

Mildred L. Amer

Women
in the United States Congress
1917-2001

Novinka

**WOMEN IN THE UNITED
STATES CONGRESS: 1917-2001**

MILDRED L. AMER

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Tele. 631-231-7269

Fax 631-231-8175

e-mail: Novascience@earthlink.net

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STATES CONGRESS: 1917-2001**

PREFACE

A record 75 women serve in the 107th Congress: 62 in the House (44 Democrats and 18 Republicans) and 13 in the Senate (10 Democrats and 3 Republicans). On November 9, 1916, Jeanette Rankin (R-MT) became the first woman elected to Congress. Rebecca Latimer Felton (D-GA) was the first woman to serve in the Senate. She was appointed in 1922 and served for only one day.

A total of 209 women have served in Congress, 135 Democrats and 74 Republicans. Of these women, 178 have served only in the House; 24 have served only in the Senate; and seven have served in both houses. The figures include one Delegate each from Hawaii, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Of the 185 women who have served in the House, 35 were elected to fill vacancies caused by the death of their husbands. Fifteen of the 35 were subsequently elected to additional terms. Eighteen women have been elected to fill other vacancies caused by death or resignation. Of the 18, one woman was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of another woman.

Edith Nourse Rogers (R-MA), who served in the House for 35 years, holds the record for length of service by a woman in Congress. Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME) was the first woman elected to the House and Senate, and her combined congressional service was 33 years.

Of the 31 women who have served in the Senate, 12 were first appointed; and five were first elected to fill unexpired terms. Nine were chosen to fill vacancies caused by the death of their husbands. Of the nine, two were subsequently elected to additional terms. Hattie Caraway (D-AR) was the first of the 17 women who have been elected to full six-year Senate terms.

A total of 22 black women have served in Congress, including a record number of 15 in the House 107th Congress. Six Hispanic women have been elected to the House; all are serving in the 107th Congress. Two Asian-

American women have served in the House, including one in the 107th Congress.

Patsy Mink (D-HI; 1965-1977, 1990-present) is the first Asian American woman to serve in Congress, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL; 1989-present) is the first Hispanic woman to serve. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL; 1993-1999) was the only Black woman and Black Democrat to serve in the Senate.

Ten women Representatives and two women Senators have chaired congressional committees.

This book identifies the committee assignments, dates of service, and (for Representatives) districts of the 209 women Members of Congress.

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Chapter 1

WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Two hundred nine women have been elected or appointed to the U.S. Congress. Jeanette Rankin (R-MT) has the distinction of being the first woman elected to serve in Congress. On November 9, 1916, she was elected to the House of Representatives as Montana's Representative-at-Large to the 65th Congress (1917-1919).¹ Since that time, 208 other women have served in Congress.

A record 75 women serve in the 107th Congress; 62 in the House (44 Democrats and 18 Republicans), and 13 in the Senate (ten Democrats and three Republicans).

Of the 209 women who have served in Congress, 178 have served only in the House of Representatives; 24 have served only in the Senate; and seven have served in both houses.² One hundred thirty-five have been Democrats, and 74 have been Republicans.

Edith Nourse Rogers (R-MA) holds the record for length of service by a woman in Congress (35 years). She was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, John Jacob Rogers (R-MA, 1913-1925). Mrs. Rogers served in the House from June 25, 1925, until her death on September 10, 1960.

¹ Reps. Rankin (R-MT) and Patsy Mink (D-HI,) are the only female Members to have served non-consecutive terms. Rep. Rankin served from 1917-1919 and from 1941-1943. Rep. Rankin was also the only Member of Congress to vote against America's entry into both World Wars. Rep. Mink served from 1965-1977. She is also a Member of the 107th Congress, having served since September 1990, when she was seated following a special election.

² These numbers include one Delegate from Hawaii, one from the District of Columbia, and one from the U.S. Virgin Islands.

WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

Of the 185 women who have served in the House, 35 were elected to fill vacancies caused by the death of their husbands.³ Fifteen of the 35 were subsequently elected to additional terms. Eighteen women have been elected to fill other vacancies caused by death or resignation. Of these, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA, 1987-) was first elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of another woman, Sala Burton (D-CA, 1983-1987). Four additional women have directly succeeded other women by defeating them or being elected to open seats.⁴

WOMEN SENATORS

Rebecca Latimer Felton (D-GA) was the first woman to serve in the Senate. She was appointed in 1922 to fill the unexpired term of a Senator who had died in office. In addition to being the first female Senator, Ms. Felton holds two other Senate records. Her tenure in the Senate remains the shortest ever (one day), and at the age of 87, she was the oldest person ever to begin Senate service.

Besides Ms. Felton, 30 other women, including the 13 in the 107th Congress, have served in the Senate. Of these 31 women, 13 were initially appointed to the Senate. Five, including Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), elected in 1992, and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), elected in 1993, were first elected to fill unexpired terms. Two of the women were first elected and seven were first appointed to fill vacancies caused by the death of their husbands, including Jean Carnahan (D-MO), who was appointed to the 107th Congress to fill the vacancy caused by her husband's posthumous election to the Senate.⁵

One woman, Senator Elaine Edwards (D-1A), was appointed in 1972 by her husband, then-Governor Edwin Edwards, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Allen Ellender (D-LA, 1937-1972). Another woman, Eva Bowring (R-NE, 1954), who had been appointed to fill the vacancy caused

³ This number includes Reps. Lois Capps (D-CA) and Mary Bono (R-CA), both first elected to the 105th Congress in 1998, and Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), first elected to the 104th Congress in 1996.

⁴ Rep. Enid Greene (R-UT, 1995-1997) defeated Rep. Karen Shepherd (D-UT, 1993-1995), Rep. Linda Smith (R-WA, 1995-1999) defeated Rep. Jolene Unsoeld (D-WA, 1989-1995), Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI, 1997-) defeated Rep. Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI, 1991-1997), and Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO, 1997-) succeeded Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO, 1973-1997).

⁵ Two of the nine were subsequently elected to additional terms.

by the death of Senator Dwight Griswold (R-NE, 1952-1954), was succeeded by another woman, Hazel Abel (R-NE, 1954), who was elected to fill the remaining months of Senator Griswold's term.

Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-KS, 1979-1997) was the first of the seven women elected to the Senate without first having been elected to the House or having been elected or appointed to fill an unexpired Senate term. The others are Susan Collins (R-ME), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), all Members of the 107th Congress, as well as Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL, 1993-1999) and Paula Hawkins (R-FL, 1981-1987).

Four states (California, Kansas, Maine, and Washington) have been represented by women Senators serving in the same Congress. In the 107th Congress, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein represent California; Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe represent Maine, and Patti Murray and Maria Cantwell represent Washington. In the 104th Congress, Nancy Landon Kassebaum and Sheila Frahm represented Kansas.

Hattie Caraway (D-AR) was the first of the 17 women to be elected to a full six- year Senate term. She was first appointed in 1931 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, Thaddeus H. Caraway (D-AR, House, 1913-1921; Senate, 1921-1931), and then was subsequently elected to two six-year terms. She served until January 1945. The other women elected to six-year terms are Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Patty Murray (D- WA), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Blanche Lincoln (D-AK), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Debbie Stabenow (D- MI), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME), Maurine Neuberger (D-OR), Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-KS, 1978-1997), Paula Hawkins (R-FL, 1981-1987), and Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL, 1993-1999).

WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED IN BOTH HOUSES

Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME) was the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress, as well as the first woman elected to the Senate without first having been elected or appointed to fill a vacant Senate seat. Senator Smith was first elected to the House to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband (R-ME, 1937-1940), and served from June 10, 1940, until January 3, 1949, when she began her Senate service. When Mrs. Smith left the Senate on January 3, 1973, she had served there longer than any other

woman. Her 24 years of service is still a record for Senate service by a woman.

Barbara Mikulski, Barbara Boxer, Olympia Snowe, Blanche Lincoln, Debbie Stabenow, and Maria Cantwell are the other women who have served in both houses. Senator Mikulski was a Member of the House from 1977-1987, Senator Boxer from 1983-1993, Senator Snowe from 1979-1995, Senator Lincoln from 1993-1997, Senator Stabenow from 1997-2001, and Senator Cantwell from 1993-1995. All are Members of the 107th Congress, and all but Senators Lincoln and Cantwell were elected while still serving in the House.

WOMEN COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Twelve women have chaired congressional committees. During the 104th Congress, a record three women chaired committees. They were Nancy Landon Kassebaum, chair of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee; Jan Meyers (R-KS, 1985-1997), chair of the House Small Business Committee; and Nancy Johnson (R-CT, 1983-present), chair of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Others who have chaired committees include Senator Hattie Caraway (D-AK, 1931-1945) and Representatives Edith Nourse Rogers (R-MA, 1925-1960), Mae Ella Nolan (R-CA, 1923-1925), Mary T. Norton (D-NJ, 1925- 1951), Caroline L. O'Day (D-NY, 1935-1943), Leonor K. Sullivan (D-MO, 1953- 1977), Martha W. Griffiths (D-MI, 1955-1974), Yvonne Burke (D-CA, 1973-1979), and Patricia Schroeder (D-CO, 1973-1997).

BLACK WOMEN IN CONGRESS

A record number of 15 black women serve in the House in the 107th Congress. A total of 22 black women have served in Congress. The first was Representative Shirley Chisholm (D-NY, 1969-1983). Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL, 1993- 1999) is only black woman to have served in the Senate. The black women Members of the 107th Congress include Representatives Maxine Waters (D-CA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Carrie Meek (D-FL), Corinne Brown (D-FL), Cynthia McKinney (D-FL), Eva Clayton (D-NC), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), Julia Carson (D-IN), Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI), Donna Christian-

Christiensen (D-VI), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), and Diane Watson (D-CA). Other black women Members were Cardiss Collins (D-IL, 1973-1997), Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI, 1991-1997), Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-CA, 1973-1979), Katie Hall (D-IN, 1982-1985), and Barbara Jordan (D-TX, 1973-1979).

ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN CONGRESS

Patsy Mink (D-HI) is the first of two Asian Pacific American women to have served in Congress. A Member of the 107th Congress, Representative Mink first served in the House from 1965-1977. Her present service began in 1990. The other Asian-American woman was Patricia Saiki (R-HI), who served in the House from 1987-1991.

HISPANIC WOMEN IN CONGRESS

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), elected in 1989, is the first of the six Hispanic women, as well as the first Cuban-American, to serve in Congress. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), elected in 1992, is the first Puerto Rican-born woman to serve in Congress. Lucille Roybal-Allard, also elected in 1992, is the first Mexican-American woman to serve. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), elected in 1996, Grace Napolitano (D-CA), elected in 1998, and Hilda Solis (D-CA) are the other female Hispanic Members, and all six are Members of the 107th Congress.

WOMEN MEMBERS WHOSE RELATIVES SERVED IN CONGRESS

Husbands

While in Congress, four women married other Members of the same Congress.⁶ Three other women Members married Members with whom they had not served and whom they did not directly succeed.⁷

⁶ Rep. Susan Molinari (R-NY, 1990-1997) married Rep. Bill Faxon (R-NY, 1989-1999) in 1994, and Rep. Martha Keys (D-KS, 1975-1979) married Rep. Andrew Jacobs (D-IN, 1965-1973, 1975-1997) in 1975. All were serving in Congress at the time of their marriages. Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME, House, 1979-1995, Senate, 1995-) married former Rep. John

Representative Ruth McCormick (R-IL, 1929-1931) twice was married to Members of Congress. She was married to Representative and Senator Medill McCormick (R-IL, House, 1917-1919, Senate, 1919-1925) prior to becoming a Member of Congress. Medill McCormick died while serving in the Senate. Subsequently, Ms. McCormick was elected to Congress, and she and Representative Albert Gallatin Simms (R-NM, 1929-1931), with whom she had served, were married after they both had left Congress. Finally, Representative Emily Taft Douglas (D-IL, 1945-1947) preceded her husband, Senator Paul Douglas (D-IL, 1949-1967), in Congress.

Fathers

Representative Ruth McCormick, discussed above, was also the daughter of Senator Marcus Hanna (R-OH, 1897-1904). Two women have been elected to complete the House terms of their fathers. Winnifred Mason Huck (R-IL, 1922- 1923) was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her father, William E. Mason (R-IL, House, 1887-1891, Senate, 1897-1903, House, 1917-1921); and Susan Molinari (R-NY, 1990-1997) was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of her father, Guy Molinari (R-NY, 1981-1990).

Nine other women Members of the House have had fathers who served as Representatives. These include three current Members, Lucille Roybal-Allard (D- CA), daughter of Representative Edward Roybal (D-CA, 1963-1993), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), daughter of Representative Thomas D'Alesandro (D-MD, 1939-1947), and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), daughter of Representative Arch A. Moore (D-WV, 1957-1969).⁸

McKernan, Jr. (R-ME, 1983-1987) in 1989 after he left Congress and while he was the Governor of Maine and she was in the House. They served together in the House for four years. Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-KS, 1978-1997) married former Sen. Howard Baker (R-TN, 1967-1985) in 1996 after he left office and while she was still in the Senate. They had served together for six years.

⁷ Rep. Katherine Langley (R-KY, 1927-1931) was preceded in the House by her husband, Rep. John Langley (R-KY, 1907-1926); Rep. Leonor Sullivan (D-MO, 1953-1977) was preceded in the House by her husband, Rep. John Sullivan (D-MO, 1941-1943, 1945-1947, and 1949-1951); and Rep. Marjorie Margoh'es-Mezvinsky (D-PA, 1993-1995) was preceded in the House by her husband, former Rep. Ed Mezvinsky (D-IA, 1973-1977).

⁸ The others were Rep. Katherine Langley (R-KY, 1927-1931), daughter of Rep. James Gudger, Jr. (D-NC, 1903-1907, 1911-1915); Rep. Ruth McCormick (R-IL, 1929-1931), daughter of Sen. Marcus Hanna (R-OH, 1897-1904); Rep. Ruth Owen (D-FL), daughter of Rep. William Jennings Bryan (D-NE, 1891-1895) Rep. Louise Reece (R-TN, 1961-1963), daughter of Sen. Guy Goff (R-WV, 1925-1931), Rep. Elizabeth Patterson (D-SC, 1987- 1993), daughter of Sen. Olin Johnston (D-SC, 1945-1965) and Rep. Clare Boothe Luce (R- CT, 1943-1947), stepdaughter of Rep. Elmer Austin (R-CT, 1939-1941).

Sons

Four women Representatives had sons who served in Congress. Of these women, only Frances Bolton (R-OH, 1940-1969) served simultaneously with her son, Representative Oliver Bolton (R-OH, 1953-1957, 1963-1965). The other women were Katharine Byron (D-MD, 1941-1943), mother of Representative Goodloe Byron (D-MD, 1971-1978); Maude Kee (D-WV, 1951-1965), mother of Representative James Kee (D-WV, 1965-1973); and Irene Baker (R-TN, 1964-1965), stepmother of Senator Howard Baker (R-TN, 1967-1985).

Grandfathers

Three Congresswomen were granddaughters of former Members. They were Frances Bolton, granddaughter of Representative and Senator Henry Payne (D-OH, House, 1875-1877, Senate, 1885-1891); Katharine Byron, granddaughter of Representative and Senator Louis McComas (R-MD, House, 1883-1891, Senate, 1889-1905); and Louise Reece (R-TN, 1961-1963), granddaughter of Representative and Senator Nathan Goff (R-WV, House, 1883-1889, Senate, 1913-1919).

Chapter 2

DATA¹

The list and tables that follow provide information on women Members of Congress, including the dates they were first elected, the Congresses in which they served, the committees on which they served, and an indication, where relevant, of the committees they have chaired.

Most of the data presented are from *the Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996* [<http://bioguide.congress.gov>]; various editions of the *Congressional Directory*; a broad range of *Congressional Quarterly* publications; and *Congressional Yellowbook*, Winter 2001, published by Leadership Directories, Inc. Information on the committee assignments of the women in the 107th Congress was obtained from various editions of the *Congressional Record*; *List of Standing Committees and Select Committees and Their Subcommittees of the House of Representatives Together with the Joint Committees of the Congress with an Alphabetical List of Members and Their Committee Assignments, One Hundred Seventh Congress*, prepared under the direction of Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House of Representatives, April 30, 2001 (available online from the Clerk's Web site at [<http://clerkweb.house.gov/107/oal.php3mbrcmtee/mbrcmtee/htm>]);

¹ Note: Prior to the adoption of the Twentieth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, effective October 15, 1933, the terms of Representatives and Senators began on March 4, in conformance with a resolution of the Continental Congress implementing the Constitution (adopted September 13, 1788). The Twentieth Amendment provides inter alia that the terms of Representatives and Senators shall commence at noon on January 3, in the year following their election. The first Congress affected by the Twentieth Amendment was the 74th (1935-1937). However, Congress sometimes sets a date other than January 3 for commencement of a new Congress; thus, in this report, dates sworn in are sometimes later than January 3 for Members elected in the general election. In addition, Members elected to fill a vacancy are sworn in and commence their terms as soon as possible, as do Senators appointed to fill a vacancy.

and *The Senate of the United States Committee and Subcommittee Assignments for the One Hundred and Seventh Congress*, prepare under the direction of Gary Sisco, Secretary of the Senate, August 2, 2001 (available online from the Secretary's Web site at [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/legis_act_committee_assignments.html]). House committee assignments for the 107th Congress reflect the name change of two committees. The Committee on Banking and Financial Services was renamed the Committee on Financial Services, and the Commerce Committee was renamed the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Senate committee assignments reflect the name change of the Senate Committee on Small Business to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

House committee assignments for the 106th Congress reflect the name change of the Committee on House Oversight back to the Committee on House Administration, the Committee on National Security back to the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight to the Committee on Government Reform. Senate committee assignments reflect the name change of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the 106th Congress.

ALPHABETICAL LISTING

ABEL, HAZEL HEMPEL. Republican; Nebraska, Senator. Elected to the 83rd Congress November 2, 1954, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Dwight P. Griswold and filled in the interim by Eva Bowring; sworn in and seated November 8, 1954; resigned December 31, 1954.

Committee Assignments	Congress
S. Finance	83 rd
S. Interstate and Foreign Commerce	83 rd

ABZUG, BELLA S. Democrat; New York, 19th Congressional District (92nd Congress) and 20th Congressional District (93rd-94th Congresses). Elected to the 92nd Congress November 3, 1970; sworn in and seated January 21, 1971; reelected to the 93rd-94th Congresses; term expired January 3, 1977.