of the vote. In the general election, she faced Republican Jim Bunn, a first-term incumbent. Her platform contrasted with the Republican “Contract with America” and was especially critical of Medicare cuts. Hooley defeated Bunn by a 52 to 45 percent margin in a race with two independent candidates. In her subsequent four re-election campaigns, Hooley has won by margins of between 53 and 57 percent of the vote.²

During the first year of the 105th Congress (1997–1999), Representative Hooley was elected Democratic freshman class president. She was then elected as Regional Representative to the Democratic Steering Committee in the 106th–107th Congresses (1999–2003). Hooley was appointed as Whip-at-Large (106th and 107th Congresses) and then Senior Whip. She received seats on the Banking and Financial Services Committee (later renamed Financial Services) and the Science Committee. In the 106th Congress, Hooley took leave from serving on the Science Committee to serve on the influential Budget Committee, but was termed out in the 109th Congress (2005–2007) and returned to the Science Committee as Ranking Member on the Research Subcommittee. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), she added a third assignment by accepting a position on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

On the Financial Services Committee, Hooley has become the leader of ID theft prevention efforts and for increased medical and financial privacy. In the 108th Congress, Hooley’s consumer protection legislation providing all Americans the ability to see their credit reports from all three major credit bureaus annually at no cost was enacted.

Locally, Hooley has proven successful in securing public investments in Oregon’s 5th District, including millions of dollars in county timber payments in lieu of taxes on federal lands for local schools and roads, federal funding for transportation, port and infrastructure needs, and agricultural research and bio-medical research funding.

In 2002, Representative Hooley voted against the authorization of the use of military force in Iraq. During the occupation of Iraq, she has been a vocal advocate for the proper training and equipping of troops serving overseas, and has worked to correct inequities between the active duty and National Guard. As the Ranking Member of the Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Hooley worked to improve the veterans’ health care and increase funding for its medical centers.³

Kathryn Ann “Kay” Bailey Hutchison

1943–

UNITED STATES SENATOR
REPUBLICAN FROM TEXAS

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

AS THE FIRST WOMAN TO REPRESENT TEXAS in the U.S. Senate, Kay Bailey Hutchison has addressed issues ranging from transportation to family tax relief and defense. Having served in the Senate for more than a decade, Senator Hutchison chairs two powerful subcommittees: Appropriations' Military Construction Subcommittee and Commerce's Science and Space Subcommittee. In 2000, her GOP colleagues elected her Vice Chair of the Senate Republican Conference—making her the fifth-highest ranking member of the party leadership.

Kathryn Ann “Kay” Bailey was born in Galveston, Texas, on July 22, 1943, to Allan and Kathryn Bailey. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and, in 1967, earned an L.L.B. from the University of Texas School of Law. In 1969, when few law firms hired women, she began a career as a Houston television reporter covering state legislation.¹ She and Ray, her husband of 28 years, have two children, Bailey and Houston.² While a journalist, Hutchison was inspired after an interview with Anne Armstrong, co-chair of the Republican National Committee, to enter politics, first working as Armstrong's press secretary. In 1972, Hutchison was elected to the Texas state house of representatives. After two terms, she left the state legislature in 1976 to serve as vice chair of the National Transportation Safety Board. After three years in that post, Hutchison returned to Texas. In 1982, she made an unsuccessful bid for an open U.S. House seat representing portions of Dallas. She spent eight years in the private sector before winning election in 1990 as the Texas state treasurer. Two years later, Hutchison co-chaired the Republican National Convention.³ As Texas treasurer, Hutchison increased returns on state investments to \$1 billion annually, led a successful campaign against a state income tax, and helped cap the state debt.⁴

In January 1993, when Lloyd Bentsen of Texas resigned from the U.S. Senate to serve as Treasury Secretary, Democrat Bob Krueger was appointed to fill the vacancy until a special election was held on June 5, 1993. After topping a crowd of 24 candidates in an open primary, Hutchison prevailed against Krueger by a 29 percent margin and was sworn in to the U.S. Senate on June 14, 1993. In 1994, she was

elected to a six-year term with 61 percent of the vote. She won her second full term in 2000 by a similar margin, with more than 4 million votes, the largest total of any Texas statewide official in history.⁵ In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Hutchison’s committee assignments included: Appropriations; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Rules and Administration; and Veterans’ Affairs.

Senator Hutchison has served her entire career on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. She has used her role as the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine to even the international playing field for American shippers as well as to deregulate and create greater accountability for Amtrak.⁶ Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, she authored the airline security bill, which aimed at increasing cargo security on domestic flights while streamlining security checks for frequent travelers. In accordance with the North American Free Trade Agreement, Hutchison also supported opening the U.S. border to Mexican trucks only if they met the same safety standards as those in the United States.⁷

Senator Hutchison established herself as a fiscal conservative, supporting tax cuts, a constitutional balanced budget amendment, and cuts to government spending. Teaming with Democratic Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, she co-authored the Homemaker IRA, which provided stay-at-home moms the same retirement tax credit as working women. In 2001, Hutchison was the Senate sponsor of legislation repealing the so-called marriage penalty tax, a provision which Congress incorporated into the 2001 tax overhaul package. In 2001, Senator Hutchison also wrote several provisions for the No Child Left Behind Act, including: helping recruit teachers who are retirees or midcareer professionals, giving parents regular updates on their children’s school performance, and allowing local school districts to more easily offer single-sex education environments.⁸ Hutchison worked with Senator Dianne Feinstein of California in the 108th Congress authoring legislation to create a national Amber Alert network to streamline the search for missing children.

A former member of the Armed Services Committee, Hutchison has advocated greater attention to Gulf War Syndrome victims and was a leading opponent of bombing Serbia and sending ground troops into Bosnia in 1995. From her position as chairwoman on the Appropriations Military Construction Subcommittee, she established a federal overseas basing commission to ensure the effectiveness of military installations abroad, and favored training troops at home instead of overseas because of space constraints.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Kathryn Ann Bailey Hutchison,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Mikulski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: Morrow, 2000).

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 950; Mikulski, Barbara, et al., *Nine and Counting* (New York: Morrow, 2000): 21–22.
- 2 “Official Biography of Kay Bailey Hutchison,” <http://hutchison.senate.gov/bio.htm> (accessed 20 December 2004); *Politics in America*, 1996 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1995): 1248–1249; *Current Biography*, 1997 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1997): 237–240.
- 3 “*Current Biography*, 1997: 237–240.
- 4 “Official Biography of Kay Bailey Hutchison.”
- 5 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 6 Mikulski et al., *Nine and Counting*: 209.
- 7 *Politics in America*, 2004: 950–951.
- 8 “Official Biography of Kay Bailey Hutchison.”

Sheila Jackson-Lee

1950–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM TEXAS

1995–



Image courtesy of the Member

SHEILA JACKSON-LEE WON ELECTION TO THE U.S. HOUSE of Representatives in 1994 in a Houston district once served by Barbara Jordan. From her seats on the Science, Judiciary, and Homeland Security committees, Congresswoman Jackson-Lee has focused on the needs of her district, which includes a large number of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) employees. She also has called attention to such national issues as health care reform and job training for working-class Americans.

Sheila Jackson was born in Jamaica, New York, on January 12, 1950. Her mother was a nurse, and her father was a hospital orderly. Jackson graduated from Jamaica High School and attended New York University. She transferred to Yale University and, in 1972, earned a B.A. in political science. Before receiving her J.D. from the University of Virginia in 1975, Sheila Jackson married Elwyn Cornelius Lee; they later raised two children, Erica and Jason. In 1977 and 1978, she worked as a staff counsel for the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations, which investigated the murders of Martin Luther King, Jr., and President John F. Kennedy. She left private law practice in 1987 to serve as an associate judge in the Houston municipal courts. Three years later, she won election to the first of two terms on the Houston city council.

In 1994, Jackson-Lee challenged three-term incumbent Craig Washington for the Democratic nomination to the Houston-area U.S. House seat. Her platform reflected broad agreement with the William J. Clinton administration agenda—including the President's plan for managed competition health care reform. Questioning her opponent's opposition to measures that would benefit the Houston economy, Jackson-Lee defeated Washington by a 63 to 37 percent margin in the Democratic primary. She won handily with 73 percent of the vote in the general election against Republican Jerry Burley. In her subsequent five re-election bids, Jackson-Lee won by wide margins, capturing a high of 90 percent in 1998.¹ Jackson-Lee followed a succession of prestigious Representatives from

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Sheila Jackson-Lee,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 2 *Congressional Record*, House, 106th Cong., 1st sess. (4 October 1999): 9246.
- 3 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 990–991.
- 4 *Politics in America*, 2002: 990–991.

her district. Created after the 1970 Census, Jackson-Lee’s was the first Texas district in which the majority of the voters were African American or Hispanic. The congressional seat for the district was formerly held by Jackson-Lee’s idol, intellectual powerhouse Barbara Jordan, for three terms and afterward by noted humanitarian Mickey Leland throughout the 1980s.

When Jackson-Lee took her seat in the 104th Congress (1995–1997), she received assignments on the Judiciary Committee and the Science Committee. By the 107th Congress (2003–2005), Jackson-Lee was the top-ranking Democrat on the Immigration and Claims Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee. She served on both panels through the 108th Congress. Also, during the 108th Congress, Jackson-Lee was assigned to the newly created Select Homeland Security Committee. Her fellow freshmen elected her the 104th Congress Democratic freshman class president. Jackson-Lee also was appointed to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. In 1997, she was selected as a Whip for the Congressional Black Caucus.

In Congress, Jackson-Lee battled GOP initiatives to reduce welfare. In the 105th Congress (1997–1999) she pushed for legislation to protect child support and alimony payments from creditors. As a cofounder of the Congressional Children’s Caucus, she also sponsored bills to create affordable childcare for working parents and to strengthen adoption laws. Jackson-Lee spearheaded two legislative efforts—one to reduce teenage smoking addiction and, the other, the “Date Rape Prevention Drug Act,” aimed at curbing the availability of drugs used by rapists. She also was a strong defender of affirmative action programs, arguing that without such guidelines “institutions are left to favor the privileged as they did in the past.”²

From her seat on the Science Committee, Jackson-Lee tended to the needs of her district, too, pushing in 1999 to restore appropriations in a funding bill for NASA. Several years earlier she voted to preserve funding for the construction of more B-2 bombers, whose components are assembled in her state. She supported the 1999 Commercial Space Transportation Competitiveness Act, extending provisions in a 1988 bill to grow the commercial space launch industry.³ Jackson-Lee persuaded the Clinton administration to designate low-income neighborhoods in Houston as “empowerment zones,” making them eligible for millions in federal grants, to promote business creation, job training, childcare facilities, and improved transportation.³

Jackson-Lee maintained that her advocacy on these issues was part of her job representing constituents. “You have an obligation to make sure that their concerns are heard, are answered,” Jackson-Lee explained. “I need to make a difference. I don’t have wealth to write a check. But maybe I can be a voice arguing consistently for change.”⁴

Eddie Bernice Johnson

1935–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM TEXAS

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

A NURSE BY TRAINING, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON also was a political veteran decades before coming to Congress in the early 1990s. In 1972 Johnson became the first African American to hold a Dallas-area political office since the Reconstruction Era, after winning election to the state legislature. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1992, Johnson has attained a high-ranking seat on the Science Committee and has chaired the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), stressing the need for minority inroads in the fields of science and technology.

Eddie Bernice Johnson was born in Waco, Texas, on December 3, 1935, daughter of Lee Edward Johnson and Lillie Mae (White) Johnson. She graduated from A.J. Moore High School in Waco, in 1952. In 1955, she received a nursing diploma from Holy Cross Central School of Nursing in South Bend, Indiana. Eddie Bernice Johnson married Lacey Kirk Johnson a year later. Before they divorced in 1970, the couple had one son, Kirk. Johnson graduated in 1967 with a B.S. from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. She later became the chief psychiatric nurse of the Veterans' Administration hospital in Dallas. In 1976, Johnson earned an M.S. in public administration from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Johnson has three grandchildren: Kirk, Jr., David, and James.

Eddie Bernice Johnson first became involved in elective politics at the state level. She was elected as a Democrat to the Texas state legislature in 1972, becoming the first African-American woman from the Dallas area ever to hold public office. As a member of the Texas legislature, she chaired the labor committee, becoming the first woman in Texas history to lead a major committee in the house. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed her as a regional director for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, a post she held until 1981. After a six-year hiatus from politics, Johnson won election to the state senate, eventually serving as chair of the redistricting committee.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Eddie Bernice Johnson,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

1 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

2 *Politics in America*, 2004
(Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 1008.

Following the Texas reapportionment of 1992, Johnson ran for the newly created U.S. House seat, which encompassed much of the Dallas and Irving area. She was elected as a Democrat with 72 percent of the vote. In 1996, court-ordered redistricting changed the boundaries of the Texas district, reducing the percentage of minority voters. Nevertheless, Johnson was re-elected with 55 percent of the vote. In her subsequent four re-election campaigns, Johnson won comfortably. In 2004, she won re-election to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) with 93 percent of the vote.¹

Johnson has served on two committees since her House career began in January 1993: Transportation and Infrastructure (formerly called Public Works and Transportation) and Science (previously named Science, Space, and Technology). In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Johnson was the Ranking Democrat on the Science Committee’s Subcommittee on Research.

Representative Johnson’s legislative interests have had both a local and a national focus. As a former nurse, Johnson has called attention to the problems facing the country’s health care system and Medicare program. In 2002, she voted against a Republican-backed prescription drug plan. She also has been a proponent of a bill that called for increased federal funding for research into osteoporosis, a bone density deficiency. From her seat on the Science Committee, Congresswoman Johnson also has pushed for a program to encourage school children to study science and math. In the 109th Congress, Johnson serves as the Ranking Member on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment.

Johnson used her Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Science Committee positions to look out for the economic interests of her district. Early in her career, Johnson supported the North American Free Trade Agreement, recognizing the fact that much of Dallas’s business revolves around exports to Mexico. She later voted for normalizing trade relations with China, arguing that it would bring business to the Dallas-Fort Worth Area. In 1998, she received a post on the Aviation Subcommittee of Transportation and Infrastructure, an important position since her district covers part of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Johnson has helped bring federal money for transportation improvements and also has supported the production of B-2 stealth bombers, which are manufactured in her district.

During her House career, Johnson has been an active member of the CBC. As chair of the organization in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), she attempted to steer the CBC toward building coalitions with business groups in addition to its traditional reliance on labor and civil rights organizations. Representative Johnson also pushed the group to hold its first summit conferences on technology and energy.²

Nancy L. Johnson

1935–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
REPUBLICAN FROM CONNECTICUT

1983–



Image courtesy of the Member

DURING HER TWO DECADES IN THE HOUSE, Nancy L. Johnson became the first Republican woman to gain a seat on the influential Ways and Means Committee; she has become the highest-ranking woman in the history of that panel.

Nancy Elizabeth Lee was born in Chicago, Illinois, on January 5, 1935, daughter of Noble W. Lee and Gertrude Smith Lee. She attended the Lab School at the University of Chicago, earned a B.A. from Radcliffe College in 1957, and went to the University of London Courtauld Institute from 1957 to 1958, where she studied art history. Nancy Lee married Theodore Johnson, an obstetrician, and they raised three daughters: Lindsey, Althea, and Caroline. They settled in New Britain, Connecticut, in the 1960s. At the urging of the local Republican committee, Nancy Johnson successfully ran for the Connecticut senate in 1976—the first Republican from solidly Democratic New Britain to achieve this feat in more than 30 years. She served in the state senate until 1983.

In 1982, Connecticut Representative Toby Moffet decided to run for the U.S. Senate. Johnson won the Republican nomination for Moffet's House seat and faced a fellow member of the Connecticut senate, Democrat William Curry, in the general election. She ran a campaign that reflected the fiscal conservatism of the Ronald W. Reagan administration but was moderately liberal on social issues. Both candidates, for instance, were pro-choice on the abortion issue, and both opposed constitutional amendments to allow school prayer.¹ Johnson won by a margin of about 7,000 votes—52 percent to Curry's 48 percent.²

During her first term in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Johnson served on the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. In her third term, Johnson joined the Budget Committee. In 1988, Johnson became the first Republican woman ever named to the powerful Ways and Means Committee, relinquishing all of her other committee assignments. Eventually she rose to chair three subcommittees on Ways and Means: Oversight (104th–105th Congresses,

1995–1999), Human Resources (106th Congress, 1999–2001), and Health (107th–108th Congresses, 2001–2005). During the 104th Congress, Johnson served as chair of the House Ethics Committee (officially known as the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct), one of just a handful of women in congressional history to chair a full committee.

Among her accomplishments serving in those capacities was her successful effort to shape and steer through the House the Taxpayer Bill of Rights II. On the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, Johnson sponsored the legislation creating the State Children’s Health Insurance Program and was a principal author of the bill adding prescription drug coverage, care for chronic illnesses, and other improvements to Medicare. Johnson’s interests have ranged from the protection of industries and jobs in her district to federal policy for childcare and public health. She earned a reputation as an effective legislator and an important swing vote for both parties, voting with Republicans on fiscal policy and often crossing the aisle to vote with Democrats on social issues.

Johnson’s legislative work also has focused on issues affecting working mothers and women generally. In 1997, she became co-chair of the Congressional Women’s Caucus. She advocated a program whereby homemakers could contribute to an individual retirement account an amount similar to that contributed by their wage-earning spouse. Johnson repeatedly sought to moderate the GOP’s welfare reform legislation by sponsoring a successful amendment that kept welfare recipients on the Medicaid rolls. She also fought to preserve welfare eligibility for mothers with children younger than 10 years of age, thus exempting them from the Republican-sponsored five-year cut-off limit.³

Completing her 20th year in Congress, Johnson emerged as the dean of women in the House (a distinction she shares with Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, also elected in 1982) and the dean of her Connecticut congressional delegation. In 2002, she was re-elected after one of Connecticut’s House seats was removed due to reapportionment. In a race for the newly created Connecticut district seat against three-term Democratic incumbent James Maloney, Johnson prevailed by a margin of 54 to 43 percent of the vote. At the start of the 108th Congress she was the fourth-ranking Republican on Ways and Means. Johnson won re-election to a 12th term in 2004 with 60 percent of the vote, making her the longest-serving U.S. Representative in Connecticut history.⁴

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Nancy Lee Johnson,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Matthew L. Wald, “Race in the Sixth District Is a Battle of Contrasts,” 19 September 1982, *New York Times*: Section II, 2.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 Karen Foerstel, *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1999): 136.
- 4 “Election Statistics 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones

1949–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM OHIO

1999–



Image courtesy of the Member

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES WON ELECTION TO THE U.S. HOUSE of Representatives in 1998, becoming the first African-American woman to represent Ohio in the U.S. Congress. Representative Jones, who holds a seat on the influential Ways and Means Committee, has focused on economic issues affecting her Cleveland-centered district: financial literacy, access to health care, retirement security, and education.

Stephanie Tubbs was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 10, 1949, the youngest of three daughters raised by Mary Tubbs, a factory worker, and Andrew Tubbs, an airline sky cap. Raised in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood, Stephanie Tubbs graduated from Collinwood High School, earning 10 different academic and athletic awards. At Case Western Reserve University, Tubbs founded the African-American Students Association and, in 1971, earned a B.A. in sociology with a minor in psychology. "All my life I had wanted to help others, and I had been active in helping others," she recalled. "I was always interested in service. In my day, the college watchword was relevant. . . . With a law degree, I thought I could bring about relevant change in the world."¹ She enrolled in the Case Western University Law School and graduated in 1974 with a J.D. Immediately after law school, she served as the assistant general counsel for the equal opportunity administrator, northeast Ohio regional sewer district. In 1976 Tubbs married Mervyn Jones, and they raised a son, Mervyn. Stephanie Tubbs Jones later worked as an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor and trial attorney for the Cleveland district equal employment opportunity commission. When Jones and several friends worked on a successful political campaign in 1979, the group pledged to select one among them and work to get that person into public office. Noting a lack of minority members on the bench, they chose Jones, who eventually won election as a judge on the Cleveland municipal court. Ohio Governor Richard Celeste appointed Jones to the Cuyahoga County court of common pleas, where she served from 1983 to 1991. She was the first African-American woman to hold that post in state history.

In 1992, she was appointed as the Cuyahoga County prosecutor, making her the state's first African-American prosecutor and the only black woman prosecutor in a major U.S. city. Jones won re-election twice.²

In 1998, when 30-year veteran U.S. Representative Louis Stokes retired from his Ohio district seat, Jones entered the Democratic primary to succeed him. She ran on the basis of her 17-year career in public office in the district and on her well-established political connection to constituents.³ Capturing 51 percent of the vote in a field of five primary candidates, she later won 80 percent of the vote in the general election, becoming the first African-American woman to represent Ohio in the U.S. Congress. Jones faced no serious challenges in her three re-election bids, winning by 75 percent or more of the vote.⁴ In 2004 she ran unopposed.⁵

When she took her seat in the 106th Congress (1999–2001), Jones received assignments on the Banking and Financial Services (later renamed Financial Services) and Small Business committees. In addition to serving on those two panels in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), she was appointed to the Standards of Official Conduct Committee. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Jones won a seat on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee, with jurisdiction over tax law.

Congresswoman Jones's district encompasses some of Cleveland's most affluent suburbs and parts of poor inner-city neighborhoods. Her seat on Financial Services helped her to secure funding for business, and to secure funding commitments for housing development. In the 108th Congress, Jones chaired the Congressional Black Caucus Housing Task Force, investigating allegations against subprime lenders, and introducing predatory lending legislation.⁶ Her seat on Ways and Means has enabled her to focus legislative efforts on shoring up Social Security and Medicare, pension law, and long-term care.

Jones also has taken a legislative interest in children's issues, health, and education. She authored and successfully passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999 to increase training funds for child-protection workers through money generated from bail bonds, fines, and forfeited assets. In the 107th through the 109th Congresses (2001–2007), Congresswoman Jones introduced the Uterine Fibroids Research and Education Act, and also authored the Campus Fire Prevention Act to provide federal funds to outfit college housing with fire suppression equipment. In 2005, the Congresswoman introduced the Count Every Vote Act to improve electronic voting systems. Additionally, she authored legislation to clarify the legal status of cash balance pension plans. In the 109th Congress, she chaired the Congressional Black Caucus Retirement Security Task Force.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Stephanie Tubbs Jones," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Fenno, Richard F. *Going Home: Black Representatives and Their Constituents* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003).

NOTES

1 Richard Fenno, *Going Home: Black Representatives and Their Constituents* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003): 193.

2 "Stephanie Tubbs Jones," *Contemporary Black Biography*, 2000, Vol. 24 (Detroit: Gale Research Inc., 2000).

3 Fenno, *Going Home*: 196–198; 201.

4 *Ibid.*, 203.

5 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

6 "Stephanie Tubbs Jones," *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 796–797.

Marcia C. “Marcy” Kaptur

1946–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM OHIO

1983–



Image courtesy of the Member

AS THE DEAN OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN IN THE HOUSE, Marcy Kaptur has been a proponent of trade reform to enhance the economy of her coastal Ohio district and others like it. Kaptur was elected as the youngest woman to serve on the prestigious Appropriations Committee, where she is now the senior woman from either party. Her seat offers her a forum for speaking out on many issues from the economy, defense, and foreign affairs to energy independence. Further, Kaptur is a leading student of women’s contributions to House history and she authored the original legislation to create a World War II Memorial on the National Mall.

Marcia Carolyn “Marcy” Kaptur was born on June 17, 1946, in Toledo, Ohio, to Stephen and Anastasia Kaptur. She and her brother, Stephen, were raised in that working-class town. Her Polish-American family owned and operated a corner market and her parents worked in auto factories. Kaptur graduated from St. Ursula Academy High School in 1964 and, in 1968, as a beneficiary of scholarships, received a B.A. in history with honors from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She earned a master’s degree in urban planning from the University of Michigan in 1974, and later conducted post graduate studies in new towns and development finance at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Manchester in England. From 1969 to 1975, Kaptur served as an urban planner on the Toledo-Lucas County plan commissions. For two years she directed planning for the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. In 1977, Kaptur was appointed by the James Earl “Jimmy” Carter administration as the assistant director for urban affairs on the President’s domestic policy staff. There, she acted as a liaison for 17 housing and neighborhood revitalization bills that passed Congress.¹

Kaptur challenged Ohio Republican incumbent Ed Weber in 1982 for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and was elected as the first female to represent that district, just two years after Weber’s own victory over 13-term incumbent Thomas Ashley. She is one of only 13 women to have defeated a male incumbent. The Ohio district, including Toledo, boasted a primarily blue-collar constituency to whom Kaptur appealed in her grassroots campaign. Arguing that the Toledo

economy had plummeted during the first two years of the Ronald W. Reagan administration, Kaptur won with 58 percent of the vote in a race which captured national attention. In her subsequent 12 re-election campaigns, Kaptur won by two-to-one margins or better.²

During the 98th Congress (1983–1985), Kaptur received assignments on two committees: Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs; and Veterans’ Affairs. She left Veterans’ Affairs for a seat on the Budget Committee in the 101st Congress (1989–1991). Later in that Congress, she resigned her previous assignments after securing a seat on the Appropriations Committee. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), with 22 years’ seniority, Kaptur became the first Democratic woman to be elected to the Subcommittee on Defense and continued to serve on the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Appropriations.

From the start of her House career, Kaptur’s greatest cause has been promoting trade practices more beneficial to her district and similar regions. In the 1970s and 1980s, Toledo began a decline in manufacturing and agricultural jobs, and in the iron and coal trade. Kaptur’s Appropriations seat has given her a prominent perch from which to act as a leading opponent of all the major free trade initiatives of the 1990s and the early 2000s. In 1993, Kaptur was a critic of the North American Free Trade Agreement, arguing that it favored transnational corporate interests and would cost Ohio more than 100,000 jobs. She also opposed the 1994 law that established the World Trade Organization, the 2000 approval of permanent normal trade relations for China, and the 2002 legislation which granted the executive “fast track” authority to broker trade agreements that Congress could not amend.³

Representative Kaptur has steered millions of federal dollars into economic and community improvement projects in northern Ohio, including funding for the New Maumee River Crossing, the largest transportation project in state history. She also has been attuned to her constituents’ agricultural interests. Ohio’s two largest flower-producing counties are in Kaptur’s district, as well as numerous greenhouse, vegetable, feed grain, animal, and sugar beet farmers.⁴

In 1996, Congresswoman Kaptur authored *Women of Congress: A Twentieth-Century Odyssey*, featuring biographical profiles of former Congresswomen.⁵ Kaptur also has been a leader in bringing to the Capitol more art commemorating women and minorities. She is a recipient of the Ellis Island Award and is the only woman to have received the Veterans of Foreign Wars Americanism Award.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Marcy Kaptur,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Kaptur, Marcy. *Women of Congress: A Twentieth-Century Odyssey*. (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1996).

NOTES

- 1 “Official Biography of Marcy Kaptur,” <http://www.house.gov/Kaptur/library/biography.aspx> (accessed 12 September 2002).
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 “Rep. Marcy Kaptur,” *CQ Weekly*, 28 December 2002: 49–50; *Almanac of American Politics*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2001): 1213–1214; *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 799–800.
- 4 “Rep. Marcy Kaptur.”
- 5 Marcy Kaptur, *Women of Congress: A Twentieth-Century Odyssey* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, 1996): ix.

Sue W. Kelly

1936–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM NEW YORK

1995–



Image courtesy of the Member

A SMALL-BUSINESS OWNER, TEACHER, AND HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE, Sue Kelly won election to the House in 1994. As chair of a Financial Services subcommittee, she has investigated corporate scandals and terrorist financing. During her tenure in Congress, Representative Kelly also has been a leading proponent of women's health legislation.

Congresswoman Kelly was born in Lima, Ohio, on September 26, 1936. She graduated from Lima's Central High School in 1954 and earned a B.A. in botany and bacteriology from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, four years later. In 1960 she married Ed Kelly, settling in suburban New York, and they raised four children. Sue Kelly earned an M.A. in health advocacy from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York, in 1985. Kelly first participated in elective politics by working on several campaigns; this experience included a position as adviser and campaign manager for New York Congressman Hamilton Fish, Sr., who represented the southern Hudson Valley, where Kelly lives.

When Fish announced his retirement, Kelly entered the race for the open House seat that spanned much of the lower Hudson Valley, from Poughkeepsie in the north to Westchester County in the south. The diverse district included computer corporations, dairy-based agriculture, and the army's U.S. Military Academy and had been represented by a Fish family member since the 1920s—one of the longer political dynasties in congressional history.¹ Kelly fended off a field of more-conservative candidates in the GOP primary and, in the general election, defeated Democrat Hamilton Fish, Jr., son of the retiring Congressman, by 14 percentage points in a race that included a third-party candidate, former U.S. Representative Joseph DioGuardi. In 1996, she won re-election with 42 percent of the vote, again in a three-way race, topping her closest competitor, Democrat Richard Klein, by seven percentage points.² In the subsequent four re-election campaigns, Kelly earned 60 percent of the vote or greater, aided by redistricting after the 2000 Census. In 2004, she won election to her sixth consecutive term by 67 percent of the vote.³

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Sue W. Kelly,"
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 James Feron, "In the 19th, A Family Seat Vs. First Woman," 18 September 1994, *New York Times*: 13WC.
- 2 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 *Politics in America, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 718.
- 4 "Official Biography of Sue Kelly," <http://suekelly.house.gov/Biography.asp> (accessed 2 December 2004).

When she took her seat in the 104th Congress (1995–1997), Representative Kelly received assignments on three committees: Banking and Financial Services (later renamed Financial Services), Transportation and Infrastructure, and Small Business. She has remained on each panel throughout her House career. By the 107th Congress (2001–2003), she had risen to chair the Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. She held that position in the 108th and 109th Congresses (2003–2007), by which time she also served as the third-ranking Member on the Small Business Committee.

From her seat on the Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Kelly has focused on corporate accountability and tracking terrorist financing. Her subcommittee conducted the first congressional hearings on the Enron and Global Crossing bankruptcies as well as the WorldCom accounting fraud. She contributed to and cosponsored the Sarbanes—Oxley Corporate Reform Bill, which aimed at stricter corporate accountability. In 2004, Kelly founded the Congressional Anti-Terrorist Financing Task Force, to better combat the financiers of terrorism and to examine federal programs already in place to break apart money laundering networks. She also has been an advocate of legislation to prevent identity theft and supported related provisions in the 2003 Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act.⁴

Congresswoman Kelly's seat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has helped her steer federal dollars into her district for infrastructure projects and community organizations. She co-authored the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA—21) in 1998, which brought more than \$11 billion to New York for transit and highway improvements. She has procured millions of dollars for Stewart International Airport, including funds to design and construct a new air traffic control tower. Kelly has sought to pass legislation to protect the environment in the Hudson Valley, including the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Act and a bill that set aside a large tract of land, the Sterling Forest, near Tuxedo, New York.

Kelly also has taken a legislative interest in women's health issues. A supporter of abortion rights, she has backed legislation for cancer research and the prevention of domestic violence. She was the chief House sponsor of the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, which requires health insurance companies to provide women reconstructive surgery after a mastectomy. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), she served as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues.

Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

1945–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM MICHIGAN

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

A 20-YEAR VETERAN OF MICHIGAN STATE POLITICS, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1996. The first African-American woman to serve on a Michigan legislature appropriations panel, she joined the powerful House Appropriations Committee in only her second term. Representative Kilpatrick has focused on issues affecting working-class Americans, seeking federal dollars and programs to revitalize her south Detroit district.

Carolyn Jean Cheeks was born on June 25, 1945, in Detroit, Michigan, to Marvell Cheeks, Jr., and Willa Mae (Henry) Cheeks. Raised as a member of the Shrine of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church, a politically active and powerful congregation in Detroit, she eventually served as its coordinator of political action.¹ She graduated from the High School of Commerce in Detroit and attended Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan. Cheeks earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo in 1972 and an M.S. in education from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor five years later. In 1968, Cheeks married Bernard Kilpatrick, and they raised two children, Ayanna and Kwame. The Kilpatricks later divorced. Early in her career, Kilpatrick worked as a teacher in the Detroit public schools. A protégé of longtime Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, she left teaching in 1978 to pursue a political career. That year Kilpatrick won election to the first of nine consecutive terms in the Michigan house of representatives, serving from 1979 to 1997. In the state house, Kilpatrick became the first African-American woman to serve on the appropriations committee. She also chaired the corrections budget for a decade and was the house Democratic whip—earning a reputation as a consensus builder.²

Kilpatrick sought election in 1996 to represent Michigan in the U.S. House. Among a large field of competitors in the Democratic party, including three-term incumbent Barbara-Rose Collins, Kilpatrick prevailed with a 19 percent margin of victory. The district, which covered the southern half of Detroit and several adjacent suburbs, was overwhelmingly Democratic; African Americans accounted for

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick,” Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 2000; “Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick,” *Contemporary Black Biography, Vol. 16* (Detroit: Gale Research Inc., 1997).
- 2 “Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick,” *Contemporary Black Biography*; Hans Johnson and Peggie Rayhawk, *The New Members of Congress Almanac: 105th U.S. Congress* (Washington, D.C.: Almanac Publishing Inc., 1996): 58.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 *Almanac of American Politics, 2002* (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2001): 815.
- 5 *Almanac of American Politics, 2002*: 814.

about 70 percent of the population. In the general election, Kilpatrick captured 88 percent of the vote. In her subsequent four re-election bids, she has won by similarly large margins, despite reapportionment in 2001. In 2004, Congresswoman Kilpatrick won election to her fifth term with 78 percent of the vote.³

When Congresswoman Kilpatrick took her seat in the 105th Congress (1997–1999), she received assignments on three committees: Banking and Financial Services and House Oversight and the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), Kilpatrick won a seat on the prestigious House Appropriations Committee which required her to leave her other committee assignments. She had two key Appropriations subcommittee assignments: Transportation and Foreign Operations. An active member and second vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Representative Kilpatrick holds the distinction of being the first woman to chair the CBC’s political action committee. Kilpatrick is also the first African-American Member of Congress to serve on the Air Force Academy Board, which oversees programs of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Much of Kilpatrick’s legislative work has centered on bringing federally funded projects into her district. From her seat on the Appropriations Committee, she has helped garner funding for Detroit-area projects for pre-college engineering, children’s television programming, and enhanced rehabilitation services at the Detroit Medical Center.⁴ She also supported a transportation bill that included \$24 million for an intermodal freight terminal in her district that links rail, marine, and road delivery lines.⁵ Kilpatrick’s educational efforts brought the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) engineering and aeronautics program to Michigan for students ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade.

More broadly, Congresswoman Kilpatrick has focused on issues affecting working-class Americans. She has been an outspoken advocate for affordable health care for low- and middle-income families and for raising the minimum wage. Kilpatrick also proposed legislation to provide a \$1,000 per month tax credit for medical doctors who practice in underserved areas. Representative Kilpatrick has sought to encourage corporate America and the federal government to invest more money in minority- and women-owned media outlets and advertising agencies. From her seat on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, Kilpatrick has brought attention to health and economic woes in sub-Saharan Africa, securing funds for flood relief in Mozambique and South Africa and for funds for AIDS orphans in several countries.

Following in his mother’s footsteps, Kwame Kilpatrick succeeded Representative Kilpatrick in the Michigan house of representatives. In 2005, he won election to a second consecutive term as mayor of Detroit.

Mary Landrieu

1955–

UNITED STATES SENATOR
DEMOCRAT FROM LOUISIANA

1997–



Congressional Pictorial Directory
109th Congress

MARY LANDRIEU HAS BEEN IMMERSSED IN POLITICS her entire adult life, having come from a New Orleans family which her father once described as “up to its eyeballs in politics.”¹ Her early career as a moderate in the Louisiana legislature and state treasury prepared her for the U.S. Senate, where she sought to be a bridge-builder in an increasingly divided chamber.

Mary Landrieu was born in Arlington, Virginia, on November 23, 1955, the oldest of nine children raised by Moon Landrieu, former Mayor of New Orleans, and Verna Landrieu. After graduating from Ursuline Academy in New Orleans, Mary Landrieu earned a degree in sociology from Louisiana State University in 1977. Two years later, at age 24, she won election to the Louisiana house of representatives, earning the distinction of being the youngest woman to serve in the state legislature. After eight years in the state house, Landrieu became Louisiana state treasurer, a position she held from 1988 to 1996. In 1988 she married Frank Snellings, and the couple adopted two children.

When Senator J. Bennett Johnston announced his retirement in 1996, Landrieu and GOP candidate Woody Jenkins joined the race to fill his seat. The campaign drew national attention when David Duke, a racial supremacist with ties to the Ku Klux Klan, also campaigned for the open seat. Landrieu ran as a moderate in the vein of former Louisiana Democratic Representative Lindy Boggs and embraced much of the William J. Clinton administration’s agenda: welfare reform, a balanced budget, pro-death penalty, and pro-choice. When no candidate won the 50 percent required by Louisiana election law, the top vote getters, Landrieu and Jenkins, faced each other in a runoff.² Landrieu prevailed with a narrow margin of 50.17 percent of the vote, or about 5,800 votes out of 1.7 million cast.³

When she entered the 105th Congress (1997–1999), Senator Landrieu received assignments on three committees: Small Business; Energy and Natural Resources; and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. She resigned the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry seat in the 106th Congress (1999–2001) for a post on Armed Services—becoming the first Democratic woman to serve on that panel, where she remained until 2002.⁴ In the 107th Congress, Landrieu joined the Appropriations Committee. When the Democrats briefly controlled the Senate in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), she chaired two subcommittees: Appropriations’ District of Columbia and Armed Services’ Emerging Threats and Capabilities.

In the Senate, Landrieu maintained to her moderate politics, declaring herself a “New Democrat” centrist. “This isn’t just about casting votes,” she observed. “It’s about shaping what comes before the Senate. Our goal is to convince colleagues to write legislation in ways that won’t automatically set off alarms on the left or the right.”⁵ Her reputation was that of a dealmaker and consensus builder.

During her term on the Agriculture Committee, Senator Landrieu helped assemble a \$6 billion farm bill that established significant drought relief for Louisiana farmers. She also cosponsored the Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act to provide farmers with effective pesticides while seeking to reduce reliance on toxic chemicals that threaten human health. In 1999, she advocated permanent federal funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which benefited local parks and recreation areas in Louisiana. Her first major legislative victory was to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in offshore drilling revenue to be spent annually for 15 years on a host of environmental and conservation support programs.⁶

Two of Senator Landrieu’s signal legislative achievements have been in the fields of defense and education. From her Armed Services seat, Landrieu forged a key compromise that ended a long impasse in the Senate over the National Missile Defense program. Landrieu’s amendment to the legislation outlined a two-pronged approach to the program’s development which included full deployment of the missile system and vigorous diplomatic negotiations with Russia and other nuclear powers to reduce standing nuclear arsenals. In 2001, working across party lines, Senator Landrieu also helped shepherd through the Senate the No Child Left Behind Act, one of the most sweeping educational reform packages in congressional history.⁷ Her amendment targeted funding for school districts with the greatest number of poor students.

In 2002, during her first re-election campaign, Landrieu claimed 46 percent of the vote against nine candidates in the November general election. Louisiana state election law required her to face the runner-up, GOP challenger Suzanne Terrell, in a December runoff, which Senator Landrieu won with 52 percent of the vote.⁸

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Mary L. Landrieu,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Mikulski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: Morrow, 2000).

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

University of Oklahoma (Norman, OK), The Julian P. Kanter Commercial Archive, Department of Communication. *Video reels*: 21 video reels. Includes 21 commercials used during Landrieu’s unsuccessful 1995 campaign for governor of Louisiana.

NOTES

1 Thomas Fields-Meyer, Macon Morehouse, and Gabrielle Cosgriff, “Born to Run: Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana Keeps Politics a Family Affair,” 20 August 2001, *People*: 93.

2 *Politics in America*, 1998 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1997): 605–606; *Almanac of American Politics*, 1998 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 1997): 626–627.

3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

4 “Official Biography of Mary Landrieu” <http://landrieu.senate.gov/about/bio.cfm> (accessed 12 December 2004)

5 Barbara Mikulski et al., *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: Morrow, 2000): 168; “Mary L. Landrieu,” *Newsmakers* 2002, Issue 2 (Gale Group, 2002).

6 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 431.

7 *Politics in America*, 2004: 431; “Official Biography of Mary Landrieu.”

8 Mark Leibovich, “The Longest Race: Louisiana’s Mary Landrieu Didn’t Lose on Election Day. But She Didn’t Win, Either,” 26 November 2002, *Washington Post*: C1; Lee Hockstader, “Landrieu Aims to Avoid Making Louisiana History: A GOP Senator Would Be State’s First,” 14 November 2002, *Washington Post*: A3.

Barbara Lee

1946–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1998–



Image courtesy of the Member

A LONGTIME STATE LEGISLATOR AND AIDE TO Congressman Ron Dellums, Barbara Lee eventually succeeded her political mentor in the House, carrying on Oakland's and the East Bay area's tradition of progressive politics. As a member of the Financial Services and International Relations committees, Congresswoman Lee has promoted legislative programs to create better economic opportunities for working Americans and people of color, to stem the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, and to advocate for a foreign policy that balances the priorities of peace and security.

Barbara Lee was born in El Paso, Texas, on July 16, 1946.¹ In 1960, her family moved to the Los Angeles area, and Lee graduated from San Fernando High School in 1964. Lee married as a teenager, gave birth to two sons, Tony and Craig, and then divorced.² But she was determined, even as a single mother, to get a university education. Lee recalled that her family's support and "a safety net that existed in California that gave me access to higher education" changed her life.³ In 1972, as the Black Student Union president at Mills College in Oakland, Lee arranged for Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm to speak on campus. Chisholm, Lee recalled, "convinced me that if I really wanted to make a significant impact, that I should get involved in politics."⁴ After graduating with a B.A. in psychology in 1973, she earned an M.S.W. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1975. Lee then joined the staff of Oakland Representative Ron Dellums, working in his office for 11 years, starting as an intern and eventually becoming his chief of staff. In 1990, Lee won election to the California assembly and then served in the state senate from 1997 to 1998.

When Congressman Dellums, a 14-term veteran, announced his retirement in late 1997, Lee emerged as his successor.⁵ Politically, she followed in Dellums's footsteps, advocating military spending cuts in favor of economic opportunity and job training programs, more funding for education, and support for environmental protection.⁶ Her California senate district covered much of the congressional district, so she enjoyed wide name recognition. In the April 8 special election, Lee prevailed with 67 percent of the vote.⁷ In subsequent re-election campaigns she won lopsided majorities, capturing 80 percent of the vote or more.⁸

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Barbara Lee,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

When Lee claimed her seat in the 105th Congress (1997–1999) on April 20, 1998, she received assignments on the Banking and Financial Services Committee (later renamed Financial Services) and the Science Committee. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), she resigned the Science assignment and, in the 107th (2001–2003), secured a seat on the International Relations Committee, where she serves on the Subcommittee on Africa. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), she served as Whip for the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), as co-chair of the liberal Progressive Caucus, and as a senior Democratic Whip.

In the House, Representative Lee emerged as an advocate for the country’s working poor and underprivileged. On her first day in Congress, Lee delivered a floor speech calling for improvements to the education system, universal health care, safeguards for Social Security, stronger environmental protection measures, and the importance of reproductive choice.⁹ As a member of the Financial Services Committee, Lee sought to prohibit insurance companies from refusing to do business in geographic areas they deemed risky. Lee also criticized lenders for targeting poor Americans who often borrowed cash and then fell into a cycle of revolving debt.¹⁰

Lee also focused on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has afflicted the Bay Area and devastated sub-Saharan Africa. Lee secured \$5 million to fund HIV/AIDS clinics in Alameda County. She co-authored the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000, signed into law by President William J. Clinton, and the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003, and the Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005, both signed into law by President George W. Bush. In 2006, as chair of the CBC Global AIDS Task Force, Congresswoman Lee introduced legislation to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection in developing countries.¹¹

Representative Lee has worked hard to balance the priorities of peace and security in U.S. foreign policy. In 1999, she opposed U.S. air strikes in Yugoslavia. Following the September 2001 terrorist attacks, she was the lone dissenting vote against a resolution authorizing broad authority to President Bush to use force in response. Lee cited a need for thoughtful consideration before taking military action.¹² She later offered an alternative amendment to the resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq and introduced a resolution to repeal the doctrine of preemption.

1 Karen Foerstel, *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1999): 156–157.

2 “Barbara Lee,” 21 March 1994, *California Journal Weekly*.

3 Rick Del Vecchio, “Lee Wins Dellums’ Congressional Seat,” 8 April 1998, *San Francisco Chronicle*: A3.

4 “Barbara Lee.”

5 Norah O’Donnell, “Dellums Redux Progressive Legacy Continues in the 9th,” 6 April 1998, *Roll Call*; Venise Wagner, “Dellums Passes Torch to Long-Time Supporter; State Sen. Lee gets ringing endorsement; 27-Year Lawmaker’s Departure May Bring Free-For-All to East Bay Politics,” 11 December 1997, *San Francisco Examiner*: A9.

6 Foerstel, *Biographical Dictionary of Congressional Women*: 156–157.

7 “Dellums’ Ex-Aide Wins House Seat,” 8 April 1998, Associated Press.

8 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.

9 “Official Biography of Barbara Lee,” <http://www.house.gov/lee/Biography.html> (accessed 11 February 2003); *Congressional Record*, House, 105th Cong., 2nd sess. (21 April 1998): 2074.

10 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 83–84.

11 “Barbara Lee,” *Contemporary Black Biography*, Vol. 25 (Detroit: Gale Research, Inc., 2000); *Politics in America*, 2002: 83.

12 Peter Carlson, “The Solitary Vote of Barbara Lee; Congresswoman Against Use of Force,” 19 September 2001, *Washington Post*: C1.

Blanche Lambert Lincoln

1960–



Image courtesy of the Member

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 1993–1997
UNITED STATES SENATOR, 1999–
DEMOCRAT FROM ARKANSAS

AT AGE 38, FORMER TWO-TERM U.S. REPRESENTATIVE Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas became the youngest woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate. From her seats on the Agriculture and Finance committees, Senator Lincoln is a proponent for the farmers and rural families who reside in her state.

The youngest of four children, Blanche M. Lambert was born in Helena, Arkansas, on September 30, 1960, to Jordan Lambert, Jr., and Martha Kelly Lambert. The Lamberts were sixth-generation farmers of cotton, rice, wheat, and soybeans. In 1982, Lambert graduated with a B.S. in biology from Randolph-Macon Women's College, in Lynchburg, Virginia. In 1983, Lambert went to Washington, D.C., where she worked as a staff assistant for Arkansas Democratic Congressman Bill Alexander. From 1985 until 1991, she worked for lobbying firms as a researcher.

In 1992, Lambert challenged her old boss, Representative Alexander, for the Democratic nomination in his rural northeast Arkansas district, which included farmland along the Mississippi River as well as the city of Jonesboro.¹ She ran on a lean budget, traveling the sprawling district in a pick-up truck and using connections to local chapters of Business and Professional Women as a campaign base.² Lambert prevailed with 61 percent of the vote, carrying all but two of the district's 25 counties. In the general election, she defeated a Republican real estate developer with 70 percent of the vote.³ In 1993, Blanche Lambert married Steve Lincoln, a pediatrician. In 1994, she was re-elected to a second term.

When Lincoln joined the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), she secured a seat on the influential Energy and Commerce Committee over the preference of the committee chairman, whom she soon impressed.⁴ She also was assigned to the Agriculture Committee and was appointed to the coveted Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, the party leadership body that makes committee

assignments. She advocated affordable health care coverage for farmers and the self-employed. On fiscal matters she was more conservative, voting for the Penny—Kasich plan to cut federal spending and, in her second term, approving a balanced-budget constitutional amendment. Lincoln also voted for the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993 and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs in 1994. In January 1996, she announced her decision not to seek re-election in the House after learning she was pregnant with twins.⁵ After the boys, Reece and Bennett, were born that summer, Lincoln served out the remainder of her term and returned to Arkansas.

When incumbent Senator Dale Bumpers announced his retirement in 1998, Lincoln won the Democratic nomination in a four-way primary to succeed him.⁶ Her general election opponent was a tax reform and anti-abortion conservative from the Arkansas state senate. Lincoln, who supported women's reproductive choice, ran on her credentials as a mother and pledged to support women's and children's health issues in the Senate.⁷ She prevailed with 55 percent of the vote. Her three committee assignments in the 106th Congress (1999–2001) included Energy and Natural Resources; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; and the Special Committee on Aging. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), she left Energy and Natural Resources to join the Finance Committee (she was only the third woman in that panel's history) and the Select Committee on Ethics.

As a cofounder of the Senate New Democrat Coalition, Lincoln maintained her profile as a moderate in the Senate, voting for the 2001 tax cut but against other proposals of the George W. Bush administration, such as drilling for oil on Alaska's North Slope.⁸ She focused on agricultural issues affecting Arkansas farmers, sponsoring legislation related to flooding and crop insurance. In the 106th Congress, she joined the World Trade Organization Caucus and tried to open Cuban markets to Arkansas rice farmers. In the 107th Congress she wrote a bill providing for tax credits to spur the development of biodiesel fuel made from soybeans. In December 2000, Lincoln successfully shepherded through the Senate the Delta Regional Authority, a centralized agency to foster economic development in the lower Mississippi Delta region.⁹

Senator Lincoln has stressed the importance of her maternal responsibilities, devising a work schedule where she forsakes the Capitol Hill reception circuit to be home each evening.¹⁰ "The most important thing to me was to have a family," Lincoln said. "I always knew there would be filler. I just didn't know that my filler would be the Senate."¹¹ In 2000, she co-authored *Nine and Counting*, a book by and about the women of the Senate. In 2004, Lincoln was re-elected with 56 percent of the vote over a current Republican state senator.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Blanche Lambert Lincoln," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Mikulski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: Morrow, 2000).

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

Arkansas State University, Dean B. Ellis Library Archives and Special Collections. *Papers*: 1993–1997, 33 feet. Congressional papers and correspondence, including photographs, videotape, and sound recordings.

NOTES

- 1 Melinda Henneberger, "No Escaping Motherhood on the Campaign Trail," 13 June 1998, *New York Times*: A1; "Blanche Lambert Lincoln," Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 1996.
- 2 Joan I. Duffy, "Pressure Would Follow Lambert to Congress," 10 October 1992, *Memphis Commercial Appeal*: A1.
- 3 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 *Politics in America, 1996* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1995): 67.
- 5 Barbara Mikulski et al., *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: Morrow, 2000): 92.
- 6 Bill Hewitt, Robin Reid, and Gabrielle Cosgriff, "The Long Shot: Freshman Sen. Blanche Lincoln, 41, of Arkansas Excels at the Nitty-Gritty of Politics—and Motherhood," 11 March 2002, *People*: 129.
- 7 "Blanche Lincoln," Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 2000; see also *Current Biography, 2002* (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 2002): 332–334.
- 8 *Almanac of American Politics, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2003): 132–134.
- 9 "Official Biography of Blanche Lincoln," <http://lincoln.senate.gov/biography.htm> (accessed 6 December 2004); *Congressional Record*, House, 103rd Cong., 2nd sess. (15 April 1994): 686.
- 10 *Almanac of American Politics, 2002* (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2001): 127–129.
- 11 Hewitt, Reid, and Cosgriff, "The Long Shot."

Zoe Lofgren

1947–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1995–



Image courtesy of the Member

A FORMER HOUSE AIDE TO A JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEMBER during the impeachment hearings of President Richard M. Nixon, Zoe Lofgren eventually sat on the same panel as a Member when it weighed articles of impeachment against President William J. Clinton. With a long background in south Bay Area politics, Lofgren's legislative focus includes high technology interests and legislation to protect mothers, children, and immigrants.

Zoe Lofgren was born on December 21, 1947, in San Mateo, California, to Milt Lofgren, a truck driver, and Mary Violet Lofgren, a Machinists Union secretary and school cafeteria cook. Lofgren attended Stanford University on a scholarship, graduating in 1970 with a B.A. in political science. She earned a J.D. from the Santa Clara University School of Law in 1975. From 1970 through 1978, Lofgren worked for U.S. Representative Don Edwards. She married John Collins and has two children. Lofgren was elected to the Santa Clara County board of supervisors where she served from 1981 to 1994.

In 1994, when Representative Edwards announced that he would not seek re-election, Lofgren entered the Democratic primary for his seat representing San Jose and the Silicon Valley. She centered her political platform on improving the lives of children through education, welfare, and healthcare reforms, while stressing her middle-class and maternal credentials. Her campaign made national headlines when, in April 1994, the state declined her request for her occupation to appear as "county supervisor/mother" on the primary ballot. She eked out a two-percentage point win in a heated primary and in the general election, Lofgren won handily with 66 percent.¹ In her subsequent five re-election bids, Lofgren faced no serious challenges winning by margins from 66 percent to 73 percent.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Zoe Lofgren,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Mike Cassidy, “Lofgren Wins Easily for Congress,” 9 November 1994, *San Jose Mercury News*: 10EL.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 3 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (2 October 2002): 6932.
- 4 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (24 April 2001): 1594; *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 98–99.

When Lofgren took her seat in the 104th Congress (1995–1997) in January 1995, she received assignments on the Judiciary Committee and the Science Committee. In the 105th Congress (1997–1999), she also accepted a seat on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Lofgren served on all three panels through the 107th Congress. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005) she left the Standards of Official Conduct Committee to take a seat on the newly created Select Homeland Security Committee and was also appointed to the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. At the start of the 109th Congress (2005–2007), she took a seat on the Committee on House Administration, leaving the Science Committee. Lofgren is also a longtime member of the Democratic Committee on Organization, Study, and Review. Since 2003, Lofgren has served as the elected chair of the 33 Member California Democratic Congressional Delegation.

In Congress, Lofgren devotes much of her time to advocating for the high-tech industry, which employs many of her constituents. She is well-known in high tech policy circles for her co-sponsorship of the Safety and Freedom Through Encryption Act, her successful bipartisan effort to decontrol encryption technology and her sponsorship of the Public Domain Enhancement Act, which attempted to improve the nation’s copyright laws. In 1997, Lofgren was a key supporter of “e-rate,” providing Internet access to schools and libraries. In 2002, she introduced the Digital Choice in Freedom Act, which extended protection to buyers of copyrighted digital material while spurring technological innovation.³ In the 109th Congress, she played a key role in the fight to protect net neutrality, introduced the BALANCE Act protecting consumer’s rights to fair use, and helped to create the House Democrats’ “Innovation Agenda.”

Immigration law is another area of Lofgren’s expertise. She has introduced several pieces of legislation relating to immigration, including a bill to provide automatic citizenship for Amerasian children, a bill to ease the adoption process for foreign children adopted by U.S. citizens, a bill to improve the way U.S. immigration services handle foreign children who arrive at the borders with no parent or guardian, and legislation to ease the visa process for foreign reporters who currently face many obstacles to enter temporarily into the United States.

Lofgren has emerged as a voice of opposition to much of the GOP-controlled House’s welfare and social legislation. She supports women’s reproductive rights, opposing the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2001 and introducing an amendment which imposed stiff penalties on persons who commit acts of violence against pregnant women.⁴ In 2005, she introduced the successful Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which created new domestic violence funding provisions. On education matters, Lofgren opposed school vouchers and legislation that sought to deny public education to illegal immigrants.

Nita M. Lowey

1937–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

1989–



Image courtesy of the Member

A FORMER NEW YORK STATE OFFICIAL WHO GOT HER START in politics working for Mario Cuomo, Nita Lowey won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1988, defeating the scion of a local political dynasty and a two-term incumbent. Representing sections of Westchester and Rockland counties, Representative Lowey holds an influential post on the Appropriations Committee and has been a passionate congressional advocate of women's issues.

Nita Sue Melnikoff was born in New York, New York, on July 5, 1937. She attended the New York public schools, graduating from the Bronx High School of Science in 1955. She earned a bachelor of science degree four years later from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Nita Melnikoff married attorney Stephen Lowey in 1961 and soon after left her advertising agency job to raise three children: Dana, Jacqueline, and Douglas. The family settled in Queens, New York, and Lowey became involved in community projects. In 1974, she joined the campaign of Mario Cuomo for lieutenant governor of New York. Cuomo lost, but was appointed secretary of state afterward. Impressed by Lowey's work, he hired her for a position in his department's antipoverty division. From 1975 to 1985 Lowey served as an assistant to the secretary of state for economic development and neighborhood preservation and as deputy director of the division of economic opportunity. Lowey then served two years as assistant secretary of state, from 1985 to 1987.

Lowey's first run for political office came in 1988 when she mounted an impressive campaign for the U.S. House seat, which represented much of affluent Westchester County outside of New York City. In the Democratic primary, Lowey defeated Hamilton Fish III, son of a sitting House Member and part of a long New York political dynasty. In the general election, she defeated a two-term Republican incumbent, Joseph DioGuardi, by three percent of the vote. Even after redistricting in the early 1990s changed her district's boundaries to encompass parts of Queens and the Bronx, Lowey defeated her opponents by large margins. In 2004, she won re-election to her ninth consecutive term by besting her Republican opponent with 70 percent of the vote.¹

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Nita M. Lowey,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 2 Miles A. Pomper, “Rep. Nita M. Lowey,” 28 December 2002, *CQ Weekly*: 51.
- 3 “Official Biography of Nita Lowey,” <http://www.house.gov/lowey/aboutNita.htm> (accessed 14 August 2002).
- 4 *Current Biography, 1997* (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1997): 341; “Official Biography of Nita Lowey.”
- 5 *Politics in America, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 716–717.

When Congresswoman Lowey was sworn into the 101st Congress (1989–1991) in January 1989, she received assignments on three committees: Education and Labor, Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. In the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), she left all three of those panels to accept a seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee, where she rose to Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Lowey also won a post on the newly created Select Homeland Security Committee. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Lowey became the first woman and the first New Yorker to head the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, where she set fundraising records.²

In Congress, Lowey has been a prominent proponent of women’s health issues. She has been a vocal advocate for pro-choice initiatives and for continued funding for international family planning programs. In 1998, she successfully shepherded an amendment through the House that required federal health insurance plans to provide contraceptive coverage. A former co-chair of the Congressional Women’s Caucus and the House Pro-Choice Caucus, Lowey also helped establish the Congressional Advisory Panel to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy to encourage sexual abstinence and responsibility among teens. Lowey has procured federal funding for domestic violence prevention programs, battered women’s shelters, and screening programs for breast cancer and cervical cancer.³

From her position as the top Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Lowey has been one of the most determined congressional advocates for strong U.S. ties to Israel. She is the chief advocate for the annual U.S. aid package to the Jewish state; for instance, allocating \$3 billion in military aid and economic assistance as part of the larger 1994 foreign aid bill.⁴ More recently, Lowey has used her post to win increased funding for nation-building efforts in Afghanistan and for international programs for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

Lowey’s post on the Appropriations Committee has helped her look out for the interests of her district and New York state. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, Lowey was instrumental in securing \$20 billion in federal funding for reconstruction and relief in New York City. She also has obtained federal funds to help local officials prepare for bioterrorist incidents and to provide local emergency workers with the latest communication and rescue equipment.⁵

Carolyn Maloney

1948–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1992, Carolyn Maloney represents a section of New York City once known as the “Silk Stocking District,” which encompasses much of the East Side of Manhattan and parts of Queens. A leading advocate for women’s issues both in America and abroad, Congresswoman Maloney also has championed homeland security programs in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City.

Carolyn Boshier was born on February 19, 1948, to R.G. and Christine Boshier in Greensboro, North Carolina. She earned a B.A. from Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1968. In 1970, she traveled to New York City and decided to stay. She worked as a public school teacher and then as a community affairs coordinator for the New York board of education’s welfare education program. Carolyn Boshier married Clifton Maloney, and the couple raised two daughters, Christina and Virginia.

Carolyn Maloney’s political career began in 1977 when she became convinced she could effect more change in education through political processes. For five years in the New York assembly in Albany, she served as a legislative aide and analyst, and then as senior aide for the senate minority leader. In 1982, Maloney made her first bid for elective office, defeating an incumbent to win a seat on the New York city council. She served on the city council for a decade, implementing programs to eliminate waste and fraud in government and authoring the landmark New York City Campaign Finance Act.¹

In 1992, Maloney challenged a seven-term incumbent, GOP Representative Bill Green, for a seat in the U.S. House. Maloney had two advantages. First, reapportionment after the 1990 Census redrew the “Silk Stocking” district’s boundaries, bringing in more registered Democrats. Second, a large portion of the congressional district overlapped with Maloney’s city council district, providing her with wide name recognition. She narrowly edged out Green, 50 to 48 percent. In her subsequent six re-election campaigns, however, she has won handily. In 2004, Maloney was re-elected to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) with 81 percent of the vote.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Carolyn Maloney,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Current Biography*, 2001 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 2001): 34–38.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 3 “Official Biography of Carolyn Maloney,” <http://www.house.gov/maloney/bio.html> (accessed 13 February 2003).
- 4 *Congressional Record*, House, 103rd Cong., 2nd sess. (28 June 1994): 5178.

In her first term, Maloney received assignments on two committees: Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs (now named Financial Services) and Government Operations (now Government Reform). She has remained on both committees throughout her House career and holds the Ranking Member post on the Financial Services Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology. In the 105th Congress (1997–1999), Maloney also earned a seat on the Joint Economic Committee, where she still serves.

Maloney’s legislative interests ranged from national issues to local matters important to her constituents. Since the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City, Maloney has focused on homeland security issues and economic recovery programs for Manhattan. She has commissioned several federal studies on the city’s economic losses and has been persistent in her efforts to ensure that New York does in fact receive the \$20 billion in recovery aid promised to the city by the George W. Bush administration. Maloney also has sought to enhance the resources of first responders, particularly in those places such as New York City that terrorists are most likely to target.³

From her seat on the Financial Services Committee, Representative Maloney also has helped pass legislation to modernize financial laws and to improve consumer protections. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), she served as a conferee on the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Bill. Maloney also was the lead Democrat on a bill to increase funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission, enhancing its regulatory function. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), she authored legislation to reduce securities transaction fees by \$14 billion over a 10-year period.

A great deal of Maloney’s legislative work has dealt with issues affecting women. As past Democratic Chair of the Congressional Women’s Caucus, Representative Maloney has been an advocate for women’s equality in health care, reproductive rights, and pay. In 2002 and 2003, she coauthored a report showing that a 20 percent wage gap favoring men has persisted since the early 1980s. In every Congress since 1997, Representative Maloney has introduced the Equal Rights Amendment. A champion for efforts to end violence against women, in 2001, Maloney was the author of the original “Debbie Smith Act,” legislation to end the backlog of unprocessed rape kits. This bill was signed into law as part of the “Justice for All Act.” Maloney also was a leading cosponsor of the “End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act,” which was included in comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation signed into law in 2006.⁴ Since 2002, she has been a vocal proponent of restoring the contribution of the United States to the United Nations Population Fund for international family planning programs.

Carolyn McCarthy

1944–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

PERSONAL TRAGEDY TRANSFORMED CAROLYN MCCARTHY from a career nurse to a national advocate for gun safety. Her activism brought the political influence that won her election to the House, where Congresswoman McCarthy continues to pursue gun-related legislation as well as health care and education reform.

Carolyn Cook was born in Brooklyn, New York, on January 5, 1944, to Thomas and Irene Cook. She graduated from Long Island's Mineola High School in 1962 and earned a nursing degree from the Glen Cove Nursing School two years later. In 1967, she married Dennis McCarthy, with whom she had one child, Kevin. For 30 years, Carolyn McCarthy worked as a licensed nurse in the intensive care unit of the Glen Cove Hospital. On the evening of December 7, 1993, a gunman opened fire on a commuter train bound from New York City to the Long Island suburbs. Her husband was one of six people killed in the attack. McCarthy's son, Kevin, was shot in the head, and 18 other commuters also were injured. The "Long Island Railroad Massacre" made national headlines and focused Americans' attention on the gun control debate. Carolyn McCarthy, with no previous experience in politics or public speaking, became a highly visible figure in the gun control movement. As she devoted much of her time to successfully nursing her son back to health, she also lobbied lawmakers in Washington on behalf of President William J. Clinton's 1994 Crime Bill and the Assault Weapons Ban.¹

McCarthy decided to run for the New York House seat encompassing Nassau County, a New York Republican bastion, largely due to anger about then-Representative Dan Frisa's vote to repeal the Assault Weapons Ban. Discouraged from running in the GOP primary by the chairman of the Nassau County Republican Party, McCarthy, a registered Republican, opted to speak with Democrats regarding her congressional candidacy. Despite her inexperience, Minority Leader Richard Gephardt extended his party's support.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Carolyn McCarthy,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Peter Marks, “From One Woman’s Tragedy, the Making of an Advocate,” 18 August 1994, *New York Times*: A1.
- 2 Marks, “From One Woman’s Tragedy, the Making of an Advocate.”
- 3 *Ibid.*
- 4 Dan Barry, “L.I. Widow’s Story: Next Stop, Washington,” 7 November 1996, *New York Times*: A1.
- 5 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 6 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 676–677.

During the 1996 general election, McCarthy and Frisa engaged in a nationally scrutinized battle. In spite of Frisa’s assertion that his opponent was a one-issue candidate, McCarthy also campaigned on reforming the health care system, providing a basic guaranteed safety net for senior citizens, and environmental protection. Embracing many of the planks of the Clinton campaign, she favored fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget while also supporting a woman’s right to choose.³ McCarthy won election to the 105th Congress (1997–1999), resoundingly defeating Frisa by 57 to 41 percent of the vote. She had tapped into a cross-over vote composed of many Republican middle-class women who propelled her into office as the first woman ever to represent Long Island outside of the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. On election night, she wore two buttons: One read, “Failure is not an option,” the other, “When women vote women win.”⁴ In subsequent elections, Republican Gregory R. Becker mounted challenges against McCarthy. McCarthy held off Becker’s attack in 1998, capturing just 52 percent of the vote, enough to top Becker’s 47 percent, which drew from conservative and right-to-life constituents. In 2000, McCarthy enjoyed a much more comfortable margin, with 61 percent to Becker’s 39 percent. In 2002, she defeated GOP candidate Marilyn O’Grady, 56 percent to 43 percent. Two years later, she earned a seat in the 109th Congress (2005–2007) by capturing 63 percent of the vote.⁵

In the 105th Congress, Representative McCarthy was assigned to the Education and Workforce and the Small Business committees. In 1997, she attempted to add an amendment to a juvenile crime bill that would have required childproofing gun triggers. “It is a simple safety lock,” McCarthy declared on the House Floor. Republicans and Democrats refused to adopt her measure, but McCarthy received enough national attention for the issue that the Clinton administration was able to win concessions from the major gun manufacturers to add the safety equipment. In 1999, in the wake of several school shooting massacres—the bloodiest of which was at Columbine High School in Colorado—McCarthy also pushed legislation to tighten background checks for gun purchasers, particularly at gun shows.

Congresswoman McCarthy won a seat on the powerful Budget Committee in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), trading in her assignment on the Small Business Committee. She largely voted with the Democrats, supporting their broad environmental, health care, and women’s rights agenda. Several times, however, she voted with the Republican majority, supporting a constitutional amendment to forbid flag desecration as well as another to require a two-thirds congressional majority to raise taxes. She recently reversed her earlier vote to repeal the estate tax and has supported repealing the so-called “marriage penalty.”⁶

Betty McCollum

1954–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM MINNESOTA

2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

A FORMER TEACHER AND RETAIL SALES MANAGER, Betty McCollum entered public life as a city council member, later moving into state politics and eventually the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2001, McCollum became only the second woman elected to Congress from Minnesota since it became a state in 1858. Congresswoman McCollum has pursued legislative priorities focusing on education, global health, and human rights from her positions on both the Education and Workforce Committee and the International Relations Committee.

Betty Louise McCollum was born on July 12, 1954, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and grew up in South St. Paul. She graduated with an associate's degree from Inver Hills Community College in 1980 and, in 1987, earned a B.A. in social studies with a minor in political science from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. She worked for 25 years in retail sales along with holding elective office and working as a substitute schoolteacher.

After her daughter, Katie, was seriously injured on a North St. Paul park slide that was not properly maintained, McCollum went to city hall to have the problem fixed. When problems persisted, she decided to take action and ran for city council. She finished in last place, but the experience inspired her to run again and she was elected in 1986. In 1992, McCollum challenged two incumbents in a reapportioned district and won a seat in the Minnesota house of representatives. Her legislative accomplishments included the passage of a school bus safety law and two state constitutional amendments. She compiled a strong environmental record, securing funding for an urban wetlands project and opposing a local utility's efforts to store nuclear waste by the Mississippi River. For six years, McCollum also served as assistant leader of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party Caucus.¹

In 2000, when longtime U.S. Representative Bruce Vento announced his retirement due to illness, McCollum won the crowded Democratic Farmer Labor Party primary to succeed him in a district that included St. Paul and its surrounding suburbs. In the general election, McCollum championed a progressive agenda: protecting Social Security, creating a Medicare prescription drug benefit for senior

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Betty McCollum,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

1 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 543; “Betty McCollum,” Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 2000.

2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.

citizens, providing increased federal funding for public schools and colleges, and environmental protection. She favored using federal budget surpluses to pay down debt rather than funding large tax breaks. McCollum prevailed in a three-way race with 48 percent of the vote. In her 2002 and 2004 re-election campaigns, McCollum won with 62 and 58 percent of the vote, respectively.²

In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), McCollum’s committee assignments included the Education and the Workforce Committee and the Resources Committee. McCollum has become a leading advocate for children in public K-12 schools and a vocal opponent of the George W. Bush administration’s No Child Left Behind Act, which imposed unfunded mandates on local taxpayers. With more than 20 colleges and universities in her district, McCollum has authored legislation to make higher education more affordable and accessible for students and families.

During the 108th Congress (2003–2005), McCollum brought a Minnesota perspective to U.S. foreign policy, taking a seat on the International Relations Committee. McCollum has been a consistent champion for human rights and increased U.S. support to fight the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. In 2003, the House unanimously agreed to a McCollum resolution condemning sentences of death by stoning, used by fundamentalist Islamic courts against women, as a gross violation of human rights. McCollum also emerged as a leader in Congress on behalf of AIDS orphans, authoring an amendment to direct 10 percent of the funding in the President’s \$15 billion HIV/AIDS initiative to AIDS orphans and vulnerable children. In 2005, McCollum cofounded the Global Health Caucus to focus on the challenges of HIV/AIDS and a possible Avian Flu pandemic.

With more than 35,000 Hmong and Lao Americans living in her district, McCollum successfully worked with the Bush administration to extend normal trade relations to Laos, ending nearly 30 years of economic isolation after the Vietnam War. The measure passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Bush in December 2004. McCollum also has tended to her district needs, working to secure federal funding for the Central Corridor light rail, the creation of a transit hub at St. Paul’s Union Depot, and a \$40 million renovation of the Warren E. Burger Federal Building.

In the 108th and 109th Congresses, McCollum served as a Regional Democratic Whip and also was appointed by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California to a seat on the Democratic Steering Committee.

Cynthia A. McKinney

1955–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM GEORGIA

1993–2003; 2005–



Image courtesy of the Member

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY WAS ELECTED TO THE U.S. HOUSE of Representatives in 1992, becoming the first African-American woman from Georgia to serve in Congress. With a résumé that included graduate work in international relations, Representative McKinney earned seats on the Armed Services and International Relations committees, where she was an influential voice on human rights and civil rights issues. Having lost her 2002 re-election bid, McKinney was returned to the House by voters in her DeKalb County-centered district in 2004, making her one of a handful of women to serve nonconsecutive terms.

Cynthia Ann McKinney was born on March 17, 1955, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Leola Christion McKinney, a nurse, and James Edward “Billy” McKinney, a police officer, civil rights activist, and longtime legislator in the Georgia house of representatives. During the civil rights movement of the 1960s, she and her father participated in demonstrations that inspired her to enter politics. McKinney graduated from St. Joseph High School and, in 1978, earned a B.A. in international relations from the University of Southern California. She later pursued graduate studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Massachusetts. In 1984, she served as a diplomatic fellow at Spelman College in Atlanta. She then taught political science at Agnes Scott College in Decatur and at Clark Atlanta University. Cynthia McKinney married Coy Grandison, a Jamaican politician. The couple had a son, Coy, Jr., before divorcing in 1985. In 1988, spurred by her father, McKinney won election as an At-Large state representative in the Georgia legislature. The McKinneys became the first father–daughter combination to serve concurrently in the same state legislature.¹

In 1992, when the Georgia legislature created three majority African-American districts, McKinney chose to run in one of them which encompassed much of DeKalb County east of Atlanta to Augusta and continued southward to the coastal city of Savannah. She won election to the 103rd Congress (1993–1995) with 73 percent of the vote against her Republican opponent. Despite court-ordered redistricting in 1994 (which placed McKinney in a newly created, majority-white district), she won her subsequent four re-election bids by comfortable margins of about 60 percent.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Cynthia Ann McKinney,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Current Biography*, 1996 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1996): 352–353.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>; *Almanac of American Politics*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2002): 444.
- 3 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 266–267; *Current Biography*, 1996: 353–354.
- 4 On McKinney’s legislative interests relating to foreign affairs, see “Official Biography of Cynthia McKinney,” <http://www.house.gov/mckinney/bio.htm> (accessed 23 July 2002); see also, *Politics in America*, 2002: 266.

When McKinney was sworn into the 103rd Congress, she received assignments on the Agriculture and Foreign Affairs (later named International Relations) committees. Over the next several Congresses she received membership on several other panels. In the 104th Congress (1995–1997), she won a seat on the Banking and Finance Committee, where she served two terms. In the 105th Congress (1997–1999), Representative McKinney was assigned to the National Security Committee (later renamed the Armed Services Committee).

In the House, Congresswoman McKinney was known for her unconventional attire—her trademark pair of gold tennis shoes—and a readiness to speak out on issues ranging from human rights abuses abroad to social inequities at home. As an advocate for poor and working-class Americans, McKinney opposed federal efforts to restrict abortions, particularly a long-standing bill known as the Hyde Amendment, which largely withheld federal funding of abortions through Medicaid. In one debate on the House Floor, McKinney described the amendment as “nothing but a discriminatory policy against poor women, who happen to be disproportionately black.”³

On the International Relations Committee, where she eventually served as Ranking Member on the International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee, McKinney tried to curb weapons sales to countries that violate human rights, sponsoring the Arms Transfers Code of Conduct, which passed the House in 1997, to prevent the sale of weapons to dictators. In 1999, she partnered with a Republican colleague to insert a similar provision into a State Department Reauthorization Bill. A year later, she voted against full trade relations with China, citing Beijing’s poor human rights record. McKinney frequently challenged American foreign policy during this period: arguing against the 1999 bombing campaign in Kosovo, opposing U.S. sanctions against Iraq, and questioning much of Washington’s Middle East policy. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, McKinney criticized the George W. Bush administration, implying that Washington officials did not do enough to prevent the devastating attacks in New York City and the nation’s capital.⁴

In 2002, McKinney lost to challenger Denise Majette in a heated Democratic primary during her bid for re-election to a sixth term. Majette handily won the general election in November. Two years later, however, when the incumbent made a bid for an open Senate seat from Georgia, McKinney won the Democratic primary for the vacated seat and easily was elected to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) with 64 percent of the vote. McKinney won back her assignment on the Armed Services Committee and also received a seat on the Budget Committee.

Barbara Mikulski

1936–



Image courtesy of the Member

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 1977–1987
UNITED STATES SENATOR, 1987–
DEMOCRAT FROM MARYLAND

CONSIDERED THE “GODMOTHER OF WOMEN IN POLITICS,” Baltimore social activist, U.S. Representative, and U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski is the longest-serving woman in Congress today. During her 29 years in Congress, Mikulski has brought the fighting instincts from her roots as a Baltimore social activist to a host of national issues ranging from women’s health to care for veterans and the elderly to the stewardship of the environment. “Like most of the women I’ve known in politics,” she said, “I got involved because I saw a community in need.”¹

Barbara Ann Mikulski was born on July 20, 1936, in Baltimore, Maryland, to William and Christine Mikulski. She graduated from Mount Saint Agnes College in Baltimore with a degree in social work in 1958, subsequently working as a caseworker for Associated Catholic Charities and Baltimore’s department of social services. After earning an M.S.W. from the University of Maryland in 1965, she organized opposition to the construction of a highway in an East Baltimore historic district. The grass-roots campaign propelled Mikulski onto the city council of Baltimore, where she served from 1971 to 1976. During the 1972 presidential campaign she was a special adviser to the Democratic vice presidential candidate, R. Sargent Shriver. Afterward she chaired the Democratic Party’s Commission on Delegate Selection and Party Structure.²

Mikulski already was known statewide when, in 1976, she campaigned for the Baltimore-based House seat vacated by Representative Paul Sarbanes. She won 75 percent of the vote in the heavily Democratic district and was never seriously challenged in her four House re-election campaigns, winning by margins of 74 percent or greater.³

Mikulski became the first woman to serve on the powerful Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce (now the Energy and Commerce Committee), a post she held for her entire House career. Mikulski’s work on that panel earned her the reputation of being a strong consumer and environmental advocate.

She backed a bill which forced chemical companies to clean up toxic waste sites and supported a law requiring used-car dealers to disclose a vehicle's history.⁴ Mikulski also served on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, an important position for her port city constituency. She became a voice for aid organizations. In the early 1980s, she obtained a "good guy" bonus, which allowed hospitals that legitimately cut costs to be spared cuts in Medicaid funding.⁵ A lifelong advocate of women's rights, Mikulski also was a key founding member of the Congresswomen's Caucus in 1977.

In 1986, when Maryland's Senator Charles Mathias retired, Mikulski entered the race for his seat. She defeated her primary opponents, Maryland Governor Harry Hughes and House colleague Michael Barnes, with more votes than both her opponents' combined. Mikulski won with 61 percent of the vote in the general election. She was re-elected three times with large margins in 1992, 1998, and 2004, becoming the first Maryland politician to garner more than 1 million votes in 1992.⁶ Mikulski received assignments on four committees: Appropriations, Labor and Human Resources (renamed Health, Education, Labor and Pensions), Small Business, and the Select Committee on Intelligence. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), when Democrats briefly controlled the Chamber, Mikulski chaired the Labor Subcommittee on Aging and the Appropriations Subcommittee on the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies. From 1994 to 2004, she served as Secretary of the Democratic Caucus, the third-highest-ranking position in the Democratic leadership.

The ability to sustain a legislative agenda ensured Senator Mikulski some major legislative triumphs, including the 1988 Spousal Impoverishment Act, which allowed a husband or wife to retain assets if Medicaid paid for the other spouse's nursing home costs. Mikulski also has been a leader in women's health issues, overseeing the creation of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1991 and helping to double NIH funding for women's medical research. Mikulski also backed the 2000 Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Act. She is a leading supporter of scientific inquiry and space exploration and has led the fight to fund major National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) initiatives as well as the fight to double funding for the National Science Foundation. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, Senator Mikulski supported the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and increased the Federal Emergency Management Agency's fire grant program—providing equipment and protective gear to first responders—from \$150 to \$745 million annually.⁷ A master of parliamentary procedure, Senator Mikulski also serves as a mentor to her women colleagues, who have tripled in number since the early 1990s.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Barbara Ann Mikulski," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Mikulski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: Morrow, 2000).

NOTES

- 1 Barbara Mikulski et al. *Nine and Counting* (New York: Morrow, 2000): 118.
- 2 *Current Biography, 1985* (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1985): 292–295; "Democratic Reformer," 22 September 1973, *New York Times*: A15.
- 3 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 *Politics in America, 1984* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1983): 663–664.
- 5 *Politics in America, 1984*: 663.
- 6 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 7 "Official Biography of Barbara Mikulski," <http://mikulski.senate.gov/SenatorMikulski/biography.html> (accessed 13 September 2002); *Politics in America, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 458–459.

Juanita Millender-McDonald



Image courtesy of the Member

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA
1996–

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD IS KNOWN AS ONE OF THE FIVE most effective Members of the House of Representatives due to her ability to reach across the aisle and pass bipartisan legislation.¹ She has been dubbed a skilled legislator and creative leader whose relentless capacity to get the job done has produced many initiatives that were congressional firsts.

Millender-McDonald, the first Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to initiate a meeting with Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader-Ginsberg to discuss relevant issues with women Members of the House; she was first to lead a delegation of women Members to the United Nations to speak on the plight of women globally and to draw attention to the issue of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation among women and girls; she instituted the first National Teen Dating Violence Week to speak out against violence against teen girls; she was the first to bring a Central Intelligence Agency Director to the City of Watts to address the issue of drugs allegedly being dumped in the city; and first to lead a delegation of women to New York City to meet with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to develop strategies for increasing women's status in executive level management, financial portfolios, and investments.

She is the first African-American woman to hold the distinguished position of Ranking Member of the powerful Committee on House Administration, which oversees Federal Elections; the Library of Congress; Member Offices; the U.S. Capitol Police; the Capitol Fine Arts Board; the Smithsonian Institution; the National Zoo; and the Government Printing Office that produces the *Congressional Record*. She is a senior member of both the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Small Business Committee.

In recognition of women who served our country in uniform during wartime, Millender-McDonald initiated the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to Women in the Military at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She has led the fight to secure millions of dollars for the maintenance of the memorial and

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Juanita Millender-McDonald," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

1 John McCaslin, "Inside the Beltway: Top Producers," 13 April 2005, *Washington Times*: A9.

another \$50 million for counseling services for our returning men and women veterans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, she has spoken out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur, and other regions of the world where human rights are in danger or ignored. She has also worked with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Ambassador John Miller on human trafficking and women's rights issues globally.

Millender-McDonald has investigated widespread voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement. She called for the first election reform field hearing held in recent congressional history in Ohio.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald's effective focus on transportation issues has resulted in her becoming one of the most respected voices on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where she has secured billions of dollars for California. In the latter part of 2005, she led the fight to have the Pentagon reconsider its decision to halt production of the C-17 planes that are produced in California. Congresswoman Millender-McDonald led a delegation from her district for a meeting with the Secretary of the Air Force. The pressure she put on military officials has forced them to stall the closing of the C-17 manufacturing facility. Also in 2005, Congresswoman Millender-McDonald played a key role in the crafting and ultimate passage of the six-year Transportation Reauthorization Act (TEA-LU), the largest public works legislation in our nation's history.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP) and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She serves on the board of directors of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the board of trustees of Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles. She is the founder and executive director of the League of African-American Women, an organization of more than 40 African-American women's groups, and the founder of the Young Advocates, a political leadership-training program for African Americans between the ages of 18 and 35.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Redlands, a master's degree in educational administration from California State University-Los Angeles, and teaching and administration credentials from the California State University system. She is married to James McDonald, Jr., and they are the proud parents and grandparents of five adult children and five grandchildren.

Candice Miller

1954–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM MICHIGAN

2003–



Image courtesy of the Member

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR POLITICIANS IN HER HOME state of Michigan, Candice Miller rose through the ranks of local politics to become Michigan's first woman secretary of state. In 2002, Miller won election to the U.S. House, becoming the first Republican woman to represent Michigan in Congress in nearly 50 years. Representing Michigan's 10th District, she focused on national security and streamlining government in her first term.

Candice Snider was born on May 7, 1954, in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, daughter of Don and Jenny Snider. After graduating high school, she attended Macomb Community College from 1973 to 1974, before leaving school to sell boats at a family-owned marina on Michigan's Clinton River. Sailing boats, she noted, "was our livelihood but it was also our family sport and our family hobby."¹ A proposed tax rate increase on marinas got Miller involved in politics. She recalled that she became a "noisy activist."² She won election to the Harrison Township board of trustees in 1979. She was elected a Harrison Township supervisor the next year and served for 12 years. In 1984, she married Donald Miller, and the couple raised Candice's daughter, Wendy, from a previous marriage. Miller served as a local co-chair of the Ronald Reagan–George H.W. Bush presidential campaign in 1984. Two years later, she defeated four opponents to win the GOP nomination to the U.S. House of Representatives. She faced Democrat David Bonior, a five-term incumbent, and lost that race 66 percent to 34 percent. In 1992, Miller was elected to a term as the Macomb County treasurer in the suburban Detroit area by defeating a longtime incumbent to become the first Republican to win county-wide office in more than 40 years. Two years later, she challenged another longtime incumbent to win the first of two terms as Michigan secretary of state.³ As secretary of state, Miller helped develop fraud-proof driver's licenses and instituted important election reforms which relied on technology, including putting more voter information on the Internet. In 1998, in her re-election bid, Miller set a state record for the most votes, outpolling even the popular incumbent Governor John Engler.⁴

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Candice Miller,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Heather Burns, “Port Huron-to-Mackinac Island Sailboat Race: Secretary of State Sails Into Elite Mackinac Club,” 17 July 2001, *Port Huron Times Herald*: 1C.
- 2 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc, 2003): 524.
- 3 Christopher Cook, “Macomb Treasurer Wants Austin’s Office,” 24 February 1994, *Detroit Free Press*: 2B.
- 4 Peggy Walsh-Sarnecki, Dennis Niemiec, and Bill McGraw, “Miller Easily Wins Race for Congress; State Delegation to U.S. House to Be a GOP Majority for First Time in Decades,” 6 November 2002, *Detroit Free Press*: 1.
- 5 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 6 Dee-Ann Durbin, “Miller Says Meeting With Gaddafi Was ‘Pivotal,’” 27 January 2004, Associated Press; Ruby Bailer, “Congresswoman to Go to Libya; Miller Part of 1st U.S. Delegations in 38 Years,” 22 January 2004, *Detroit Free Press*: 2B.

In 2002, Miller made another bid for Congress in a newly reapportioned district which encompassed portions of Macomb County, Port Huron, and much of Michigan’s “thumb.” Representative Bonior, the incumbent, had decided to retire from the House to run for the Michigan governorship. Miller ran unopposed in the GOP primary and handily won the 2002 general election against Democratic candidate Macomb County Prosecutor Carl J. Marlinga, with a 63 to 36 percent margin.⁵ Miller’s victory helped Republicans capture a majority in the state’s House delegation for the first time in decades. In 2004, she won re-election with 69 percent of the vote.

After being sworn into Congress, Miller received a plum assignment on the House Armed Services Committee, with seats on that panel’s Readiness and Total Force subcommittees. In light of her background as Michigan’s secretary of state, Miller also was appointed to the Government Reform Committee, with seats on three of its subcommittees, including Government Efficiency and Financial Management. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), Miller also was assigned to the Committee on House Administration.

During her first term, Miller was a reliable vote for the Republican majority. She supported the overhaul of the Medicare program and the creation of a prescription drug benefit, voted for the creation of a private school voucher program in Washington, D.C., and favored the \$330 billion tax cut over 10 years. Miller also voted to criminalize the partial-birth abortion procedure, except in instances when it may be used to save a woman’s life. From her seat on Armed Services, the Michigan Congresswoman also was a supporter of the prosecution of the war in Iraq. In February 2004, Miller traveled with a congressional delegation to Libya for a meeting with Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. This delegation was the first group of U.S. officials to visit Libya in 38 years and marked Qaddafi’s decision to shut down his country’s nuclear weapons program and to open it to international inspectors. Miller later described those developments as “a pivotal moment in world history.”⁶ Miller also was attentive to the needs of her district, securing more than \$6.5 million in federal dollars for local projects, including a hiking/biking trail and a communications system for the St. Clair County sheriff’s department.

Lisa Murkowski

1957–

UNITED STATES SENATOR
REPUBLICAN FROM ALASKA

2002–



Image courtesy of the Member

THE FIRST ALASKAN WOMAN TO HOLD NATIONAL OFFICE and the first Alaskan-born Senator to serve the state, Lisa Murkowski began her tenure in the United States Senate in 2002. Her father, newly elected Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski, appointed her to fill the Senate seat he had recently vacated. With years of experience in state and local politics, Lisa Murkowski quickly set to work on the economic and infrastructure projects important to her constituents, winning re-election to a full six-year term in the Senate in 2004.¹

One of six siblings, Lisa Murkowski was born to Frank and Nancy Murkowski on May 22, 1957, in Ketchikan, Alaska. Frank Murkowski, a banker and former Alaska commissioner of economic development, first won election to the U.S. Senate in 1980, where he served for 22 years. He chaired the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Lisa Murkowski attended high school in Fairbanks, Alaska. She enrolled at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and went on to earn a BA in economics from Georgetown University in 1980. She then returned to Juneau, Alaska, to work as a legislative aide for the speaker of the Alaska house of representatives and became active in state Republican politics. In 1985, Murkowski graduated with a law degree from Willamette College of Law and returned to Alaska, where she met her husband.² In 1987, she married Verne Martell, a small business owner. They have two sons, Nicolas and Matthew, who were educated in the Anchorage public schools until they moved to Washington, D.C.

Before beginning her career in politics, Murkowski served as Anchorage District Court attorney and worked in an Alaska commercial law practice. Murkowski was active in local issues, serving on the Anchorage mayor's task force on the homeless, the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, as well as serving as president of her sons' school PTA. In 1998, Murkowski was elected as a Republican to the Alaska house of representatives and subsequently won re-election to two additional terms. While serving in the state house, Murkowski sat on

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Lisa Murkowski,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 22–23.
- 2 Ben Pershing, “Filling Murkowski’s Shoes Isn’t Easy for Murkowski,” 27 January 2003, *Roll Call*: 8.
- 3 Mike Chambers, “Alaska Gov. Appoints Daughter to Senate,” 20 December 2002, Associated Press.
- 4 *Politics in America*, 2004: 22–23.
- 5 “Sen. Murkowski Offers Her First Bills,” 6 February 2003, Associated Press.
- 6 “Murkowski ‘Happy’ With Transportation Bill,” 20 February 2004, *The Frontrunner*.

the Alaska Commission on Post Secondary Education and chaired both the labor and commerce and the military and veterans affairs committees. Her Republican peers in the state house selected her to be majority leader for the 2003–2004 session. During her time in the state legislature, Murkowski earned a reputation as a moderate willing to tackle tough issues.

In the 2002 elections, her father, Frank Murkowski, won the Alaskan governorship and formally resigned his Senate seat. On December 20, 2002, Governor Murkowski appointed Lisa Murkowski to the U.S. Senate, citing his desire to send an experienced legislator to Washington with values similar to his and who was young enough to accrue seniority that he, longtime Senator Ted Stevens, and veteran U.S. Representative Don Young had attained.³

In the Senate, Lisa Murkowski received assignments on several key committees, few more important to Alaskan interests than her post on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where she is chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power. In addition, she currently has assignments on three other committees: Foreign Relations, where she serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Environment and Public Works; and Indian Affairs. Within days of the start of her term, Senator Murkowski also was selected as one of the four freshmen (and the only woman) to serve as Deputy to the Majority Whip.⁴

During her first term, Senator Murkowski pursued a legislative program of economic growth, infrastructure, and improved social services in Alaska. The first bill she introduced was to expand the authorization and budget of the Denali Commission in an effort to build roads and transportation systems between Alaska’s dispersed rural communities and natural resources. “You can’t do any kind of economic development—development at all—if we don’t have . . . the transportation access to it, so this is all about access,” Murkowski said.⁵ She also won passage of legislation to help relocate the Alaskan village of Newtok, which is threatened by river erosion. She also secured an Alaskan exception to federal Medicaid funding to help defray the much higher costs associated with health care delivery in Alaska. In 2004, energy legislation was passed that included a series of regulatory changes and financial incentives, offered by Senator Murkowski, that were critical for future construction of an Alaskan gas line to the Lower 48.⁶

In November 2004, Senator Murkowski defeated a popular former Democratic governor of Alaska to win a full six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

Patty Murray

1950–

UNITED STATES SENATOR

DEMOCRAT FROM WASHINGTON

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

PATTY MURRAY NEVER PLANNED TO ENTER POLITICS, but today she is serving her third term in the U.S. Senate as a member of the Democratic leadership. From the classroom to the Congress, Patty Murray has been an effective advocate for Washington's working families and a national leader on port security, veterans issues, transportation, education, health care, and economic development. In 1992 she became the first Washington woman elected to the U.S. Senate. A parent, former preschool teacher and state legislator, Murray is known for her down-to-earth, determined style. She is the Ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, and H.U.D.; and the Ranking Member of the Employment, Safety, and Training Subcommittee. She serves in the Democratic leadership as the Assistant Floor Leader.¹

Patty Johns was born in Bothell, Washington, on October 11, 1950, to David L. Johns and Beverly A. McLaughlin Johns. In June 1972, after graduating from Washington State University, she married Robert R. Murray. The Murrays raised two children, Randy and Sara. Senator Murray volunteered as a pre-school teacher at a parent-child cooperative education program in which her children were enrolled. In 1980, the Washington state legislature eliminated the program, and Murray launched a grassroots campaign to save it. During that fight, a male legislator dismissed her by saying, "You can't make a difference; you're just a mom in tennis shoes."² In response, Murray worked to build a grassroots coalition of 13,000 parents who saved the program. Murray was then elected to the Shoreline school board. In 1988, Murray won election to the Washington state senate where she served until 1992, working as the Democratic whip for her final two years.

In 1992, Murray saw that working families did not have a voice in the U.S. Senate, so she challenged Democratic incumbent Senator Brock Adams for the Democratic primary. Murray spoke on middle-class concerns. "Mom in tennis shoes" became a campaign theme. Adams announced his retirement before the primary, and Murray beat four other opponents.³ In the general election, she beat five-term GOP Representative Rod Chandler with 54 percent of the vote. Murray's campaign focused on healthcare, improved schools, a woman's right to choose, and economic help for working families.⁴

Murray entered the 103rd Congress (1993–1995) and received assignments on three committees: Appropriations; Budget; and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. In the 105th Congress (1997–1999) she dropped the third assignment for a spot on the Labor and Human Resources Committee (later renamed Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions). By the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Murray had become Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training.

Murray has taken a special interest in veterans issues. Her father served in World War II, and during college Murray volunteered at the Veterans' Administration (VA) hospital in Seattle. She asked to serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and became the first woman ever to serve on that committee. Murray has worked to save VA hospitals from being closed and to improve services for returning Guard and Reserve members. Murray earned a seat on the Senate Select Committee on Ethics during the 105th Congress. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), while Democrats briefly controlled the chamber, Murray chaired the Transportation Subcommittee of Appropriations. She was the panel's Ranking Democrat in the 108th Congress and 109th Congress (2005–2007).

Senator Murray has focused on issues vital to her state. She has worked to improve transportation, agriculture, and trade. She has helped secure federal funding to clean up the Hanford nuclear facility and protected the Hanford Reach section of the Columbia River. Washington is the nation's most trade-dependent state, and Murray worked to open foreign markets to the state's many exports. Senator Murray has worked to improve security at the U.S. northern border. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Murray worked to improve port security by increasing funding for the Coast Guard and developing legislation to improve cargo security.⁵ In 1998, Murray led the Senate fight to hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce classroom overcrowding.⁶ She worked to pass and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and is working to ban deadly asbestos. After a 1999 pipeline explosion killed three people in her state, Murray led a national effort that dramatically improved pipeline safety.

In 1998, Murray won re-election by defeating two-term U.S. Representative Linda Smith with 58 percent of the vote. By the 107th Congress, Murray was Washington State's senior Senator, and Democratic leaders chose her as the first woman to head the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. In 2004, she won a third term, capturing 55 percent of the vote against Congressman George Nethercutt.⁷

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Patty Murray," <http://www.bioguide.congress.gov>

Mikulski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate* (New York: Morrow, 2000).

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

University of Oklahoma (Norman, OK), The Julian P. Kanter Commercial Archive, Department of Communication. *Video cassettes*: two video cassettes. Includes nine commercials used during Patty Murray's campaign.

NOTES

- 1 "Official Biography of Patty Murray," <http://murray.senate.gov>. (accessed 12 December 2004).
- 2 Timothy Egan, "Another Win by a Woman, This One 'Mom,'" 17 September 1992, *New York Times*: A16.
- 3 Barbara Mikulski et al., *Nine and Counting* (New York: Morrow, 2000): 45; Egan, "Another Win by a Woman, This One 'Mom.'"
- 4 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 5 *Politics in America, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 1063; "Official Biography of Patty Murray," <http://murray.senate.gov>.
- 6 Mikulski et al., *Nine and Counting*: 152.
- 7 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.

Marilyn N. Musgrave

1949–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM COLORADO

2003–



Congressional Pictorial Directory
109th Congress

MARILYN MUSGRAVE JOINED THE 108TH CONGRESS (2003–2005) as the United States Representative from eastern Colorado. Her modest upbringing in a small rural community in Colorado helped to forge her core beliefs as a social and fiscal conservative.¹

Marilyn Musgrave was born on January 27, 1949, in Greeley, Colorado. She attended Eaton High School and worked as a waitress and cleaned houses to earn money during her free time. She married Steve Musgrave while attending Colorado State University in 1968. After earning a B.A. in social studies, Musgrave taught school in Genoa, Colorado, before moving to Fort Morgan, where she and her husband started their own agricultural business, and then she devoted herself full-time to raising her children.² Once her children were in school, Musgrave became the “consummate volunteer,” working for a variety of community organizations, including various Republican causes. Her active volunteer work laid the foundation for her future career in elective politics.³

Musgrave’s political career began when she won a seat on the school board of Fort Morgan in 1990, a position that she held for four years. After completing the intensive Republican Leadership Program to prepare for a future in politics, Musgrave was elected to the Colorado state legislature in 1994. During her four-year tenure as a state representative, and her subsequent time in the Colorado state senate from 1999 through 2003, Musgrave supported a variety of conservative legislative initiatives, including tax cuts, free market solutions, the promotion of the sanctity of human life, support for traditional marriage, and the protection of Second Amendment rights.⁴

When Republican Representative Bob Schaffer retired from the House to fulfill his three-term limit pledge in 2002, Musgrave entered the race for the open congressional seat which covers most of eastern Colorado, swinging northward to Greeley on the northern edge of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. Musgrave won the August 13, 2002, Republican primary with two-thirds of the vote. Shortly after her victory, Musgrave outlined her political agenda: "I want to go to Washington to continue the conservative Reagan Republican agenda of lower taxes, limited government, a strong military, defense of our constitutional freedoms and protection of our pro-life, pro-family values."⁵ In the general election, Musgrave defeated Democrat Stan Matsunaka, winning all 18 counties in the district, and continuing its 30-year tradition of sending Republicans to Congress. In 2004, running against Matsunaka again, Musgrave was re-elected.⁶

Musgrave serves on the Agriculture Committee, the Resources Committee, and the Education and the Workforce Committee. As a member of the Small Business Committee, Musgrave became chairman of the Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs in her second term. Musgrave was elected by her peers to serve on the House Republican Steering Committee. She also is a leading member of the influential Republican Study Committee and is the Policy Chair of the Western Caucus.

As a Representative, Musgrave held true to her campaign promise to continue the conservative agenda. She opposed a Republican-sponsored measure to hike the federal gas tax, remaining firm in her conviction that "raising the gas tax is not only bad policy, it is bad politics."⁷ Musgrave emerged on the national stage when she sponsored the Federal Marriage Amendment, which defined marriage as a union of one man and one woman.⁸ On September 6, 2004, *Newsweek* magazine called Musgrave the rising star of Congress.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Marilyn Musgrave," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 "Our Campaigns," <http://www.ourcampaigns.com/cgi-bin/r.cgi/CandidateDetail.html?&CandidateIDff12467>. (accessed 30 March 2004).
- 2 "Our Campaigns."
- 3 M.E. Sprengelmeyer, "In the Spotlight for Better or Worse: Rep. Marilyn Musgrave," 27 November 2003, Scripps Howard News Service.
- 4 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2003): 183.
- 5 "Our Campaigns."
- 6 *Almanac of American Politics*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2003): 319–321; "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 7 Bill McAllister and Mike Soraghan, "Beauprez, Musgrave Feted in D.C. as New Colorado House Members," 8 January 2003, *Denver Post*: A-6; Marilyn Musgrave, "Building More Roads Without Raising Taxes," 11 February 2004, *The Hill*: 22.
- 8 "Press Release: Musgrave Amendment Strengthens Marriage," http://www.house.gov/musgrave/108th%20Web/pr_030522_federal_marriage_amendment.htm (accessed 2 April 2004).

Sue Myrick

1941–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
REPUBLICAN FROM NORTH CAROLINA

1995–



Congressional Pictorial Directory
108th Congress

SUE MYRICK, AN ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE AND FORMER MAYOR of Charlotte, North Carolina, won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, during the “Republican Revolution.” One of the leaders of the large GOP freshman class in the 104th Congress (1995–1997), Representative Myrick acted as a liaison between the leadership and a core group of conservatives and earned a powerful position on the Rules Committee. A fiscal and social conservative throughout her career, Myrick fought a personal battle with breast cancer that led her to become a chief proponent of legislation to combat the disease.

Suellen Wilkins was born in Tiffin, Ohio, on August 1, 1941. She graduated from Port Clinton High School in Port Clinton, Ohio, in 1959 and attended Heidelberg College for one year. She married and raised two children and was later divorced. Employed in a variety of jobs, she was an executive secretary for the Alliance, Ohio, mayor’s office, an employee for the court of juvenile and domestic relations in Ohio, and a television personality in Harrisonburg, Virginia. In the early 1970s, she and her family relocated to Charlotte, where she switched careers, eventually running her own advertising companies. In 1977, she married William Edward “Ed” Myrick, who brought three children of his own to the marriage. Sue Myrick had no political ambitions before the early 1980s, when she and her husband had a dispute with the city council of Charlotte over a proposed property purchase. The experience convinced Myrick that government played a more immediate part in her life than she had previously believed.¹ In 1983, she won a seat on the city council as an at-large member, serving until 1985. She made an unsuccessful bid to become Charlotte’s mayor in 1985 but, two years later, defeated the incumbent to become the city’s first woman mayor. During her two terms as mayor from 1987 to 1991, Myrick made major transportation and infrastructure improvements to Charlotte, and enacted drug- and crime-fighting programs.

Myrick eventually turned her attention toward national office, making an unsuccessful bid for a U.S. Senate nomination in 1992. Two years later, when Republican Representative Alex McMillan announced his retirement from a North Carolina district seat covering a large part of Charlotte and Gastonia

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Sue Myrick,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Noella Kertes, “Rep. Sue Myrick,” 28 December 2002, *CQ Weekly*: 53–54.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 3 Mildred Amer, *Women in the United States Congress: 1917–2004*, Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report for Congress (July 2004).
- 4 *Congressional Record*, House, 106th Cong., 2nd sess. (30 March 2000): 1624; *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 761.

in south-central North Carolina, Myrick entered the race to succeed him. Myrick prevailed in a five-way primary, and easily won the general election, with 65 percent of the vote. In her subsequent five re-election campaigns, Myrick boasted comfortable margins of 63 percent or more. In 2004, she was elected to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) with 70 percent of the vote.²

During her first term in the 104th Congress, Representative Myrick received assignments on three committees: Budget, Science, and Small Business.³ She left those panels in the 105th Congress (1997–1999) to serve on the prestigious House Rules Committee, with oversight of all legislation headed for floor debate. Representative Myrick has chaired the Republican Study Committee, a group comprised of the chamber’s most conservative Members. She also has worked as a member of the Republican Conference’s Communications Working Group, drawing on her advertising experience to craft the GOP message.

From her seat on the Budget Committee and then on the Rules Committee, Congresswoman Myrick helped implement the “Contract with America,” personally focusing on welfare reform. She also helped shape the 1997 budget which was the first balanced budget in nearly 30 years. Myrick still meets regularly with GOP leaders to discuss legislation and to express the resolve of fiscal conservatives.

Myrick’s successful battle against breast cancer in the late 1990s reoriented her legislative focus toward initiatives that help fight the disease. She spearheaded through the House a measure to federally fund treatment for low-income women diagnosed with breast cancer or cervical cancer. She has also co-chaired the House Cancer Caucus since the 107th Congress (2001–2003).⁴

Representative Myrick has been attentive to her district’s needs, particularly unemployment in sectors such as the state’s ailing textile industry. Spurred by the disappearance of an 18-year-old college student from her district, Myrick focused on legislation to create a national clearinghouse for information on missing adults. Myrick’s support of prayer in school and opposition to abortion reflects the conservative tilt of her district. She also has been a leading advocate in securing America’s border and addressing North Carolina’s immigration problems.

In the 109th Congress, Representative Myrick left her Rules Committee post to serve on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, where she focuses her time on issues such as cancer and brain disease.

Grace Napolitano

1936–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1999–



Congressional Pictorial Directory
109th Congress

GRACIELA FLORES NAPOLITANO ENTERED COMMUNITY POLITICS in the 1980s, built wide name recognition as a city mayor and California assemblywoman, and won election to the U.S. House in 1998. In Washington, Congresswoman Napolitano has focused on clean water, mental health, and transportation and on securing federal dollars for her district.

Graciela Flores was born in Brownsville, Texas, on December 4, 1936, daughter of Miguel Flores and Maria Alicia (Ledezma) Flores. After graduating from Brownsville High School in 1954, she married Federico Musquiz and had five children: Yolanda, Federico, Edward, Miguel, and Cynthia. The family moved to southern California, where she continued her education at Cerritos College. In 1982, several years after her first husband passed away, she married California restaurateur Frank Napolitano. The two live in the Los Angeles suburb of Norwalk, in the same home she has maintained for more than 40 years, and take great pride in their 14 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Napolitano worked for 13 years for the California Department of Employment before moving to a major automobile manufacturing company, where she spent 22 years, moving from executive secretary to its transportation division. In 1974, Napolitano was appointed a commissioner on the International Friendship Commission, a sister city program in which Norwalk was paired with the Mexican town of Hermosillo. The program focused on cultural exchanges between children and some adults, and the experience pulled Napolitano into public service.¹

In 1986, Napolitano was first elected to the city council of Norwalk by a 28-vote margin. Four years later, she won her second term by the largest margin in city history. In 1989, Napolitano's council colleagues elevated her to mayor. In 1992, she was elected to the California assembly, where she served until 1998. There she emerged as a leader on international trade, environmental protection, transportation, and immigration issues. Napolitano earned a reputation as a hard worker and a champion of small business, women, economic expansion, and job creation. She chaired the women's caucus and established the first new standing committee in a decade, the international trade committee, and served as vice chair of the Latino caucus.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Grace F. Napolitano,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Polanco, Richard G. and Grace Napolitano, *Making Immigration Policy Work in the United States*. (Sacramento, CA: California Latino Legislative Caucus, 1993).

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 129.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 “Napolitano Selected to Lead Congressional Hispanic Caucus,” 18 November 2004, available at http://www.napolitano.house.gov/press_releases/pr111804.htm (accessed 29 December 2004).
- 4 Norah M. O'Donnell, “The Votes Are In: After Battling Torres, Napolitano Claims His Seat,” 15 June 1998, *Roll Call*.

In 1998, upon the retirement of Congressman Esteban Torres, Napolitano entered the primary race to succeed him. She used \$200,000 of her retirement funds and drew from the political base of her assembly district that encompassed much of the largely Hispanic, middle-class Democratic congressional district. She won the primary by 619 votes and captured the general election with 67 percent of the vote. Napolitano has been re-elected three times by margins of 70 percent or higher and ran unopposed in 2004 in her newly reapportioned district stretching from East Los Angeles to Pomona.²

Napolitano has served on the Resources and Small Business committees since entering the House in January 1999. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), she won an additional post on the International Relations Committee and also was elevated to Ranking Member of the Resources Committee’s Water and Power Subcommittee in the 108th Congress (2003–2005). Napolitano has moved rapidly into the leadership of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and was unanimously selected its chair for a two-year term during the 109th Congress (2005–2007).³ She also serves as co-chair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus. Prompted to take action by a report showing that Latina teenagers have the highest suicide rate of any ethnic or racial group in the country, she launched school-based adolescent mental health counseling programs in three middle schools and one high school in her district. Napolitano is focused on the effect of posttraumatic stress disorder on U.S. troops and on the problem of seniors who suffer from depression.

Constituent services top Napolitano’s congressional agenda. “As far as passing legislation, that is not the main reason I went to Washington,” Napolitano said. “I want to be able to open the doors like I have at the county and state level.”⁴ Her projects benefitted small businesses that reside in her district—for example, her effort to reform the practice of “contract bundling,” which favors large corporations. Napolitano, who once owned an Italian restaurant, also has helped minority business owners obtain financial assistance to expand their businesses by working with the Small Business Administration.

In her role on the Resources Committee, Napolitano worked with then-Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to direct the cleanup in Utah of 10 million tons of spent uranium tailings that leached into the Colorado River, the source of water supplied daily to the states of Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and one-third of southern California. She also has teamed with regional Members of Congress to help secure \$65 million in federal funds to continue the cleanup of key Superfund sites in Los Angeles-area aquifers. In 2004, Napolitano helped achieve congressional approval of CALFED, a \$395 million program aimed at increasing the state’s water supply and protecting its fragile ecosystems.

Anne Meagher Northup

1948–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM KENTUCKY

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

A LOUISVILLE NATIVE AND 10-YEAR VETERAN of the Kentucky state legislature, Anne Northup won election to the House of Representatives in 1996, the first woman in more than 60 years to represent her state in Congress. As a freshman, Representative Northup gained a seat on the influential Appropriations Committee. Her chief legislative pursuits have centered on education issues, adoption practices in China, and the procurement of federal dollars for transportation projects and community programs in her Louisville district.

Anne Meagher was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on January 22, 1948, one of 10 children raised by James and Floy Gates (Terstegge) Meagher. In 1966, she graduated from Sacred Heart Academy of Louisville and, four years later, earned a B.A. in economics from Saint Mary's College in Indiana. In 1969, she married Robert "Woody" Northup. The couple settled in Louisville and raised six children: David, Katherine, Joshua, Kevin, Erin, and Mark. Anne Northup worked as a teacher and for a major automobile manufacturer. By the early 1980s, she began volunteering for election campaigns, including Ronald Reagan's two runs for President. Northup's first campaign for elective office was in a 1987 special election for a seat in the Kentucky legislature, representing a Louisville–Frankfort district in the state house of representatives. She won and was re-elected to four additional terms, serving from 1987 to 1996. In the number two tobacco state in the nation, she remained an outspoken critic of the crop and introduced legislation to curb the powerful tobacco industry. Northup focused primarily on business and transportation improvements as a member of the appropriations and revenue committee and the education and economic development committee.¹

In 1996, Northup challenged one-term Democratic incumbent Mike Ward for his Louisville district seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district, which overlapped with portions of Northup's state legislature district, covered the larger Louisville and Jefferson County area, where registered Democrats

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Anne Meagher Northup,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 “Anne M. Northup,” Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 2004.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html/>.
- 3 James Carroll, “Northup Balances Ties to District, Party,” 30 October 2000, *Courier-Journal* (Louisville, KY): 1A.
- 4 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 419.
- 5 “Official Biography of Anne M. Northup,” <http://northup.house.gov/bio.asp> (accessed 20 February 2003).
- 6 Carroll, “Northup Balances Ties to District, Party.”

outnumbered Republicans by a two-to-one margin. Tobacco, health care, shipping, and tourism accounted for much of the district’s economy. Northup narrowly defeated Ward—by about 1,300 votes out of more than 225,000 cast—even though President Bill Clinton carried the district in his re-election campaign. In her next three re-election bids, Northup won by slightly larger margins in her competitive district. In 2004, however, she earned a fifth consecutive term by the largest margin of her career, 60 to 38 percent.²

When Northup first claimed her seat in the 105th Congress (1997–1999), Republican leaders identified her as a rising star in a vulnerable district and accordingly assigned her a seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. Representative Northup also sits on three of the panel’s subcommittees: Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; Transportation and Treasury; and VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies.

Northup has used her influential position on the Appropriations Committee to pursue two primary legislative interests: national education reform and steering federal dollars into local government and community projects in her Louisville district. In March 1998, Northup founded the Congressional Reading Caucus to raise awareness of the increasing numbers of illiterate school children. She also authored legislation that created the National Reading Panel to evaluate the effectiveness of federally funded reading programs. In 2002, the findings of that study were incorporated into the federal education law, which set standards goals.

Congresswoman Northup’s Appropriations assignment also has allowed her to bring federal dollars into her district to support infrastructure improvements and community organizations. During her first four years in the House, she reportedly brought nearly \$500 million into the district.³ She has procured money for two new bridges over the Ohio River, grants for local medical research facilities, and money for service programs in local churches.⁴ Northup, who has described herself as a fiscal conservative, is guided by a political philosophy that “supports policies that empower individuals and communities.”⁵ The federal government, she once told the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, should “partner” with communities rather expending billions through federal agencies in Washington.⁶

As a mother of two adopted children, Northup has taken an interest in fostering adoption programs between the United States and China, seeking to reduce bureaucratic obstacles in the process. A social conservative who opposes all abortion procedures, she has been tapped by Republican leaders as a regular spokesperson because of her pragmatism and her ability to effectively communicate GOP policy positions.

Eleanor Holmes Norton

1937–

DELEGATE

DEMOCRAT FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1991–



Congressional Pictorial Directory
109th Congress

A CIVIL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER and former chair of the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, Eleanor Holmes Norton carried her lifelong commitments to Congress as the Delegate for the District of Columbia. Since 1991, Norton has been a tireless advocate of D.C. statehood and congressional voting rights, while successfully obtaining federal funds and legislation to improve the city's economy and tax base. "I have been elected to Congress not to further my own interests, but to bring resources and respect to the District of Columbia," she remarked. "The ethics of the bar require zealous representation. That's how I understand my relationship to my folks."¹

Eleanor Holmes was born in Washington, D.C., on June 13, 1937, the oldest of three daughters of Coleman Holmes, a civil servant, and Vela Lynch Holmes, a teacher. She attended Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C., and earned a B.A. at Antioch College in Ohio in 1960. Norton earned an M.A. in American studies in 1963 and a law degree in 1964, both from Yale University. While in college and law school, she worked in the civil rights movement with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. After graduating, she clerked for Federal Judge A. Leon Higginbotham in Philadelphia. She then became assistant legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union. In 1965, Eleanor Holmes married Edward Norton. The couple raised two children, Katherine and John, before divorcing in 1993. In 1970, New York Mayor John Lindsay appointed Eleanor Holmes Norton to chair the New York City Commission on Human Rights.² In 1977, President James Earl "Jimmy" Carter appointed her chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where she served until 1981. During the 1980s, she taught full-time as a tenured professor at Georgetown University Law Center, where she still teaches one course annually.

In 1990, Norton defeated five challengers in the Democratic primary for an open seat as the District of Columbia's Delegate in the U.S. House. In the general election, she won 62 percent of the vote in the heavily Democratic city. She faced little or no opposition in her seven re-election bids.³

When Norton took her seat in the 102nd Congress (1991–1993) in January 1991, she chose three committees: District of Columbia, Post Office and Civil Service, and Public Works and Transportation (later renamed Transportation and Infrastructure). In the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), she was appointed to the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. For the first time in the city’s history, she won a vote as Delegate on the House Floor in the Committee of the Whole through a new rule she requested. The federal courts ruled that the House could grant Delegates the right to vote in the House Floor committee by rule, as it had traditionally in other committees. This right was withdrawn in the 104th Congress (1995–1997) when Republicans assumed control. In 1995, the District of Columbia Committee was absorbed by Government Reform and Oversight (later renamed Government Reform), where, along with her seat on Transportation and Infrastructure, Norton served through the 108th Congress. She also won a seat on the newly created Select Homeland Security Committee. House rules limit Delegate participation in the legislative process. Delegates may introduce legislation, speak on the House Floor, vote in committee, and even head a committee, but they cannot vote on the House Floor. Norton is the only Member of Congress whose constituents have no congressional vote, although they pay federal income taxes and serve in the military.

In the fight to secure D.C. statehood and voting rights and to improve services and infrastructure, Norton was a vocal and articulate leader during the 1990s.⁴ To grant the city statehood, she authored the New Columbia Admission Act, which went to an unsuccessful vote on the House Floor. She now sponsors the No Taxation Without Representation Act, a bill that has also been introduced in the Senate. She has made progress by partnering with the Republican chairman of the Government Reform Committee to secure bipartisan committee passage of a bill for a vote on the House Floor. In 1995, with the city in financial crisis, she joined with Republican leaders to create a financial control board to supervise city finances. Norton’s bill to transfer some state costs to the federal government led to economic recovery in the late 1990s and the elimination of the control board. Stressing education and economic development, she has secured funds for residents to attend any public U.S. college, for a new Metro subway station, for special D.C. homebuyer and business tax credits, and for redevelopment of an entire area of southeast Washington. She successfully fought congressional initiatives to nullify local laws, including a repeal of the city’s prohibition on handguns.⁵

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Eleanor Holmes Norton,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Lester, Joan Steinau, *Eleanor Holmes Norton: Fire in My Soul* (New York: Atria Books, 2003).

Marcovitz, Hal. *Eleanor Holmes Norton* (Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 2003).

NOTES

1 Joan Steinau Lester, *Eleanor Holmes Norton: Fire in My Soul* (New York: Atria Books, 2003): 274–276.

2 “Eleanor Holmes Norton,” *Contemporary Black Biography*, Vol. 7. (Detroit: Gale Research Inc., 1994).

3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

4 “Eleanor Holmes Norton,” *Contemporary Black Biography*; Lester, *Fire in My Soul*: 286.

5 *Almanac of American Politics*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2001): 358–359.

Nancy Pelosi

1940–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1987–



Image courtesy of the Member

WITH FAMILY ROOTS IN AND A DEEP COMMITMENT to the Democratic Party, Nancy Pelosi worked her way up the leadership ladder, eventually serving as House Minority Whip in 2001. On November 14, 2002, the Democratic Caucus elected Congresswoman Pelosi the House Minority Leader—the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. Congress.

Nancy Patricia D'Alesandro was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 26, 1940, the daughter of Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., a U.S. Representative from 1939 to 1947 and, later, three-time mayor of Baltimore. Nancy D'Alesandro graduated with an A.B. from Trinity College in 1962. She married Paul Pelosi, and they raised five children. After moving to San Francisco in 1969, Nancy Pelosi became active in California politics. In 1976, she helped orchestrate then-California Governor Jerry Brown's win in the 1976 presidential primary in Maryland. Starting in 1976, Pelosi served as a Democratic National Committeewoman (a post she held until 1996). She also worked as Philip Burton's campaign aide and became a close protégé of the San Francisco Congressman, who was dean of the state delegation. After his death, Burton was succeeded by his wife, Sala. From 1981 to 1983, Pelosi chaired the California Democratic Party.¹

Shortly before Sala Burton's death in February of 1987, Burton endorsed Pelosi as her successor. With Pelosi's knowledge of the state party organization and the support of Burton's backers, she won a close race in the special primary and won easily in the runoff election of June 2, 1987. In nine re-election campaigns in her heavily Democratic San Francisco district, Pelosi received an average of more than 80 percent of the total vote.²

When Pelosi took her House seat in the 100th Congress (1987–1989) on June 9, 1987, she received assignments on two committees: Government Operations; and Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs. In the 102nd Congress (1991–1993), Pelosi

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Nancy Pelosi,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2004
(Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 82–83; *Who’s Who in American Politics* (New York: Bowker, 1999).
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 Glenn F. Bunting, “Pelosi’s Prominence in Party on the Rise; Lawmaker: The San Francisco Congresswoman Will Deliver a Speech and Preside Over Proceedings to Adopt the Platform,” 14 July 1992, *Los Angeles Times*: A6.
- 4 *Congressional Record*, House, 105th Cong., 2nd sess. (28 April 1998): 2445.
- 5 David Von Drehle and Hanna Rosin, “The Two Nancy Pelosis: New House Leader Stresses Her Political Skills,” 14 November 2002, *Washington Post*: A1.
- 6 Edward Walsh, “House Democrats Take Pelosi to Be Their Leader,” 15 November 2002, *Washington Post*: A11.
- 7 Martin Kody, “Party Unity: Learning to Stick Together,” 9 January 2006, *CQ Weekly*: 92.

moved to two other assignments: Appropriations, where she remained through the 107th Congress (2001–2003), and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, where she served through the 104th Congress (1995–1997). She eventually rose to be the Ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. In 1995, she was given a seat on the House Select Intelligence Committee where, by the 107th Congress, she served as the Ranking Member. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), she served as an ex-officio member of that panel.

As a Representative, Pelosi has focused attention on human rights issues abroad and health concerns in her San Francisco district. She has been an advocate for more research on and funding for HIV/AIDS. “AIDS,” she noted in 1992, “is the paramount issue in my district.”³ Pelosi pushed for a federally funded needle exchange program to prevent the incidence of HIV infection among drug users. During a House Floor speech she declared, “Science, not politics, should lead on public health policy. The science is irrefutable. Needle exchange works and works well.”⁴ Pelosi also has been a consistent champion of human rights in China. To that end, she fought Presidents George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton, who sought to extend China “most favored nation” trade status.

Pelosi rose steadily up the leadership ladder and earned a reputation as a master fundraiser for her strapped fellow Democrats. She served as a member of the formal Democratic Steering Committee and also held a vice chairmanship on the Democratic Study Group, an informal caucus of policy and reform-oriented liberals. In 1992 she was named to head the Democratic National Platform Committee. On October 10, 2001, Democratic colleagues chose Pelosi as the Democratic Whip, the number two party position in the House, when Michigan’s David Bonior resigned the job to run for governor. When Pelosi assumed the post on January 15, 2002, she became the first woman ever to hold the position. As Minority Whip during the 2002 elections, she visited more than 90 congressional districts on behalf of Democratic candidates.⁵

Within a year, Pelosi topped her Whip milestone, when Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt relinquished his post. On November 14, 2002, the Democratic Caucus overwhelmingly chose Pelosi as Minority Leader, the highest position any woman has been elected to in Congress or in either of the two political parties. On her selection, Pelosi commented, “I didn’t run as a woman. I ran as a seasoned politician and an experienced legislator. It just so happens that I am a woman and we have been waiting a long time for this.”⁶ In 2003, Pelosi became the first woman candidate for Speaker of the House. Over the past half-century, Democrats in the House were never more unified than they have been under Pelosi’s leadership, voting together a record 88 percent of the time in 2005.⁷

Deborah D. Pryce

1951–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM OHIO

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

FIRST ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES in 1992, Deborah Pryce rose through the ranks of leadership to become Republican Conference Chair a decade later, making her the highest-ranking Republican woman in House history. As a member of the Financial Services Committee and as a Deputy Whip, Congresswoman Pryce has drawn on her background as a former judge and prosecutor to act as a consensus builder in the House.¹ Her legislative interests range from consumer financial protection to pediatric cancer and adoption practices.

Deborah Denine Pryce was born in Warren, Ohio, on July 29, 1951. She graduated from Ohio State University in 1973 and received her J.D. from Capital University Law School three years later. From 1976 to 1978, Pryce served as an administrative law judge for the Ohio state department of insurance. She worked as a prosecutor and municipal attorney for the city attorney's office of Columbus from 1978 to 1985. Pryce served two terms as the presiding judge in the municipal court of Franklin County from 1985 to 1992. In 1990, she adopted her daughter, Caroline. After Caroline's death from cancer in 1999, Pryce founded Hope Street Kids, a nonprofit organization devoted to curing childhood cancer. In 2001, she adopted a daughter, Mia.

In 1992, when 13-term Republican Representative Chalmers Wylie retired from the House, Pryce ran unopposed in the GOP primary. In a hard-fought, three-way general election for the open seat in a district covering western Columbus and its outlying suburbs, Pryce prevailed with 44 percent of the vote. She has been successfully re-elected to the six succeeding Congresses, with comfortable margins. In 2004, she won re-election to her eighth term with 60 percent of the vote.²

From the beginning of her congressional service, Representative Pryce has occupied a leadership position. Elected Republican freshman-class president in 1993, Pryce also was named to the congressional Republican transition team in the following Congress, when Republicans gained control of the House for the first

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Deborah D. Pryce,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Amy Borrus, “Is the Day of the Hothead Over?: The GOP Pols to Watch as Gingrich Moves to the Center,” 8 September 1997, *Business Week*: 72.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 “Official Biography of Deborah Pryce,” <http://www.house.gov/ pryce/biography.htm> (accessed 18 July 2006); *Politics in America, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 811–812.
- 4 Derek Willis, “Rep. Deborah Pryce,” 28 December 2002, *CQ Weekly*: 58; “Deborah Pryce,” Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 2004.

time in 40 years. Two years later in 1996, she was selected a Deputy Majority Whip for the Republican Party. In 1998, GOP colleagues elected Representative Pryce Secretary of the House Republican Conference, the body that oversees the organization of the party. Pryce ran unopposed for the Republican Conference Vice Chair spot in 2000, and in the race for Conference Chair for the 108th Congress (2003–2005) she defeated two opponents to become the highest-ranking woman in the Republican Party.

When Pryce first took her seat in the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), she received assignments on two committees: Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs; and Government Operations. In the 104th Congress (1995–1997), Pryce left those assignments when she received a seat on the prestigious Rules Committee, with oversight of all legislation headed for floor debate. Aside from a brief stint on the Select Committee on Homeland Security in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Pryce’s committee focus was on the Rules panel. In the 107th and 108th Congresses, she chaired its Legislative and Budget Process Subcommittee. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), she left the Rules Committee to accept a seat on the Financial Services Committee, where she is now the fourth-ranking Member. She chairs the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology.

Congresswoman Pryce’s legislation reflects her commitment to children and health care issues. She authored the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act in 1999, a law that boosted federal funding to investigate and prevent child abuse. As the mother of two adopted children, she has worked to ease transitional adoption practices for foster parents. Pryce also authored the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act of 2001, which authorized the President to provide health and education assistance to women and children living in Afghanistan through non-governmental organizations. In addition to the creation of her own pediatric cancer research foundation, Representative Pryce has been a leading advocate of increasing federal money for cancer research and expanding access to clinical trials for cancer patients. She authored the Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2005, to help individuals in underserved communities overcome cultural, linguistic, and financial barriers to access the health system, which President George W. Bush signed into law.³

From both the Rules and Financial Services committees, Representative Pryce has authored key provisions of laws to modernize the nation’s financial services industry and has sponsored legislation to protect consumers’ personal and financial information. As chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology, Representative Pryce is leading efforts to overhaul the process by which foreign investments in the U.S. are reviewed by the federal government.⁴

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

1952–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

REPUBLICAN FROM FLORIDA

1989–



Image courtesy of the Member

A CHILDHOOD REFUGEE FROM FIDEL CASTRO'S COMMUNIST REGIME, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen emerged as a powerful voice in her south Florida community and a major critic of the tyrannical regime. Her historic 1989 election to the House of Representatives made her the first Hispanic woman and the first Cuban American elected to the U.S. Congress.

Ileana Ros was born in Havana, Cuba, on July 15, 1952, and moved with her family to the United States shortly after Castro came to power in 1959. After completing public education in Miami-Dade, she earned an associate of arts degree from Miami-Dade Community College in 1972, a B.A. in higher education from Florida International University (FIU) in 1975, and an M.A. in educational leadership from FIU in 1987. In 2004, she received her doctorate in higher education from the University of Miami. She also founded a private elementary school, serving as its chief administrator. From 1982 to 1986, she served as a Republican in the Florida house of representatives (its first Hispanic woman) and, from 1986 to 1989, in the Florida senate. In the state legislature she met and married representative Dexter Lehtinen, who later went on to become the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. The couple has two daughters, Amanda Michelle and Patricia Marie.

After the death of Congressman Claude Pepper on May 30, 1989, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen sought the Republican nomination for the vacant seat. With the backing of national GOP leaders, she won the August 29, 1989, special election. About 90 percent of the Cuban-American vote (which made up about 40 percent of the district) went to Ros-Lehtinen, who defeated her Democratic rival by a 52 to 48 percent margin. Her victory put the seat in Republican hands for the first time since its creation in 1962.

After Ros-Lehtinen took the oath of office on September 6, 1989, she was assigned to the International Relations and Government Reform committees, where she has served during her nine terms. Recently, Speaker J. Dennis Hastert

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Ileana Ros-Lehtinen,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Fernández, Mayra. *Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Legisladora* (Cleveland, OH: Modern Curriculum Press, 1994).

NOTES

1 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.

of Illinois asked her to serve on the Budget Committee where she was the only Republican woman. In 1990 and 1992, Ros-Lehtinen comfortably won re-election by 60 and 64 percent, respectively.¹ From 1994 to 2000, she was re-elected without opposition. In 2002 and 2004, she won against Democratic candidates with 69 and 65 percent of the vote, respectively. Ros-Lehtinen has chaired several International Relations subcommittees: Africa, International Economic Policy and Trade, International Operations, and Human Rights. Currently, she chairs the Middle East and Central Asia subcommittee. She also served as vice chair of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), she serves on the Government Reform Subcommittee for National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations.

Ros-Lehtinen’s leadership in South Florida is well known and has included a number of initiatives providing revenue and jobs for the region, including projects that have shaped local infrastructure and transportation. She has worked tirelessly to bring more than \$25 million in federal funds to revitalize the Miami River, helping to reinvigorate the river area in downtown Miami. She also has secured more than \$40 million to dredge the Port of Miami so that it can serve bigger cruise and freight ships. Ros-Lehtinen has been a strong supporter of expanding Miami International Airport so it can continue to serve a growing south Florida community.

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen has brought more than \$35 million in federal aid and appropriations into Monroe County since it was added to her district in 2002. That total includes more than \$5 million for the Florida Keys Wastewater Quality Program to ensure that the waters of this marine sanctuary remain healthy—improving the quality of life for the residents and tourists. She also has been a strong champion of affordable housing, fighting to secure higher funding for Section 8, and Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS. Representative Ros-Lehtinen also is a strong supporter of the Everglades cleanup, one of the largest environmental projects in America.

As a Florida certified teacher, Ros-Lehtinen has been a strong supporter of educational reform. While in the Florida senate, she was instrumental in passing the Florida Pre-Paid Program. To this day she continues to speak about the importance of this program to south Florida schools and students.

On the international front, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen has been a leading advocate for the promotion of human rights in countries like Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and China. She also steadfastly supports Israel’s right to exist in peace and security as a democratic Jewish state.

Lucille Roybal-Allard

1941–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

FOLLOWING HER FAMILY'S TRADITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE, Lucille Roybal-Allard pioneered new political ground in 1992, becoming the first Mexican-American woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress. Running in a new congressional district, Roybal-Allard also was one of a handful of daughters to follow a father to Congress. Like her father, Edward Roybal, she serves on the Appropriations Committee and is a former chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (the first Latina to hold both positions).

Born in Los Angeles, California, on June 12, 1941, Lucille Roybal is one of three children of Lucille Beserra and the late Edward Roybal. Lucille Roybal graduated from California State University in Los Angeles in 1965 with a B.A. in speech therapy. She worked in alcohol and drug treatment programs in Los Angeles as a public relations and fund-raising executive for the United Way and as the executive director of a national trade association for Hispanic certified public accountants in Washington, D.C. Lucille Roybal married Edward T. Allard III in 1981. They have four children: Ricardo, Lisa, Angela, and Guy Mark; and six grandchildren.

Edward Roybal served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 30 years—chairing the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) and rising to the rank of chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee of the Treasury-Postal Service-General Government. In 1987, Roybal-Allard followed her father into public office, winning a special election to fill a vacancy in the California state assembly, where she served until 1992. In the state legislature, Roybal-Allard was an advocate of women's rights and passed key legislation to protect victims of rape and domestic violence. She also was a proponent of environmental justice. She successfully led a campaign against the building of a commercial hazardous waste incinerator in her urban district. The battle led her to author several environmental bills that became law, including a measure requiring environmental impact reports. Roybal-Allard also worked on advancing Hispanic entrepreneurship and strived to enable the local communities to have economic and political control.¹

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Lucille Roybal-Allard,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

California State Archives (Sacramento, CA). *Papers: 1987–1990*, approximately five cubic feet. Office files of Lucille Roybal-Allard from her tenure in the California state assembly. The files contain bill information, correspondence, invitations, and schedules.

NOTES

1 *Congressional Directory*, 108th Cong. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2003); *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 132–133; “Lucille Roybal-Allard,” Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 2004.

2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

Following the 1990 Census, a new congressional district was created, encompassing most of her assembly district. In 1992, Lucille Roybal-Allard ran for Congress in the new district, capitalizing both on family name recognition and on the legislative record she created in the state assembly. She easily won the primary, with 73 percent of the vote. In the general election, she defeated Republican Robert Guzman with 63 percent of the vote. Since her first campaign, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard has been re-elected to six additional Congresses with margins higher than 70 percent.²

When Roybal-Allard was sworn into the House in January 1993, she was assigned to two committees: Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs (later renamed Banking and Financial Services); and Small Business. Starting in the 104th Congress (1995–1997), she took a post on the Budget Committee in exchange for her seat on the Small Business panel. In the 105th and 106th Congresses (1997–2001), Roybal-Allard served on the House Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns With the People’s Republic of China. Roybal-Allard’s reputation as a respected consensus builder won her the chairmanship of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation in 1997 and 1998. In assuming this position, she became the first woman to serve at the delegation’s helm and the first Member to achieve this role through election rather than seniority.

Representing a district with one of the largest Hispanic populations in the nation (77.2 percent), Roybal-Allard followed in her father’s footsteps in 1999 and 2000 when she became chair of the CHC. Under her leadership, the CHC played a major role in passing immigration reforms, increasing funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions and the partial restoration of food stamps, Social Security benefits, and Medicaid for legal immigrants.

Roybal-Allard relinquished all her prior committee assignments in 1999 for a seat on the prestigious Appropriations Committee, where she still sits. Roybal-Allard serves on two influential Appropriations subcommittees—Homeland Security; and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. From these panels, she oversees funding of the Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Customs Service, Department of Labor, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Education. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Roybal-Allard also drew an assignment on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

In Congress, Roybal-Allard concentrates on social and domestic legislation. Her legislative priorities include homeland security, reducing underage drinking, promoting maternal and child health, and making college affordable and accessible to all students, including immigrant youth. She also works to meet the needs of her constituents by bringing millions in federal dollars to her district for key priorities such as transportation, economic development, infrastructure, housing, public safety, health care, and education.

Linda T. Sánchez

1969–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

2003–



Image courtesy of the Member

WHEN LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ¹ WON HER BID TO BECOME one of several United States Representatives from Los Angeles County on November 5, 2002, she not only earned a seat in Congress, she also made history: Linda and her older sibling Loretta, already on Capitol Hill, became the first sisters to serve together in Congress. Inextricably linked with her sister because of their similar careers, political agendas, and familial background, Linda Sánchez nonetheless has made clear her intention to shape her own identity in Congress: “I think we are both very qualified in different ways. I think I’m going to be able to make my mark in my way.”² Sánchez has supported affordable health care, quality education, and increased opportunities for Latinos. She also has vowed to use her experience as an organized labor leader and her previous work with the National Organization for Women to advocate the rights of women and workers from her district.³

The daughter of Mexican immigrants Ignacio Sandoval Sanchez, a mechanic at a plastics and rubber plant, and Maria Socorro Macias Sanchez, an elementary school teacher, Linda Sánchez was born on January 28, 1969, in Orange, California. The second youngest of seven children in a traditional Latino family, Sánchez, as well as her parents, questioned the sometimes-strict cultural mores that encouraged boys to attend college and girls to marry and have children. Maria Sanchez, whose decision to attend night school to further her education made her a role model for her daughters, supported Linda’s refusal to accept the status quo and suggested she work to change the inequalities in society.⁴ Reflecting upon the importance of her family and parents in her life, Sánchez commented, “In every Latino family, there’s a sense of ‘We need to stick together.’ It’s us against the world.” She went on to add, “But I think in our particular family, that’s even stronger because our folks expected great things from us. They wanted us to take advantage of all the opportunities they

never had.”⁵ Heeding the advice of her parents and the example set by her mother, Sánchez enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley while also working as a bilingual aide and an ESL teacher. After earning a B.A. in 1991, Sánchez graduated from UCLA Law School four years later.

Sánchez gained her first political experience working on campaigns while in high school and also participated heavily in her sister Loretta’s campaign for the House against nine-term incumbent Robert Dornan in 1996. In 1998, she left her private practice as a civil rights attorney to become field director of her sister’s re-election campaign. Following the election, she conducted national speaking engagements on the organization of effective grass-roots political campaigns and became the first Latina to head a countywide central labor council (Orange County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO).⁶

Motivated by her desire to serve her community at a higher level, Linda Sánchez decided to run for the open seat in a newly created California district encompassing southeast Los Angeles County in 2002. The campaign for the congressional seat in the predominantly Democratic district that included a high percentage of Latino voters and a strong organized-labor movement received national attention. Sánchez joined a spirited race as one of three Latino candidates in a field of five contenders.⁷ She won the Democratic primary on March 5, 2002, and went on to defeat Republican Tim Escobar and Libertarian Richard Newhouse in the general election, with 55 percent of the vote.⁸ Shortly after her victory, Sánchez said: “I’m not here to take over the world. My passion is to get more women elected in politics. And if it’s a Hispanic woman, it’s even better.”⁹

During her first term, Sánchez was named to the Judiciary, Government Reform, and Small Business committees and was a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. As the only freshman Democrat to earn a seat on the Judiciary Committee during the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Sánchez remarked, “Having worked with laws in the courtroom, I’ve really seen how legislation impacts people.”¹⁰ Sánchez sponsored measures to improve school safety and to assist women, minorities, and veterans to establish small businesses. She also introduced legislation to raise the minimum wage and was a vocal supporter of immigration reform in the United States. At the start of her second term, Congresswoman Sánchez was named an Assistant Democratic Whip.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Linda Sánchez,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Linda Sánchez, unlike her sister Loretta, uses the diacritic in her surname.
- 2 Chelsea J. Carter, “L.A. Representative’s Sibling Wins Primary; Sisters May Become First to Serve in House Together,” 7 March 2002, *San Mateo County Times*.
- 3 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 142.
- 4 “First Person Singular: Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.,” 25 April 2004, *Washington Post*: W09.
- 5 Roxanne Roberts, “House Mates: Loretta and Linda Sanchez Are Congress’s First Sister Act,” 12 December 2002, *Washington Post*: C1.
- 6 “Linda Sánchez for Congress,” <http://www.lindasanchez2002.com/about.shtml> (accessed 6 November 2002); “New Members Guide: Linda Sánchez,” 18 November 2002, *The Hill*.
- 7 Richard Marosoi, “Battle Shapes up in Latino District,” 19 February 2002, *Washington Post*: 1.
- 8 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 9 Dena Bunis, “Congress Gets Its First Sister Act With Loretta and Linda Sanchez,” 6 November 2002, *Orange County Register*.
- 10 *Politics in America*, 2004: 142.

Loretta Sanchez

1960–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

LORETTA SANCHEZ WON ELECTION TO THE U.S. HOUSE—her first political office—by defeating a longtime incumbent. During her tenure in the House, Congresswoman Sanchez has established herself as an advocate for economic development, a strong military, and education issues. In 2003, she also made history when her sister, Linda, won election to the House: The Sanchez sisters are the first pair of sisters to serve in Congress.

Loretta Sanchez was born in Lynwood, California, on January 7, 1960, the oldest daughter of Ignacio Sandoval Sanchez and Maria Socorro Macias Sanchez.¹ She graduated in 1982 with a B.S. in economics from Chapman University in Orange, California, and in 1984 she earned an MBA from American University in Washington, D.C. From 1984 to 1987, she worked as a special projects manager at the Orange County transportation authority. Sanchez then entered the private sector in the investment banking industry and, later, worked as a strategist at a leading consulting company. A registered Republican and fiscal conservative, she broke with the GOP in 1992, believing the party had marginalized immigrants and women.

In 1996, Sanchez declared her candidacy in the race for a California district encompassing central Orange County. During the campaign, she touted her business credentials, particularly her effort to secure funding from national companies to establish programs between local grade schools and state colleges in Orange County.² Despite her lack of political experience, she defeated three male contenders in the Democratic primary with 35 percent of the vote. In the general election she faced long-time incumbent Republican Bob Dornan, a controversial and outspoken conservative. Her platform included support for small- and medium-sized businesses, investment in high-tech research, and federal funding for school improvements. Sanchez appealed to the traditionally conservative district's voters with a tough-on-crime agenda; she also advocated a ban on assault weapons and the elimination of the gun show loophole. Sanchez prevailed with a 984-vote margin

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Loretta Sanchez,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2002
(Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 152–153.
- 2 “Loretta Sanchez,” *New Members of Congress Almanac for the 105th Congress* (Washington, D.C.: Almanac Publishing Inc., 1996): 32.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 4 “House Formally Dismisses Dornan Challenge to Sanchez,”
13 February 1998, *Washington Post*: A6; Jodi Wilogren, “House Gives Sanchez Reason for Celebration: Task Force Drops Inquiry, Leaving Her With Incumbency, National Celebrity and Fund-Raising Prowess,” 5 February 1998, *Los Angeles Times*: A1.
- 5 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,”
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 6 *Politics in America*, 2002:
152–153.

out of more than 100,000 cast, eking out a 47 to 46 percent win.³ For more than a year, Sanchez had to contend with Dornan’s challenge to her election. In February 1998, the House voted overwhelmingly to dismiss Dornan’s complaint.⁴ Later that year, she faced Dornan again in the general election, one of the most expensive races in the country. Sanchez prevailed with a 56 to 39 percent margin of victory. In her three subsequent re-election bids she won comfortably, garnering at least 60 percent of the vote.⁵ Her clash with Dornan provided Sanchez with national exposure, making her one of the Democratic Party’s primary congressional conduits for appealing to Latinos, women, and young voters.

When Congresswoman Sanchez took her seat in the House on January 7, 1997, she received assignments on the Education and Workforce Committee and the National Security Committee. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), she serves as the ranking woman on the Armed Services Committee and as the second-ranking Democrat on the new Homeland Security Committee.

A former member of the United Food and Commercial Workers, with family roots in the union movement, Representative Sanchez is a congressional friend of organized labor despite her strong ties to business. She voted against “fast track” trade authority, which authorized the President to negotiate trade agreements without congressional approval, oversight, or amendment. Sanchez also broke with the William J. Clinton administration when she voted against granting China permanent normal trade relations. Sanchez has a mixed position on trade agreements, basing her approval of treaties on whether such agreements constitute “fair trade.” Sanchez also is a congressional leader on global human rights issues.⁶

In line with her fiscally conservative principles, Sanchez joined the Democratic Blue Dog Caucus, advocated a major overhaul of the Internal Revenue Service, and supported budget deficit reductions. Nevertheless, she believed the federal government should play a role in improving local life, particularly in education. As a former pupil in the Head Start program, Sanchez vowed to make federally funded education programs available to low-income children. She also authored legislation to encourage tax-free bonds to spur funding of school construction. As a Representative, Sanchez also has enjoyed success steering federal money and projects into her district that have helped both the local and the state economy of California.

Janice Schakowsky

1944–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM ILLINOIS

1999–



Image courtesy of the Member

AS A FORMER CONSUMER RIGHTS ACTIVIST and an Illinois legislator, Janice Schakowsky won the seat U.S. Representative Sidney Yates held for nearly half a century. An outspoken liberal, Congresswoman Schakowsky has focused on legislation concerning health care, childcare, and Social Security reform.

Janice Danoff was born in Chicago, Illinois, on May 26, 1944, to Irwin Danoff, a furniture salesman, and Tillie Cosnow Danoff, an elementary schoolteacher. She attended Sullivan High School in Chicago. In 1965, she graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. degree in elementary education and then worked for two years as a teacher. In February 1965, Janice Danoff married Harvey E. Schakowsky. The couple raised two children, but were divorced in 1980. (Later, Janice Schakowsky married Robert B. Creamer, a longtime Chicago political organizer who had one child, Lauren, from a previous marriage.) Schakowsky was a homemaker until, in 1969, she organized National Consumers United, a group that eventually succeeded in getting freshness dates placed on food products. From 1976 to 1985, Schakowsky worked as the program director for the Illinois Public Action Council, a consumer rights advocacy group whose work included preventing utilities from denying service to delinquent bill payers in the winter months.¹ Schakowsky then worked as the director of the Illinois State Council of Senior Citizens from 1985 to 1990. She left that post to make a successful campaign for the Illinois state general assembly, where she served until 1998, chaired the labor and commerce committee, and worked to create more day-care centers and pass tougher hate-crime laws.²

When 48-year House veteran Sidney Yates retired in 1998, Schakowsky entered the Democratic primary in the race to fill his seat representing a district north of Chicago. With funding from outside groups such as EMILY's List and intense grass-roots canvassing with 1,500 volunteers, she prevailed handily over a state senator and a hotel chain heir, emphasizing what she called "women's issues," such

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Janice D. Schakowsky,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 526–528.
- 2 *Politics in America*, 2002: 526–528.
- 3 LeAnn Spencer, “Schakowsky Wins 3-Way Fight to Replace Yates,” 18 March 1998, *Chicago Tribune*: N1.
- 4 “Janice D. Schakowsky,” Associated Press Candidate Biographies, 2000.
- 5 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

as health care, education, and food labeling. “People were interested in having a woman’s voice in the House of Representatives,” she declared after the primary.³ In the general election Schakowsky continued to stress the theme of big government assistance to solve social problems, including equal rights for women, minorities and gays and national health care. In the heavily Democratic district that encompasses most of Chicago’s lakefront, Schakowsky rolled past Republican candidate Herbert Sohn (her former physician) and a Libertarian candidate, compiling 75 percent of the vote. “I don’t think I can be defined as too far left in a district like this,” Schakowsky said.⁴ She was easily re-elected in 2000 and 2002 with 76 percent and 70 percent of the vote, respectively.⁵

When Schakowsky took her seat in the 106th Congress (1999–2001), she received assignments on two committees: Banking and Financial Services (later renamed Financial Services) and Small Business. A few months later she was appointed to the Government Reform Committee and vacated her seat on Small Business. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003) Schakowsky became Ranking Member on the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management and Intergovernmental Relations. She also served as vice chair of the House Democratic Caucus Special Committee on Election Reform and as a member of the Homeland Security Task Force.

In an era when government services were curtailed, Congresswoman Schakowsky advocated increasing federal aid to help abused children and women, developing a single-payer government health insurance system, and expanding accessible and affordable housing for persons with disabilities. She supported abortion rights and opposed the death penalty. Following a racially motivated July 4, 1999, shooting spree in her district, she authored a hate-crimes bill and redoubled her longtime advocacy of gun control. In the 107th Congress, she authored the Voting Rights Act of 2001, which guaranteed that no registered voters—including the homeless—may be turned away at the polls. She also wrote “First Things First,” a bill which sought to freeze the 2001 tax break while the country addressed deepening economic problems and key national security issues.

Schakowsky quickly impressed House leaders and, in 2001, was named Chief Deputy Democratic Whip by Minority Leader Richard Gephardt. She proved an adept fundraiser, especially among women’s issues groups. Schakowsky also emerged as a party spokesperson appearing on network political shows to articulate the Democratic Party’s position on national issues ranging from tax reform to the congressional resolution for the use of force against Iraq in 2002. In 2004, Congresswoman Schakowsky was elected to her fourth consecutive term, with 76 percent of the vote.

Louise M. Slaughter

1929–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

1987–



Congressional Pictorial Directory
109th Congress

LOUISE SLAUGHTER, COMPLETING HER 10TH TERM as a U.S.

Representative from western New York, serves as the Ranking Member on the House Rules Committee, the first woman to serve in this position. Slaughter, a microbiologist by training, is an expert on health and women's issues. "I have always said that the best training in the world for government is to be a woman, to be a mother," Slaughter once noted. "We learn that our budget has to stretch to the next paycheck. . . that every member of our family has to have food and clothing and an education."¹

Louise McIntosh was born in Harlan County, Kentucky, on August 14, 1929. McIntosh earned a B.S. in microbiology from the University of Kentucky in 1951 and, two years later, an M.S. in public health. After graduation, she married Robert Slaughter. The couple eventually moved to Rochester, New York, and raised three daughters. Slaughter's political activism began in 1971 when she campaigned to save Hart's Woods in Rochester.² Although she was unsuccessful, the experience moved Slaughter toward a career in public service. She served as co-chair of the Monroe County Citizens for McGovern in 1972, joined the New York State Democratic Committee and, in 1976, was elected to the first of two terms in the Monroe County legislature. She later worked for Mario Cuomo, then-New York secretary of state. In 1982, Slaughter defeated a Republican incumbent to win a seat in the New York assembly, where she served until 1986.

Slaughter sought election to the U.S. House in 1986, running a grass-roots campaign to unseat conservative first-term incumbent Fred Eckert. She defeated Eckert with 51 percent of the vote. For a decade thereafter, Slaughter won re-election by comfortable but not large margins around Rochester, which had traditionally voted for moderate Republicans. In the late 1990s, she won by larger margins and, after reapportionment placed her in a newly redrawn district, which included much of her old district in the Rochester area, as well as new sections in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, she won by 25 points. In 2004, Slaughter was re-elected to her 10th consecutive term, with 72 percent of the vote.³

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Louise McIntosh Slaughter,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Debbie Howlett, “For Some, A Great Notion: Parity-50% Female Congress Envisioned,” 1 April 1992, *USA Today*: 5A.
- 2 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 737.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 “Official Biography of Louise Slaughter,” <http://www.slaughter.house.gov> (accessed 17 November 2004).

As the second-longest serving woman Democrat in the House, Representative Slaughter has worked on a half-dozen committees during her career, among them: Government Operations (later named Government Reform), Public Works and Transportation (later named Transportation and Infrastructure), Budget, the Select Committee on Aging, and the Select Committee on Homeland Security. She now serves on the powerful Rules Committee that oversees which legislation is debated on the House Floor. Appointed in 1989 to fill a vacancy on the committee caused by the death of Florida’s Claude Pepper, Slaughter is the top-ranking Democrat on that panel. On the Rules Committee, she is a vocal proponent of women’s reproductive rights and health.

During the early 1990s, she was responsible for securing the first \$500 million dedicated by Congress to breast cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).⁴ She was a leader in efforts to force the NIH to start including women in all clinical trials. She sponsored the first law directing the NIH to research the miscarriage drug diethylstilbestrol (DES), which had serious health consequences for some children exposed in utero. Slaughter also has authored legislation to improve research on women’s environmental health, educate Americans about colorectal cancer, and reduce waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare program.

Slaughter is acknowledged as the leading expert in Congress on genetic discrimination issues. For 10 years, Slaughter has introduced legislation to prohibit employers and insurers from discriminating against individuals based on genetic factors. This legislation has garnered more than 220 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and endorsements from dozens of health-related organizations. This bill has passed unanimously in the Senate twice.

Slaughter, who co-chaired the Congressional Women’s Caucus in the 108th Congress (2003–2005), has been a leader on women’s issues, ranging from family planning to reducing domestic violence. Slaughter was one of seven Congresswomen who marched on the Senate Democratic Caucus in 1991 to protest the Senate Judiciary Committee’s treatment of Anita Hill during the Clarence Thomas Supreme Court confirmation hearings. She was an original author of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994, and she has been a cosponsor of subsequent VAWA reauthorization bills, including VAWA III which became law in 2006. She also has led the efforts to enhance the Pentagon’s response to sexual assault against women serving in the U.S. armed forces.

Deeply concerned about the economic welfare of her district, Slaughter has steered millions of dollars into local building and transportation projects and has commissioned studies on the decline in local manufacturing jobs.

Olympia Snowe

1947–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 1979–1995
UNITED STATES SENATOR, 1995–
REPUBLICAN FROM MAINE



Image courtesy of the Member

AS THE FIRST GREEK-AMERICAN WOMAN and one of the youngest women ever elected to Congress, Olympia Snowe has represented Maine for 27 years—16 as a U.S. House Member and two terms as a U.S. Senator. A fitting representative for her politically independent Maine constituents, Snowe has balanced her Republican loyalties, personal convictions, and the needs of her rural state. In 2003, Senator Snowe was appointed chair of the Small Business Committee, becoming one of five women in history to head a standing Senate committee.

Olympia Jean Bouchles was born on February 21, 1947, in Augusta, Maine, daughter of George and Georgia Bouchles. Her parents both passed away before her 10th birthday, and Olympia Bouchles was raised by an aunt and uncle in Auburn, Maine. She earned a B.A. in political science from the University of Maine at Orono, and married state representative Peter Snowe in 1969. Four years later, Snowe died in a car accident. At the urging of the Maine Republican officials, Olympia Snowe ran successfully for her husband's vacant seat. She won a full term in 1974 and was elected to an open state senate seat in 1976.

In 1978, when Republican Congressman William Cohen vacated his U.S. House seat, Snowe entered the race to succeed him. The district, one of two in Maine, covered the rural northern two-thirds of the state. Snowe's principal opponent was Democrat Markham Gartley, Maine's secretary of state. With a moderate platform, Snowe prevailed with 51 percent of the vote to Gartley's 41 percent, for the first of eight consecutive terms in the House.¹

When Representative Snowe took her seat in the 96th Congress (1979–1981), she received assignments on three committees: Government Operations, Small Business, and the Select Committee on Aging. Two years later she earned a seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee—where she remained for the balance of her House career. In the 98th Congress (1983–1985), after leaving her Small Business post, Snowe was assigned to the Joint Economic Committee, where she remained until her final House term, when she won a seat on the Budget Committee.

Representative Snowe's moderation and willingness to compromise won her bipartisan respect. Recognized as a loyal Republican (she was named a GOP deputy whip in 1984) she also demonstrated her independence.² From her position on the Small Business Committee, she favored trade protection, contrasting with the Reagan administration's free trade policies, in order to protect exporters in her district.³ As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Congresswoman Snowe supported a nuclear armaments freeze, aid for Nicaraguan rebels, and sanctions against South Africa to protest that nation's apartheid system.⁴ Snowe served on the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues for her entire House career, chairing it during the 98th Congress, fighting for the 1980 Economic Equity Act, and consistently supporting women's reproductive rights.⁵ In 1989, Olympia Snowe married Maine Republican Governor John McKernan, Jr., a former House Member.

In 1994, when Democratic Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell of Maine announced his retirement, Snowe declared her candidacy for the open seat.⁶ In the general election, she faced two-term Representative Thomas Andrews from southeastern Maine. Snowe's well-organized campaign and House experience helped her prevail with 60 percent of the vote. In 2000, she won re-election with 69 percent.⁷

Senator Snowe's initial committee assignments—Budget; Foreign Relations; Small Business; and Commerce, Science, and Transportation—reflected her House expertise. She later served on the Armed Services Committee and, in 2000, left the Budget Committee to join the powerful Finance Committee. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Snowe also joined the Select Intelligence Committee and, in addition to chairing Small Business, served as chair of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Fisheries and Coast Guard.

Senator Snowe's Senate agenda has featured many of the legislative priorities she set as a Representative. Snowe sought funding for affordable health care, particularly for small businesses, as well as expanded drug coverage for seniors under Medicare. She remains a champion of women's issues, calling for easier access to contraceptives as well as better medical care for mastectomy patients. Senator Snowe also has been a proponent for a cleaner environment, advocating better gas mileage for sport utility vehicles and protections for Maine's fishing industry. She has fought to restore funding for a job training center and continued U.S. Navy presence in Kittery, Maine. From her position as co-chair of the Senate Centrist Coalition, a bipartisan group of consensus builders, she helped write an amendment to major campaign finance reforms convincing reluctant colleagues to support the legislation.⁸

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Olympia Jean Snowe," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Mikulski, Barbara, et al. *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate*. (New York: Morrow, 2000).

NOTES

1 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

Current Biography, 1995 (New York: H.W. Wilson and Company, 1995): 543–544.

2 *Current Biography, 1995*: 545.

3 *Current Biography, 1995*: 546; John E. Yang, "House Upholds Reagan's Veto Of Trade Limits," 7 August 1986, *Wall Street Journal*: 5.

4 Douglas C. Waller, *Congress and the Nuclear Freeze* (University of Massachusetts Press: 1987): 116; *Current Biography, 1995*: 545; Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, "Arming Managua," 16 June 1986, *Washington Post*: A 11.

5 *Current Biography, 1995*: 545.

6 "Mitchell Leaving Bewilderment in His Wake," 7 March 1994, *USA Today*: 4A.

7 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

8 Mary Agnes Cary, "Sen. Olympia J. Snowe," 28 December 2002, *CQ Weekly*: 35; *Politics in America, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 447–448; Thomas Fields-Meyer et al., "Survival Skills" 18 June 2001, *People*: 121.

Hilda L. Solis

1957–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

HILDA LUCIA SOLIS, AN ACCOMPLISHED LEGISLATOR in the California assembly, was elected to the U.S. House after defeating an 18-year incumbent in the primary. In Congress, Representative Solis has championed the interests of working families and women and has focused on legislation concerning health care and environmental protection.

Hilda Solis was born in Los Angeles, California, on October 20, 1957, the daughter of Raul and Juana Sequiera Solis, who raised seven children. In 1979, she earned a B.A. in political science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and then worked in the White House Office of Hispanic Affairs during the James Earl “Jimmy” Carter administration. In 1981, she earned an M.A. in public administration from the University of Southern California. Later that year she worked as a management analyst in the civil rights division of the Equal Opportunity Program at the Office of Management and Budget. In June 1982, Solis married her husband, Sam, a small-business owner, and returned to southern California, where she became a field representative in the office of Assemblyman Art Torres. She also worked as the director of the California student opportunity and access program in Whittier from 1982 until 1992. In 1985, Solis was elected a trustee of Rio Hondo Community College, where she served for seven years, winning re-election in 1989. A year later, Solis won election to the California state assembly. From 1994 until 2001, she served as the first Latina elected to the state senate. In the upper chamber she chaired the industrial relations committee, where she led the fight to raise California’s minimum wage standards in 1996. Her environmental justice legislation, the first in the nation to become law, earned her the distinction of a John F. Kennedy “Profiles in Courage” Award. She was the first woman to be so honored.¹

Solis decided in 2000 to challenge a nine-term Democratic incumbent whose congressional district encompassed much of her state senate district in the San Gabriel Valley. Local labor unions and the state party switched their support to Solis. Portraying herself as an active progressive, she prevailed in the March 7 primary, 62 percent to 29 percent.² In the general election she faced no Republican

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Hilda Solis," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- ¹ *Almanac of American Politics*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2001): 241–242; and "Official Biography of Hilda Solis," <http://www.house.gov/solis/bio.htm> (accessed 21 November 2001).
- ² Jean Merl and Antonio Olivo, "Solis Trounces Martinez in Bitter Race; Challenger Ousts 18-Year Veteran in a Fight That Split Latino Leadership," 8 March 2000, *Los Angeles Times*: A3.
- ³ "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

challenger and captured 80 percent of the vote while three third-party candidates split the remainder. She has easily won re-election twice, earning a third term in the House with 85 percent of the vote in 2004.³

When Solis took her seat in the House in January 2001, she won assignments on the Education and Workforce Committee and the Resources Committee. Solis also was tapped as the 107th Congress (2001–2003) Democratic freshman class Whip. In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), she took a seat on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and became Ranking Member of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. She also was elected Chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health and Democratic Vice Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. In the 109th Congress (2005–2007), she was re-elected Ranking Member of the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee and joined the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee. She was also re-elected chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health and was elected Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues and chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group, the first Latina to hold such positions.

Solis continued to advance environmental justice when she was elected to Congress. In 2003, her San Gabriel River Watershed Study Act was signed into law. The bill authorized the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of the San Gabriel River to investigate how the federal government can improve the area's recreational and environmental opportunities. In 2005, she authored an amendment to prevent human pesticide testing, which was later enacted into law. Solis also introduced a bill that would ease citizenship requirements for immigrants serving in the U.S. military and for immigrants serving as reservists, as well as provide immigration benefits to their family members. The immigration provisions from Solis's bill were included in a defense authorization bill measure signed into law in December 2003.

Solis also has been a longtime advocate for women's rights. She has been an outspoken leader in raising awareness about a spate of murders, dating to 1993, which have targeted nearly 400 women in the border town of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. She authored a resolution to condemn the murders, to express sympathy to the families of the victims, and to urge the United States to increase its involvement in ending these human rights violations was passed by the House in the 109th Congress.

As chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Task Force, she has traveled across the country educating policymakers, advocates, and community leaders about the health needs of the Latino community. In the 109th Congress, Solis was a lead co-author of the bicameral minority health bill titled the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act.

Deborah A. Stabenow

1950–



Image courtesy of the Member

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 1997–2001

UNITED STATES SENATOR, 2001–

DEMOCRAT FROM MICHIGAN

DURING HER MANY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE in the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Michigan state legislature, Debbie Stabenow has earned a reputation as a hard-working leader focused on the issues directly impacting the daily lives of her constituents—issues like health care, education, and jobs. In 2000, she made history when she became the first woman to represent Michigan in the U.S. Senate. Four years later, her Democratic colleagues elected her Conference Secretary for the 109th Congress (2005–2007), the third-highest-ranking position in the party’s Senate leadership.¹

Deborah Ann Greer was born on April 29, 1950, in Gladwin, Michigan. She was raised in Clare, Michigan, graduated as valedictorian of her high school class, and attended Michigan State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in 1972 and an M.S.W. in 1975. Greer married Dennis Stabenow; they raised two children and were divorced in 1990. Stabenow wed Tom Athans in 2003.

Debbie Stabenow worked in the Michigan public schools before being elected to the Ingham County board of commissioners in 1974 at the age of 24. She was the first woman and the youngest person ever to chair the board. In 1978, she was elected to the Michigan house of representatives, where she served until 1990. During that time Stabenow became the first woman to preside over the chamber. She was elected to the Michigan senate in 1990 and served four years. Stabenow’s work as a state legislator helped reshape Michigan law and included a historic property tax cut, small business reforms, and nationally acclaimed legislation to protect children and families. Stabenow also wrote landmark laws addressing the issues of child support and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

In 1996, Stabenow challenged a one-term incumbent, Republican Dick Chrysler, in central Michigan’s Eighth U.S. Congressional District. She supported a balanced budget and led efforts to bring computers and the Internet to more schools and efforts for job expansion through the new technology-driven economy. She organized bus trips to Canada in search of cheaper prescription drugs and publicized the issue of high prescription costs. Stabenow won the election by a margin of 10 percentage points and, two years later, was re-elected with 57 percent of the vote.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Deborah Ann Stabenow,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 500; “Official Biography of Debbie Stabenow,” <http://stabenow.senate.gov/biography.htm> (accessed 14 December 2004).
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 3 *Politics in America*, 2002: 500.
- 4 Ruby L. Bailey, “Hunger Fed by Need to Get Things Done; Talk with Longtime Ally Leads to Bid for Senate Campaign Dynamo: Debbie Stabenow,” 26 October 2000, *Detroit Free Press*: 1A.
- 5 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 504–505; “Official Biography of Debbie Stabenow.”

Once in Congress, Representative Stabenow earned a reputation as a moderate who worked with both Republicans and Democrats to get things done. “What I hear from people back home is, ‘Forget the ideology. What are you doing to make government work in a way that helps my family every day?’” she said.³ She was assigned to the Agriculture and Science committees.

In 1999, Stabenow announced her candidacy for one of Michigan’s U.S. Senate seats. “It’s about having the ability to get something done,” Stabenow said of her desire to switch from the House to the Senate. “There are 435 people in the House. There are only 100 people in the Senate, and one person of either party can really get a lot done.”⁴ In a hard-fought campaign against one-term Republican incumbent Spencer Abraham, Stabenow prevailed in November 2000 with a margin of one percent of the vote.

Senator Stabenow’s position as a moderate increased her influence when the Senate was split 50–50 at the start of the 107th Congress (2001–2003). She was assigned to four committees: Budget; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; and the Special Committee on Aging.

While in the Senate, Stabenow made health care her signature issue. Democrats chose her to co-chair their Senate Health Care Task Force. She authored and helped lead the passage of legislation in the U.S. Senate to reduce prescription drug prices by allowing states to negotiate lower prices and by providing citizens access to less expensive generic prescription drugs. She introduced legislation to permit the reimportation of prescription drugs sold in other countries for a fraction of the cost borne by American consumers.

On environmental matters, Stabenow authored a federal ban on drilling for oil and gas in the Great Lakes. She also mobilized thousands of citizens to stop the dumping of Canadian trash in Michigan and wrote successful legislation that required the inspection of Canadian trash trucks crossing Michigan’s borders.⁵ She led efforts to pass a \$2 billion tax cut giving manufacturers incentives for job creation in the United States, rather than overseas and authored amendments to make it difficult for terrorists and drug dealers to launder the money that finances their criminal networks.

Ellen O’Kane Tauscher

1951–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1997–



Image courtesy of the Member

A WOMAN PIONEER ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, Ellen Tauscher used her Wall Street business experience and negotiating skills to become a prominent Democratic centrist in the U.S. House. Representing a suburban California district east of the Bay Area, Congresswoman Tauscher has developed an expertise in national security issues from her seat on the Armed Services Committee.

Ellen O’Kane was born in Newark, New Jersey, on November 15, 1951. The daughter of a grocery store owner, she earned a B.A. in early childhood education from Seton Hall University in 1974. In her mid-20s, she became one of the first women to hold a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, serving there from 1977 to 1979. During her 14-year Wall Street career she also served as an officer of the American Stock Exchange. In 1989, she married William Tauscher and raised a daughter, Katherine. The couple later divorced. In 1992, Ellen Tauscher founded a service for pre-employment screening of childcare providers. She later authored *The Child Care Source Book*. She also created the Tauscher Foundation, which donated \$200,000 to California and Texas schools to buy computer equipment for elementary education. Tauscher received her first political experience serving as the state co-chair for Dianne Feinstein’s successful 1992 and 1994 Senate campaigns.

In 1996, Tauscher challenged incumbent California Republican Bill Baker in a newly created delta district comprising bedroom communities that are the most conservative in the Bay Area. Tauscher ran on a platform of gun control, women’s right to abortion, and increased spending on education, along with the reduction of wasteful fiscal spending. She narrowly won, with 49 percent to Baker’s 47 percent, in a race with three minor-party candidates. “My message throughout this campaign was one of moderation and common sense,” Tauscher declared afterwards. “I want to go back to Washington and stand in the middle . . . where most Americans stand.”¹ In the next two elections, Tauscher won slightly more comfortable margins over GOP candidates, defeating Charles Ball 53 to 43 percent and Claude Hutchison 52 to 44 percent.²

When Tauscher took her seat in the 105th Congress (1997–1999), she received assignments on three committees: National Security (later renamed Armed Services), Science, and Transportation and Infrastructure. In the 106th Congress (1999–2001), Tauscher resigned her Science Committee seat to focus on her two other assignments.

Tauscher's committee assignments provided her a national platform from which she also was able to serve district needs. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Tauscher outlined an activist role for America in the international arena. In the spring of 1999, when the William J. Clinton administration coordinated NATO air attacks against Serbia for its invasion of Kosovo and "ethnic cleansing" of the populace, Tauscher insisted that ground troops be sent.³ In the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Tauscher played a vocal role in the Iraq War, calling for additional troops and equipment, and visiting the region four times. Her district is the only one which holds two national defense laboratories—Lawrence Livermore and Sandia/California. She secured nearly \$200 million in funding for Livermore's "super laser" project. Tauscher also has a prominent role as the senior Democrat on the congressional panel overseeing the National Nuclear Security Administration, which manages the U.S. nuclear weapons program. From her seat on Transportation and Infrastructure, Tauscher steered federal funding to improve the Bay Area's badly strained transportation systems, including \$33 million for projects in her district.

Tauscher was a vocal supporter of cutting taxes, especially the "marriage penalty" and the estate tax, and she voted to override President Clinton's 2000 veto of an estate tax repeal. She did not support Republican proposals in the 106th Congress to slash taxes by almost \$800 billion and also opposed the 2001 tax cut proposed by the George W. Bush administration and passed by Congress.⁴ Her alternative plan of tax cuts, "triggered" only after surplus money was confirmed, became the Democratic alternative to the \$1.6 trillion cut proposed by the GOP.⁵

In 1998, *Time* magazine dubbed her moderate Democratic approach to politics "Tauscherism," a kind of middle-of-the-road politics that blended fiscal conservatism with social liberalism.⁶ "Tauscherism" also reflected the political realities of her suburban district which, until reapportionment in 2002, was more Republican than Democratic. When the lines were redrawn by the California legislature, Tauscher easily won election to a fourth term, with 75 percent of the vote against Libertarian candidate Sonia Harden. In 2004, Tauscher won re-election with 66 percent of the vote against Republican Jeff Ketelson.⁷

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Ellen O'Kane Tauscher," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Tauscher, Ellen O., with Kathleen Candy. *The Child Care Sourcebook* (New York: Macmillan, 1996).

NOTES

1 Barry Witt, "Race Seen as Bellwether of House Control; District 10 House Race: GOP-DEMO Bellwether," 16 October 1996, *San Jose Mercury News*: 1A; John Wildermuth and Jim Doyle, "Tauscher Beats Baker in an Upset; Big Bay Area Surprise in Race for Congress," 7 November 1996, *San Francisco Chronicle*: A17; Erin Hallissy, "East Bay Congressman Focuses on Rival's Wealth; Ads Claim Challenger Is Trying to Buy Seat," 1 October 1996, *San Francisco Chronicle*: A1.

2 "Elections Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

3 Christopher Heredia, "Tauscher to Urge Ground Troops on Congressional Visit to Balkans," 7 April 1999, *San Francisco Chronicle*: A22.

4 *Politics in America*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 85.

5 Marc Sandalow, "Ellen Tauscher: Movin' on Up," 1 March 2001, *California Journal*.

6 Peter Beinart, "Why the Center Can't Hold," 24 November 1997, *Time*; online at <http://www.time.com/time/archive/preview/0,10987,1101971124-136899,00.html> (accessed 7 December 2004); Mary Anne Ostrom, "Tauscher Typifies Demos' Visions," 31 March 1998, *Mercury News*: 1A.

7 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

Nydia M. Velázquez

1953–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

THE NEW YORK TIMES DESCRIBED NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, the first Puerto Rican woman to serve in Congress, as “an aggressive woman in a macho political world, operating outside any political machine. She was born and raised on the island and not shaped by the urban edge and political culture of the barrio.”¹ First elected to the U.S. House in 1992, Representative Velázquez now serves as the Ranking Democratic Member of the Small Business Committee, using her position to advocate on behalf of small companies, particularly those owned by minorities and women. She is the first Hispanic woman in House history to serve as Ranking Member of a full committee.

Nydia Velázquez was born on March 28, 1953, to Don Benito Velázquez, a sugar-cane cutter, and Doña Serrano Velázquez, in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. To support a family of nine children, her parents sold food to field workers and operated a small cinder block manufacturing business.² She inherited her father’s inclination toward politics; he often delivered political speeches on behalf of workers’ rights causes.³ In 1972, she received her B.A. in political science from the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras, becoming the first member of her family to receive a college diploma. Two years later, she moved to New York City and earned a master’s degree on a scholarship at New York University. In 1976, Velázquez returned to Puerto Rico to teach at the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao. In 1981, she began a two-year stint as an adjunct professor at Hunter College in New York City, teaching Puerto Rican studies. Velázquez’s start in politics coincided with teaching in New York City. In 1983, she served as a special assistant for then-freshman Congressman Edolphus Towns of New York. A year later, she was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the New York city council, becoming the first Latina woman to serve on that panel. After she lost her re-election bid in 1986, Velázquez worked as the director of what became the Department of Puerto Rican Community Affairs in the United States.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Nydia Margarita Velázquez,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Deborah Sontag, “Puerto Rican-Born Favorite Treated Like Outsider,” 2 November 1992, *New York Times*: B1.
- 2 “Velázquez, Nydia Margarita,” *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2nd ed., Vol. 17 (Detroit: Gale Research, 1998); *Politics in America, 2004* (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 705.
- 3 Maria Newman, “From Puerto Rico to Congress, a Determined Path,” 27 September 1992, *New York Times*: 33.
- 4 Newman, “From Puerto Rico to Congress, A Determined Path”; “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 5 “Nydia Velázquez,” *Associated Press Candidate Biographies*, 2000; Douglas Jehl, “Clinton’s Options on Haiti: Ever Harsher Choices Ahead,” 6 May 1994, *New York Times*: A10.

In 1992, she sought a New York City U.S. House seat held by nine-term incumbent Democrat Stephen Solarz. The newly apportioned district encompassed the working-class parts of the Lower East Side in Manhattan, northern Brooklyn, and Queens. Velázquez mounted a grass-roots campaign for the Democratic primary, arguing that a Puerto Rican should represent the new district’s Puerto Rican majority. She won the five-way primary over Solarz by five percent of the vote and, in the general election, won with 77 percent of the vote. Since 1992, Velázquez has been safely re-elected to six succeeding Congresses, usually by margins of 80 percent or more.⁴

Since arriving in Congress, Velázquez has served on two committees: Financial Services (formerly called Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs) and Small Business. She serves on the Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. In 1998, she became the Ranking Member on the Small Business Committee.

The Small Business Committee oversees federal programs and contracts that total more than \$200 billion annually, and Velázquez has used her position as Ranking Member to cultivate greater federal support of small business and entrepreneurship in her district and nationally. She has sought to steer federal agencies toward contracting with small businesses, to help owners of small firms provide medical and retirement benefits to employees, and to make federal loan and grant programs more accessible to small firms. She has been critical of federal agencies for what she has described as their unsatisfactory efforts to do business with private companies, issuing an annual “report card” on such practices. In the 107th Congress (2001–2003), Velázquez called attention to the effects of the sweatshop industry on the working-class poor in her district. After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, she introduced legislation that required the hiring of small businesses to help cleanup and reconstruct lower Manhattan.

Velázquez also has a keen interest on immigration matters and U.S. foreign policy in the Caribbean. Much of her district casework centers on immigration issues, as many of her constituents have family in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and other Caribbean countries. She has worked for increased funding to reduce the immigration backlog at the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. Velázquez has consistently advocated ending practice bombing on the navy’s test range at Vieques, an island just off the Puerto Rican coast, and advocated for liberating former Puerto Rican political prisoners. In 1994, she protested the William J. Clinton administration’s policy of refusing Haitian refugees entrance into the United States.⁵

Maxine Waters

1938–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1991–



Image courtesy of the Member

ON THE “MY HERO” WEBSITE, A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED MICHELLE describes U.S. Representative Maxine Waters as a “Community Hero” and adds, “[Waters] instills the belief that you can achieve whatever you wish as long as you really strive to do so.”¹ In fact, over three decades, Congresswoman Waters has become one of the nation’s most tenacious, unapologetic advocates for women, children, the poor, economic development, communities of color, and both human and civil rights.

Waters’ passionate commitment to social and economic justice can be traced back to the struggles her family faced during her youth. Maxine Moore Carr was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 15, 1938, the fifth of 13 children in a family headed by a single mother. “I know all about welfare,” she once recalled. “I remember the social workers peeking in the refrigerator and under the beds.”² Although she has established a long list of significant achievements and is considered one of the most powerful women in American politics, she still carries with her the memories of starting work at age 13 in factories and segregated restaurants. Perhaps, it is her first-hand experience with those issues that has also made her one of the nation’s most effective grassroots organizers.

Waters moved to California in 1961 and, in 1970, earned a B.A. in sociology from California State University at Los Angeles. During that time, she launched her career in public service with the Head Start program, where she eventually became an administrator coordinating the Parent Involvement Program. In 1976, Waters was elected to the California state assembly where she became the first woman in state history elected by her peers to the leadership post of minority whip. She eventually became chair of the Democratic caucus. As an assemblywoman, she successfully spearheaded efforts to start: the first statewide child abuse prevention training program in the country; the largest divestment of state pension funds from South Africa; landmark affirmative action legislation; and the prohibition of police strip searches for individuals charged with nonviolent misdemeanors.

In 1990, Waters was elected to fill the congressional seat vacated by the retiring U.S. Representative Augustus “Gus” Hawkins, the first African American to represent California in the national legislature. She captured 79 percent of the vote and has never been seriously challenged since, capturing similar percentages in her seven subsequent re-election campaigns.³

As a Member of Congress, Waters’s legislative agenda has included: producing \$10 billion under the Section 108 loan guarantee program for economic and infrastructure development in U.S. cities; successfully tripling funding for debt relief in poor nations; obtaining \$50 million for the Youth Fair Chance Program; creating the “Center for Women Veterans”; and leading in the establishment of the Minority AIDS Initiative. Additionally, Waters has been a leader on global peace and international human right issues and remains actively involved in continued efforts to improve the plight of individuals oppressed in conflict-torn nations like Sudan, Haiti, and Liberia.

Waters’s efforts have not gone unnoticed by her congressional colleagues. In 1997, she won the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and later, her Democratic colleagues elected her to the post of Chief Deputy Minority Whip. She serves on the influential House Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Financial Services, on which she is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

By the 109th Congress (2005–2007), Representative Waters was a leading woman member of the Democratic Party. She acquired that status, as an observer noted, by amplifying her record of advocacy at the local and state level to become “a community activist in Congress.”⁴ In 2005, Waters co-founded and was elected chair of the 72-member “Out of Iraq” Congressional Caucus. One of the largest caucuses in the House of Representatives, it was established to provide consistent pressure on the George W. Bush administration, to provide a voice in Congress for the individuals and organizations opposed to the Iraq War, and, ultimately, to end the war and reunite U.S. troops with their families as soon as possible.

One of the things which Waters prizes most is her family. She is married to Sidney Williams, the former U.S. Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. She is the mother of two adult children, Karen and Edward, and has two grandchildren.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Maxine Waters,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Naden, Corinne J., and Rose Blue. *Heroes Don't Just Happen: Biographies of Overcoming Bias and Building Character in Politics* (Maywood, NJ: Peoples Pub. Group, 1997).

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

California State Archives (Sacramento, CA). *Papers*: 1979–1990, 30 cubic feet. In Maxine Waters’s bill files.

Papers: In miscellaneous office files of Maxine Waters, 1978–1982, 11 cubic feet. Includes schedules and itineraries, ways and means committee records, budget conference, and elections and reapportionment committee working papers. Also includes judiciary committee correspondence on pending legislation.

Papers: In subject files of Assemblywoman Waters, 1977–1986, unknown amount of material. Includes documentation on the Commission on Status of Women. Restricted access.

NOTES

- 1 “Community Hero: Maxine Waters,” http://myhero.com/myhero/hero.asp?hero=WATERS_TAFT_04 (accessed 21 July 2006).
- 2 *Almanac of American Politics*, 2006, (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2005): 261.
- 3 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/index.html>.
- 4 John L. Mitchell, “Undeterred Waters Crusades for Answers,” 4 March 1997, *Los Angeles Times*: A3.

Diane Edith Watson

1933–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

2001–



Image courtesy of the Member

AS AN EDUCATOR, STATE LEGISLATOR, AND FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR, Diane Watson entered the U.S. House of Representatives as an unusually experienced freshman. From her seats on the Government Reform Committee and the International Relations Committee, Congresswoman Watson quickly established herself as a legislator whose interests ranged from welfare reform to foreign aid for African nations facing the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Diane Edith Watson was born on November 12, 1933, in Los Angeles, California, daughter of William Allen Louis Watson and Dorothy Elizabeth O'Neal Watson. She graduated with an A.A. from Los Angeles City College and a B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1956. Watson later earned an M.S. from California State University in 1967 and a Ph.D. in education administration from Claremont College in 1986. After graduating from UCLA, Watson worked as a teacher and school psychologist in the Los Angeles public schools. She was an associate professor at California State University from 1969 to 1971 and then worked in the California department of education and served on the Los Angeles unified school board. Watson won election as a state senator in 1978, an office she held for 20 years. She was the first African-American woman in the state senate and chaired the health and human services committee. In 1998, President William J. Clinton nominated her as U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, a post she held for two years.

In December 2000, U.S. Representative Julian Dixon, who just had been re-elected to a 12th term in Congress from his central Los Angeles-Culver City district, died suddenly. In April 2001, Watson prevailed with a 33 percent plurality in the Democratic primary to choose a successor candidate, while her nearest competitor received 26 percent.¹ In the June 5, 2001, special election Watson carried the heavily Democratic Los Angeles district with 75 percent of the vote. In her two subsequent re-election bids, Watson won her district with more than 80 percent of the vote.²

When Watson was sworn into the U.S. House on June 7, 2001, she was assigned seats on the Government Reform Committee and the International Relations Committee. As a former ambassador, she took a keen interest in American foreign policy, particularly as it related to issues of racism and health in the developing world. In the summer of 2001, Watson attended the United Nations' Conference on Racism, Xenophobia, and Other Intolerance in Durban, South Africa. She called on the United States to host its own conference on racism and reform to the educational, justice, and health care systems as possible avenues to make "reparations" for the practice of American slavery.³ In early 2002, Watson took to the House Floor to support the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, noting that incidents of violence against Arab Americans, which had risen since the 2001 terrorist attacks, were "the tip of a proverbial iceberg."⁴

Watson also called for the United States to expand aid to sub-Saharan African nations fighting an HIV/AIDS pandemic that in some countries had infected more than a quarter of the adult population. Aside from humanitarian considerations, she argued, the crisis had repercussions for regional stability and American national security because of the strain it placed on so many developing economies. The disease, she observed, "in the very near term, if not more is done, may challenge the very notion of law-based nation states." She also linked the chaos the disease could wreak on nation states with instability that favored terrorist actions. "Let us not forget that Al Qaeda terrorist leader Osama bin Laden has exploited the misery of another state where civil society has collapsed—Afghanistan—to serve as a base for his terror network," Watson said.⁵

During the 107th and 108th Congresses (2001–2005), Representative Watson established herself as an advocate for what she describes as "commonsense" welfare reform in California. Watson supported reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which provides education, childcare, job training, and employment to welfare recipients by granting states federal funds to develop and manage their own welfare programs. Congresswoman Watson also has been an advocate for increasing funding to the Cal-Learn program to help teen mothers complete their educations and get jobs.⁶ In addition, she introduced several bills, including legislation to develop state medical disaster response plans in the event of a biological or chemical weapons attack.⁷ She also advocated passage of a fully funded medical prescription drug coverage plan for seniors.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Diane Edith Watson," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Watson, Diane E., Ph.D. 1978–1998: *Legislative History* (Sacramento, CA: California State Senate, 1999).

Watson, Diane E., and Beverly J. Rambo. *Your Career in Health Care* (New York: Gregg Division, McGraw-Hill, 1976).

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

California State Archives (Sacramento, CA). *Papers*: Correspondence and chronological files of state senator Diane Watson, 1978–1980, two cubic feet. Includes Sacramento and district chronological files, miscellaneous legislative counsel drafts; Jane Fonda and constituent problems correspondence; bill files, 1979–1982, four cubic feet; bill files, 1981–1986, 1.5 cubic feet; newsletter questionnaires of Diane Watson, 1987.

NOTES

- 1 "Diane Watson: Member of Congress, California 32, Democrat," July 2002, *Campaigns and Elections*: 18.
- 2 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (6 September 2001): 5447.
- 4 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (7 February 2002): 219.
- 5 *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (29 November 2001): 572; *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 1st sess. (11 December 2001): 9089.
- 6 "Meet Congresswoman Diane Watson," http://www.house.gov/watson/meet_congresswoman.html (accessed 2 January 2005); *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (17 April 2002): 384; *Congressional Record*, House, 107th Cong., 2nd sess. (8 May 2002): 2170.
- 7 *Politics in America 2002*: (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 130–132.

Heather A. Wilson

1960–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
REPUBLICAN FROM NEW MEXICO

1998–



Image courtesy of the Member

AN AIR FORCE ACADEMY GRADUATE, RHODES SCHOLAR, and former National Security Council staff member, Heather Wilson is the first woman veteran to serve in the U.S. Congress and only the second woman to represent New Mexico in Congress.

Heather A. Wilson was born on December 30, 1960, in Keene, New Hampshire. During her junior year in Keene High School, the U.S. Air Force Academy began admitting women. Wilson, who hoped to become a pilot, like her father and grandfather, entered the academy and graduated in 1982. She earned a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University where, by 1985, she earned a master's and a doctorate in international relations. Wilson served in the Air Force until 1989 when she joined the National Security Council staff as director for European Defense Policy and Arms Control. In 1991, she married lawyer Jay Hone, and the couple settled in New Mexico. They raised three children: Scott, Joshua, and Caitlin. Wilson then started a consulting firm and, from 1995 to 1998, served in the governor's cabinet as secretary of the New Mexico children, youth and families department.

When New Mexico's Albuquerque Congressman Steven H. Schiff declared he would not run for re-election in the fall of 1998 because of his battle with skin cancer, Wilson resigned her cabinet post and entered the Republican primary. She won the support of Schiff and U.S. Senator Pete V. Domenici, who lent her several trusted aides and called her "the most brilliantly qualified House candidate anywhere in the country."¹ But Schiff's death in March necessitated a June 23 special election. With Domenici's support, Wilson became the Republican candidate for the special election, propelling her to a sizable win in the June 2 primary for the fall election against conservative state senator William F. Davis. Three weeks later, Wilson won the special election (with 45 percent of the vote) in a three-way race against millionaire Democratic state senator Phillip J. Maloof and Green Party candidate Robert L. Anderson. She was sworn into office on June 25, 1998, making her the first woman since Georgia Lusk in 1946, and the first Republican woman ever, to represent New Mexico.²

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, "Heather Wilson," <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 John Mercurio, "GOP, Wilson Win in N.M.; Democrats Learn It's Not Easy Beating Green," 25 June 1998, *Roll Call*.
- 2 Rachel Smolkin, "Rep. Wilson Takes Office With a Little Help From 4-Year-Old Son," 26 June 1998, *Albuquerque Tribune*: A6.
- 3 "Election Statistics, 1920 to Present," <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 4 *Politics in America 2002*: (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2001): 660–661; *Almanac of American Politics, 2002* (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2001): 1023–1025.

The special election was but a preview for the fall election for the full two-year term. In both races, Wilson's slogan "fighting for our families" encompassed an agenda including better public schools, elimination of the marriage penalty, and an elimination of estate taxes. Both races were contentious and costly. For the June 23 special election Maloof spent \$3.1 million and portrayed Wilson as an outsider. Leading up to the November 1998 general election, Maloof spent an additional \$5 million to Wilson's \$1.1 million, making it the most expensive House race in New Mexico's history. Wilson prevailed, with 48 percent of the vote. She won her 2000 re-election bid by a seven-point margin over her Democratic challenger. In 2002, she defeated Democrat Richard Romero with 55 percent to 45 percent of the vote. Two years later, she defeated Romero by a similar margin to earn a seat in the 109th Congress (2005–2007).³

Wilson took a seat on the powerful Armed Services Committee in the 107th Congress (2001–2003), thus offering her a prime vantage point from which to oversee personnel and infrastructure issues at two installations in her district: Kirtland Air Force Base and the Sandia National Lab. In the 109th Congress, Wilson moved to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, where she chairs the Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence. Since the 105th Congress (1997–1999), Wilson also has served on the influential Committee on Energy and Commerce, including its subcommittees on Telecommunication, Energy and Air Quality, and Environment and Hazardous Materials.

Wilson's reputation in Congress has been that of a moderate Republican who is not reluctant to take positions independent of her party. She called for a simplification of the tax codes and became one of the GOP's point persons in the House to criticize the American bombing campaign in Kosovo. But on social issues, she has been more moderate than many of her GOP colleagues. She supported requiring federal workers' health plans to cover contraceptive coverage (although she opposes using public money to pay for abortions) and also voted down an amendment that would have banned adoptions by gay parents in the District of Columbia. She also opposed a plan by the Republican leadership to move management of the nuclear weapons program (largely based in New Mexico) from the Department of Energy to the Pentagon.⁴ In 2006, Wilson led efforts to ensure congressional oversight of the President's terrorist surveillance program.

Lynn C. Woolsey

1937–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

AS A WORKING SINGLE MOTHER, LYNN WOOLSEY spent several years receiving public assistance to help make ends meet while she raised three small children. “I know what it means to have a safety net when you need help getting back on your feet,” Woolsey recalled. “I can go to Washington and say, ‘I’ve been there.’”¹ Describing herself as the “first former welfare mom to serve in Congress,” Representative Woolsey has focused on issues facing children and families since her first election to the House of Representatives in 1992.

Lynn Woolsey was born in Seattle, Washington, on November 3, 1937. She graduated from Lincoln High School in Seattle. She attended the University of Washington from 1955 to 1957, but left school to be married, settling in northern California in Marin County, just north of San Francisco. She had three children—Joseph, Ed, and Amy—before her husband left the family in the late 1960s. Following her divorce, Woolsey found a secretarial job at a local high-tech company, but was forced to accept welfare assistance for childcare and health care. She eventually became a human resources manager at her company and, in 1980, opened her own business. She remarried, and raised another child, Michael. Woolsey also returned to college and earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of San Francisco in 1980. Woolsey first entered elective politics in 1984, when she won a seat on the city council of Petaluma, in Sonoma County. She served on the city council until 1992, holding the post of vice mayor for the last year of her tenure.

In 1992, when five-term incumbent Representative Barbara Boxer decided to run for the U.S. Senate, Woolsey entered the race to succeed her. The district encompassed the two counties just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, Marin County and most of Sonoma County, one of the nation’s most affluent areas. She won a crowded Democratic primary with 26 percent of the vote (to her nearest competitor’s 19 percent). In the general election against her Republican opponent,

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Lynn C. Woolsey,”
<http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

- 1 Jane Gross, “Running on Experience: On Welfare, Then Off It,” 16 June 1992, *New York Times*: A16. See also, Carolyn Lochhead, “Ex-Welfare Mom Takes Congress to Task; Lawmaker Draws on Experience,” 10 March 1994, *San Francisco Chronicle*: A4.
- 2 “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.
- 3 *Politics in America*, 2004 (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003): 79; *Almanac of American Politics*, 2002 (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 2001): 175.
- 4 Pamela J. Podger, “Woolsey Smokes Challenger in Primary,” March 6, 2002, *San Francisco Chronicle*: A24.

a California assemblyman, Woolsey won with 65 percent of the vote. Re-elected in 1994 with 58 percent of the vote, Woolsey was returned to office in the next five elections by comfortable margins. In 2004, she was elected to the 109th Congress (2005–2007) with 72 percent of the vote.²

When Woolsey claimed her seat in the House in January 1993 at the start of the 103rd Congress (1993–1995), she received assignments on three committees: Budget, Government Operations, and Education and Labor (later renamed Education and the Workforce). In the 104th Congress (1995–1997), she left Government Operations, and in the 106th Congress (1999–2001) she was reassigned from the Budget Committee to the Science Committee. By the 108th Congress, she was the Ranking Member on the Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Education Reform.

From her seat on the Education and Workforce Committee, Woolsey has positioned herself as one of the foremost advocates of education issues in Congress. Drawing on her experience, she was a Democratic spokesperson during the mid-1990s welfare reform debates; and she was sharply critical of legislation that reduced the scope of many programs and placed lifetime limits on benefits. Representative Woolsey also has been a proponent of expanding childcare programs and supporting paid parental leave programs. In the 105th Congress (1997–1999), during the renewal of legislation on child nutrition, Woolsey inserted an amendment to expand school breakfast programs for all children and to make teenagers eligible for after-school snack programs. In the 106th Congress, she sponsored a measure that required the IRS to help enforce the payment of child support. In the 106th and 107th Congresses, she introduced her “Go, Girl!” measure to encourage young girls to study science and math.³ She now leads in an effort to bring U.S. troops home from Iraq.

Congresswoman Woolsey also has attended to her northern California constituents’ range of needs—economic, medical, and environmental. She has delivered hundreds of millions of dollars to her district for a variety of capital-intensive projects: \$9 million for a Petaluma River flood control project, \$8.7 million for a major highway study and plan, and \$52 million for a seismic retrofit of the Golden Gate Bridge.⁴ During the 108th Congress (2003–2005), Woolsey worked to secure funding for breast cancer research, partly, to analyze the unusually high rate of the disease in Marin County. She is a proponent of export subsidies for wineries, which are a major Sonoma County industry. Representative Woolsey also has worked to expand the perimeter of the Point Reyes National Seashore, which is in her district.