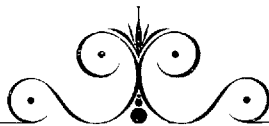


Black Americans in Congress



1870-1977



95th Congress, 1st Session

House Document 95-258

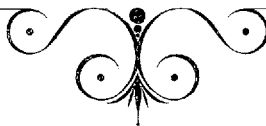
NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fourth day of
January, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven*

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 182

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That
there be printed as a House document the pamphlet entitled "Black
Americans in Congress."*

Passed November 3, 1977





*Black Americans
in Congress*

1870-1977



Foreword

The forty-five Black Americans who served or are serving in the United States Congress stand out on two counts. In their membership they reflect the richness and variety that characterize American political life. Of even more importance, they personify the best in the American political tradition—whether in their demonstrated abilities as public servants; whether in their zeal for racial justice and equality; or whether in their interest in a broad range of national questions and international concerns.

Blacks in Congress have represented a cross section of its total membership—in essence, a Congress in microcosm. Granted that Blacks did not break the Congressional color line until 1870—when in February of that year Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi was sworn in as a Senator, his example followed ten months later by Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina, who took a seat in the House of Representatives. From the time of these path-breakers the Blacks who would sit in Congress would cut across party lines, some of them adhering to the party of Abraham Lincoln, others to that of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Prior to the turn of the century, these Black legislators all came from below the Mason-Dixon Line; but since then, the Black membership of Congress has come from the four corners of the continental United States. For Blacks in Congress the sex barrier was breached in the elections of 1968; a belated step, but all the more welcome in-

asmuch as it signalled the newer thrust of Black women in American political life.

The forty-five Blacks who came to Congress over the past century brought with them an impressive array of technical and political skills. Of the twenty-two who sat in Congress prior to 1900, ten of them had college training; and the others had acquired a functional education through self-instruction. But whether formally educated or otherwise, these twenty-two legislators—with few exceptions—either had held public offices of honor and trust before their election to Congress or had had unusual opportunities to prepare themselves for leadership roles. The twenty-three Black Members of Congress since 1900 have likewise been well-fitted for public office. Unlike their predecessors, all of whom had represented Southern constituencies, these later and more geographically varied Blacks have come out of a somewhat less stifling social milieu. Hence they had attained an even higher level of formal education and had benefited from a much greater opportunity to gain experience in holding public office. It can hardly be said that anyone, white or non-white, would be over-qualified to serve in such an influential body as the United States Senate and House of Representatives. It can be said, however, that anyone who examines the vitas of the Blacks who now hold seats on Capitol Hill cannot fail to conclude that their abilities

fully entitle them to membership therein.

The Black Members of Congress have, over the years, directed their energies to a variety of interests and concerns. Foremost among these from the beginning was civil rights and Federal aid to education. Black lawmakers could also be counted upon to support social welfare measures, such as public health legislation—one of their longtime goals. By their very nature such programs would benefit the poor regardless of race or color. Well acquainted with the restrictions on the rights of minorities, Congressional Blacks spoke out for self determination for the American Indian and for women's suffrage.

Oppression in other lands drew fire from Blacks in Congress. In the 1870's they espoused Cuban independence from Spanish rule. In the 1970's they are exhibiting a deepening concern about events in Africa, their dual aim to extend governmental financial aid to the economically undeveloped countries on that Continent and to support the efforts to bring about majority rule in Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa.

In pursuit of their goals through legislative action, Congressional Blacks have not hesitated to cooperate with others—with progressive groups, white and black, throughout the country, and with white colleagues on Capitol Hill—particularly those who come from districts with a sizeable Afro-American constituency. Well aware

of the imperatives of getting a bill enacted, Congressional Blacks need no schooling in the art of coalition politics. As one of their current members put it, "Where our causes benefit by coalition politics, we shall coalesce."

This effort at cooperative action reached its peak when, in January 1969, the Black members of the House, all Democrats, launched the Congressional Black Caucus. The avowed aim of the organization was to "promote the public welfare," which was to be accomplished by "developing, introducing, and passing progressive legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens." This was proved to be no idle boast. In its short span of years to date the Black Caucus has compiled an impressive record of measures passed or defeated, and of executive appointments approved or denied.

From that winter afternoon when Revels took his seat in the Senate, a small percentage of Blacks has expected more from these Black legislators than they could ever deliver (or indeed could be delivered through the political process alone). To the great majority of Blacks, however, this corps of nearly half a hundred Congressmen and Congresswomen has inspired a deep sense of racial pride and self-worth. These legislators, all but two of whom have come from predominantly black districts, were a living proof that Blacks could produce an able leadership of their own. Moreover, their presence in the

halls of Congress made their Black constituents feel that they were more than bystanders—they were participants, however vicariously, in the political process.

Congressional Blacks have one role that is thrust upon them—a role which they welcome as a rule, however. These legislators come from different States and districts, and thus from localities with differing, or even competing, priorities. As other lawmakers who come to Washington, each of the Congressional Blacks must be attentive to the wishes and demands of his/her particular district. While keeping their own home fires burning, however, Congressional Blacks are simultaneously called upon to represent the broader national black community. The relative number of Afro-Americans who sit in Congress is so small that a Black Member automatically takes on unusual proportions, acquiring a national constituency—the black community-at-large. The Congressional Blacks have not shunned this broader responsibility. Those of the present day, for example, have worked to make the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., a national holiday. It was such a sense of broad responsibility that prompted nineteenth century Congressional Blacks like Robert Brown Elliott and James T. Rapier to support strongly civil rights legislation; to impel George H. White to call for a Federal anti-lynching act; and to move Henry P. Cheatham to intro-

duce a bill (in the House in December 1890) stipulating that \$100,000 be appropriated "For the purpose of collecting, preparing, and publishing facts and statistics pertaining to the moral, industrial, and intellectual development and progress of the colored people of African descent residing in the United States." Cheatham's proposal died in committee—he was the lone Black Member of that particular Congress.

This over-arching need of the black community as a whole tended to give Congressional Blacks a more inclusive outlook, a deeper sensitivity, than otherwise would have been the case. For whether a Congressional Black came from the East Coast, the West Coast, or Middle America, or whether a Democrat or a Republican, he or she would inevitably be caught in the sweep of one-compelling purpose—to broaden the dimensions of democracy in America, giving it new expressions. In the process the Congressional Blacks as a group would not lose sight of a collateral goal—that of enlarging the domain of democracy abroad, especially in those regions most deeply ridden by lines of caste and color.

This booklet brings into individual focus this goodly company of forty-five Black achievers and overcomers, movers and shakers. Herein we will find a gallery of notable Americans, persons worthy of our attention in any season—and especially in these Bicentennial times.

In them we see much of this Nation's past and, perchance, catch a glimpse of its future.

Each of these Congressional Blacks has a dramatic story of his/her own to tell, and it would repay us to take a look at each face reflectively, to read each biographical sketch, and to try to envision that particular person against the backdrop of that day and time. This done, the reader might dwell for a moment on the things they shared in common. Such an inquisitive reader would discover that foremost among these was a sense of col-

lective purpose—a will to press on in quest of a better America. In looking at the likenesses of these Congressional Blacks, so graphically reproduced in this booklet, we see more than a collection of countenances, however impressive. With our mind's eye, we see men and women who lived, then and now, on the cutting edge of the future.

BENJAMIN QUARLES
Morgan State University

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Hon. Hiram Rhodes Revels

September 27, 1827—January 16, 1901
U.S. Senate—Mississippi 41st Congress
Republican



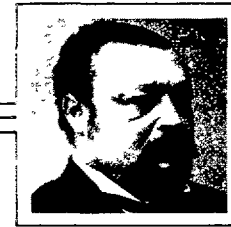
Committees

Education and Labor 41st
District of Columbia 41st

First Black Member of U.S. Congress
Minister, African Methodist Episcopal Church;
Baltimore, Maryland, 1860
Chaplain, Black Regiment; Vicksburg, Mississippi, 1864
Alderman; Natchez, Mississippi, 1868
State Senator, Mississippi, 1870
Secretary of State *Ad Interim* of Mississippi, 1873
President, Alcorn Agricultural College; Rodney,
Mississippi, 1876–1882
District Superintendent, AME Church; Holly Springs,
Mississippi

Hon. Blanche Kelso Bruce

March 1, 1841—March 17, 1898
U.S. Senate—Mississippi 44th–46th Congresses
Republican



Committees

Select Mississippi River Committee 44th–45th
Pensions
Manufactures
Education and Labor

Chairman, Select Mississippi River Committee, 1877
Sergeant-at-Arms, Mississippi Senate, 1870
Founder, first elementary school for Blacks in
Lawrence, Kansas
Printer, Steamboat Porter, Planter
Member, Mississippi Levee Board
Sheriff and Tax Collector; Bolivar County, 1872–1875
Register of the U.S. Treasury, 1881–1891 and 1897–1898
Recorder of Deeds; Washington, D.C., 1891–1893



Hon. Edward William Brooke

October 26, 1919—
U.S. Senate—Massachusetts 90th Congress—
Republican



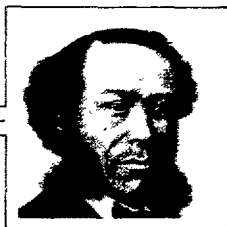
Committees

Aeronautical and Space Sciences 90th
Banking and Currency 90th–91st
Armed Services 91st
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs 92nd–
Appropriations 92nd–
Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity 92nd–93rd
Special Committee on Aging 92nd–
Select Committee on Standards and
Conduct 93rd
Joint Committee on Defense Production 94th–95th
Joint Committee on Arrangements for 94th
Commemoration of the Bicentennial

First Black Member of the U.S. Senate from
Massachusetts
Vice Chairman, Joint Committee on Arrangements for
Commemoration of the Bicentennial
Chairman, Board of Directors, American Revolution
Bicentennial Administration
Captain, U.S. Army Infantry (World War II)
Editor, Boston University Law Review, 1946–1948
Attorney
Chairman, Boston Finance Commission, 1961–1962
Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
1962–1966
Recipient of Spingarn Medal, NAACP, 1967
Recipient of Charles Evans Hughes Award, National
Conference of Christians and Jews, 1967

*Hon. Joseph Hayne Rainey*

June 21, 1832—August 2, 1887

U.S. House of Representatives—South Carolina 41st–45th Congresses
Republican*Committees*

Freedmen's Affairs 41st–43rd

Indian Affairs 43rd

Invalid Pensions 44th–45th

Select Committee of the House on Centennial
Celebration and Proposed National Census

of 1875 44th

Select Committee on Enrolled Bills 45th

First Black Member of the U.S. House of Representatives

First Black Member of Congress from South Carolina

Internal Revenue Agent of South Carolina, 1879–1881

Banker and Broker

Hon. Jefferson Franklin Long

March 3, 1836—February 5, 1900

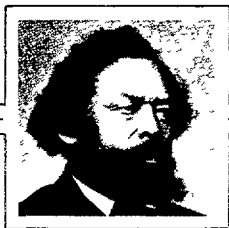
U.S. House of Representatives—Georgia 41st Congress
Republican*No Committee Assignment*First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from Georgia

Merchant Tailor; Macon, Georgia



Hon. Benjamin Sterling Turner

March 17, 1825—March 21, 1894
U.S. House of Representatives—Alabama 42nd Congress
Republican



Committee

Invalid Pensions 42nd

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from Alabama
Tax Collector; Dallas County, Alabama, 1867
Councilman; Selma, Alabama, 1869

Hon. Robert Carlos De Large

March 15, 1842—February 14, 1874
U.S. House of Representatives—South Carolina 42nd Congress
Republican



Committee

Manufactures 42nd

Member, South Carolina House of Representatives,
1868–1870
South Carolina State Land Commissioner, 1870–1871
Local Magistrate; Charleston, South Carolina,
1873–1874



Hon. Robert Brown Elliott

August 11, 1842—August 9, 1884

U.S. House of Representatives—South Carolina 42nd–43rd Congresses
Republican



Committees

Education and Labor 42nd–43rd
Militia 43rd

Graduate; Eton College, England, 1859
Attorney; Columbia, South Carolina
Member, South Carolina State Constitutional
Convention, 1868
Member, South Carolina House of Representatives,
1868–1870
Speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives
Assistant Adjutant General, South Carolina, 1869–1871
Attorney; New Orleans, Louisiana, 1881–1884

Hon. Josiah Thomas Walls

December 30, 1842—May 5, 1905

U.S. House of Representatives—Florida 42nd–44th Congresses
Republican



Committees

Militia 42nd–43rd
Mileage 44th

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from Florida
Truck Farmer
Florida State Senator, 1869–1872



Hon. Richard Harvey Cain

April 12, 1825—January 18, 1887
U.S. House of Representatives—South Carolina
43rd and 45th Congresses
Republican



Committees

Agriculture 43rd
Private Claims 45th

Minister; Brooklyn, New York, 1861–1865
Senator, South Carolina Senate, 1868–1872
Newspaper Manager; Charleston, South Carolina, 1868
Bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church;
Washington, D.C., 1880–1887

Hon. Alonzo Jacob Ransier

January 3, 1834—August 17, 1882
U.S. House of Representatives—South Carolina 43rd Congress
Republican



Committee

Manufactures 43rd

Member, South Carolina Constitutional Convention,
1868–1869
Lieutenant Governor, South Carolina, 1870
President, Southern States Convention, 1871
U.S. Internal Revenue Collector, 2nd District of South
Carolina, 1875–1876



Hon. James Thomas Rapier

November 13, 1837—May 31, 1883
U.S. House of Representatives—Alabama 43rd Congress
Republican



Committee

Education and Labor 43rd

Attorney, Teacher, Newspaper Correspondent,
Cotton Planter

Notary Public, Alabama, 1866

Assessor of Internal Revenue, 1871

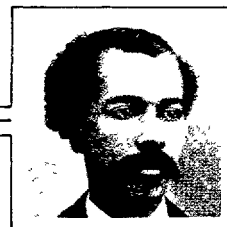
State Commissioner to the Vienna Exposition, 1873

U.S. Commissioner to Paris World's Fair

Collector of Internal Revenue, 2nd District of
Alabama, 1878–1883

Hon. John Roy Lynch

September 10, 1847—November 2, 1939
U.S. House of Representatives—Mississippi
43rd, 44th and 47th Congresses
Republican



Committees

Mines and Mining 43rd–44th

Militia 47th

Education and Labor 47th

Photographer, Farmer, Writer, Historian

Justice of the Peace, 1869

Member, Mississippi House of Representatives,
(Speaker during last term) 1869–1873

Temporary Chairman, Republican National Convention, 1884

Chairman, Republican State Executive Committee,
1881–1889

Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, U.S. Navy Department;
1889–1893

Attorney, 1897

U.S. Army, 1898–1911. Retired as Major.

Youngest Member of 43rd Congress (26 years old)



Hon. Jeremiah Haralson

April 1, 1846— (), 1916
U.S. House of Representatives—Alabama 44th Congress
Republican



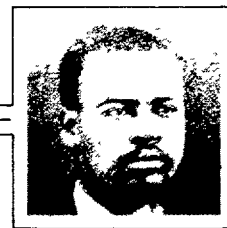
Committee

Public Expenditures 44th

Minister, Agricultural Worker, Coal Miner
Member, Alabama House of Representatives, 1870
Member, Alabama Senate, 1872
Appointed to Pension Bureau; Washington, D.C.,
1882–1884

Hon. John Adams Hyman

July 23, 1840—September 14, 1891
U.S. House of Representatives—North Carolina 44th Congress
Republican



Committee

Manufactures 44th

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from North Carolina
Delegate, North Carolina Equal Rights Convention, 1865
Delegate, North Carolina Constitutional Convention,
1868
Member, Republican State Executive Committee
State Senator, North Carolina, 1868–1874
Special Deputy Collector, Internal Revenue; 4th District,
North Carolina, 1877–1878



Hon. Charles Edmund Nash

May 23, 1844—June 21, 1913
U.S. House of Representatives—Louisiana 44th Congress
Republican



Committee

Education and Labor 44th

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from Louisiana

Bricklayer

Sergeant Major, U.S. Volunteers

Night Inspector of Customs, 1865

Postmaster; Washington, Louisiana, 1882

Hon. Robert Smalls

April 5, 1839—February 22, 1915
U.S. House of Representatives—South Carolina
44th, 45th, 47th–49th Congresses
Republican



Committees

Agriculture 44th, 47th

Militia 47th–48th

Manufactures 48th

War Claims 49th

Captain, U.S. Navy; Commander of *Planter*, 1863–1866
Member, South Carolina House of Representatives, 1868

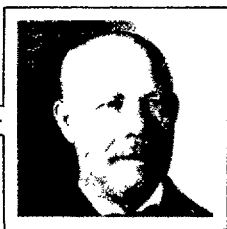
Member, South Carolina Constitutional Convention,
1868

Member, South Carolina Senate, 1870–1872
Collector of the Port; Beaufort, South Carolina,
1897–1913



Hon. James Edward O'Hara

February 26, 1844—September 15, 1905
U.S. House of Representatives—North Carolina
48th–49th Congresses
Republican



Committees

Mines and Mining 48th
Expenditures on Public Buildings 48th–49th
Invalid Pensions 49th

Attorney
Engrossing Clerk, North Carolina Constitutional
Convention, 1868
Member, North Carolina House of Representatives,
1868–1869
Chairman, Board of Commissioners; Halifax County,
North Carolina, 1872–1876
Member, North Carolina Constitutional Convention,
1875

Hon. Henry Plummer Cheatham

December 27, 1857—November 29, 1935
U.S. House of Representatives—North Carolina 51st–52nd Congresses
Republican



Committees

Education 51st–52nd
Expenditures on Public Buildings 51st–52nd
Agriculture 52nd

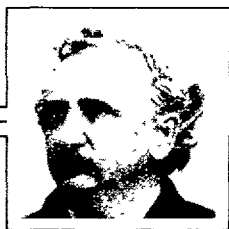
Educator, Lecturer, Farmer
Principal, State Normal School; Plymouth, North
Carolina, 1883–1884
Register of Deeds; Vance County, North Carolina,
1884–1888
Recorder of Deeds; Washington, D.C., 1897–1901
Superintendent, North Carolina Colored Orphanage;
Oxford, North Carolina, 1907–1935
President, Negro Association of North Carolina

*Hon. Thomas Ezekiel Miller*

June 17, 1849—April 8, 1938

U.S. House of Representatives—South Carolina
Republican

51st Congress

*Committee*

Library of Congress 51st

School Commissioner; Beaufort County, South
Carolina, 1872Member, South Carolina House of Representatives,
1874–1880 and 1894–1896

Attorney; Beaufort, South Carolina, 1875

Member, Republican State Executive Committee,
1878–1880

Senator, South Carolina Senate, 1880

State Chairman, Republican Party, 1884

Member, South Carolina Constitutional Convention,
1895President, South Carolina College at Orangeburg,
1896–1911*Hon. John Mercer Langston*

December 14, 1829—November 15, 1897

U.S. House of Representatives—Virginia 51st Congress
Republican*No Committee Assignment*First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from Virginia

Attorney; Oberlin, Ohio, 1854

Township Clerk; Oberlin, Ohio, 1854. (Believed to be
first elective office held by a Black in the United States.)

Member, City Council; Oberlin, Ohio, 1865–1867

Member, Board of Education; Oberlin, Ohio, 1867–1868
Inspector General; Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees, and

Abandoned Lands, 1868

Dean, Law Department; Howard University, 1869–1876

Member, Board of Health; Washington, D.C., 1871

Vice President and Acting President; Howard University, 1872

Minister Resident and Counsel General to Haiti, 1877

President, Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute;
Petersburg, Virginia, 1885–1887

*Hon. George Washington Murray*

September 22, 1853—April 21, 1926
 U.S. House of Representatives—South Carolina
 53rd–54th Congresses
 Republican

*Committees*

Education 53rd–54th
 Expenditures on the Treasury Department 54th
 Teacher, Lecturer, Real Estate Agent, Farmer
 Inspector of Customs; Charleston, South Carolina,
 1890–1892
 Sumter County Chairman; Republican Party, 1888

Hon. George Henry White

December 18, 1852—December 28, 1918
 U.S. House of Representatives—North Carolina 55th–56th Congresses
 Republican

*Committees*

Agriculture 55th–56th
 District of Columbia 56th
 Attorney; New Bern, North Carolina, 1879
 Principal; State Normal School of North Carolina, 1880
 Member, North Carolina House of Representatives, 1880
 Member, North Carolina Senate, 1884
 Solicitor and Prosecuting Attorney, Second Judicial
 District of North Carolina, 1886–1894
 Banker



Hon. Oscar De Priest

March 9, 1871—May 12, 1951
U.S. House of Representatives—Illinois 71st–73rd Congresses
Republican



Committees

Enrolled Bills 71st–73rd
Indian Affairs 71st–73rd
Invalid Pensions 71st–73rd
Post Office and Post Roads 73rd

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from Illinois

Painter and Decorator

Real Estate Broker; Chicago, Illinois, 1889

Member, Board of Commissioners; Cook County,
Illinois, 1904–1908

Member, City Council; Chicago, Illinois, 1915–1917
and 1943–1947

Vice Chairman, Cook County Republican Central
Committee; 1932–1934

Hon. Arthur Wergs Mitchell

December 22, 1883—May 9, 1968
U.S. House of Representatives—Illinois 74th–77th Congresses
Democrat



Committee

Post Office and Post Roads 74th–77th

First Black Member of Congress from the Democratic
Party

Founder and President, Armstrong Agricultural School;
West Butler, Alabama

Attorney; Washington, D.C., 1927 and Chicago, Illinois,
1929

First Black to address Democratic National Convention,
1940

Public Lecturer

Farmer, near Petersburg, Virginia

*Hon. William Levi Dawson*

April 26, 1886—November 9, 1970
 U.S. House of Representatives—Illinois 78th–91st Congresses
 Democrat

*Committees*

Coinage, Weights and Measures; Insular Affairs;
 Invalid Pensions; Irrigation and
 Reclamation 78th–79th
 Expenditures in the Executive
 Departments 78th–82nd
 Interior and Insular Affairs 82nd
 Government Operations 83rd–91st
 District of Columbia 84th–91st

Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on
 Government Operations

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army Infantry, World War I,
 1917–1919

Attorney; Chicago, Illinois, 1920

Alderman, Second Ward; Chicago, Illinois, 1933–1939

Hon. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

November 29, 1908—April 4, 1972
 U.S. House of Representatives—New York 79th–91st Congresses
 Democrat

*Committees*

Indian Affairs; Invalid Pensions; Labor 79th
 Education and Labor 80th–91st
 Interior and Insular Affairs 84th–86th

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
 from New York

Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on
 Education and Labor, 1961–1967

Minister, Abyssinian Baptist Church; New York City, 1937–1971

Member, New York City Council, 1941

Publisher and Editor, *The People's Voice*, 1942

Co-Founder, National Negro Congress

Vice President, World Association of Parliamentarians
 for World Government, 1952

Knight Commander, Golden Cross of The Order of Ethiopia, 1954

U.S. Delegate, International Labor Conference, 1961–1965

*Hon. Charles C. Diggs, Jr.*

December 2, 1922—
U.S. House of Representatives—Michigan
Democrat 84th Congress—

*Committees*

Interior and Insular Affairs; Veterans' Affairs 84th–85th
Foreign Affairs 86th–94th
District of Columbia 88th–
International Relations 94th–

First Black Member of the House of Representatives from Michigan
Chairman, House Committee on the District of Columbia, 1973–
Chairman, House International Relations Subcommittee
on International Resources, Food, and Energy
Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa, Foreign Affairs Committee, 1969–1974
Mortician; Detroit, Michigan
Youngest and first Black Democratic Member,
Michigan Senate, 1951–1954
U.S. Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, 1971
Founder and Past Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus, 1971–1972
Co-Convener, National Black Political Convention, 1972
President, National Black Political Assembly, 1972–1974

Hon. Robert N. C. Nix, Jr.

August 9, 1905—
U.S. House of Representatives—Pennsylvania
Democrat 85th Congress—

*Committees*

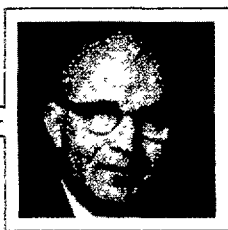
Merchant Marine and Fisheries 86th
Veterans' Affairs 86th
Foreign Affairs 87th–
Post Office and Civil Service 88th–

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from Pennsylvania
Chairman, Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, 1977–
Chairman, Subcommittee on International Relations,
Committee on Post Office and Civil Service
Attorney, Nix and Nix; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1925–
Special Deputy Attorney General of the Pennsylvania
State Department of Revenue; and Special Assistant
Deputy Attorney General of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania, 1934–1938

*Hon. Augustus F. Hawkins**Hon. John Conyers, Jr.*

August 31, 1907—
U.S. House of Representatives—California
Democrat

88th Congress—

*Committees*

Education and Labor 88th—
House Administration 89th—
Joint Committee on Printing 95th—

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from California

Chairman, Subcommittee on Electrical and Mechanical
Office Equipment of House Administration Committee

Chairman, Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities of
the Committee on Education and Labor

Chairman, Subcommittee on Printing of House Administration
Committee, 1977—

Real Estate Businessman

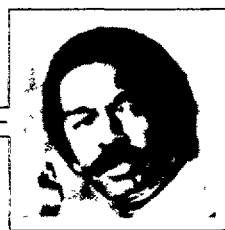
Member, California Assembly, 1935–1962

Chairman, Rules Committee, California Assembly

Chairman, Joint Committee on Legislative Organization,
California Legislature

May 16, 1929—
U.S. House of Representatives—Michigan
Democrat

89th Congress—

*Committees*

Judiciary 89th—
Government Operations 92nd—

Chairman, Subcommittee on Crime of House Judiciary Committee
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; combat and merit citations, 1950–1954
Attorney, Conyers, Bell and Townsend; Detroit,
Michigan, 1959–1961

Legislative Assistant, Congressman John D. Dingell, 1958–1961

General Counsel, Detroit Trade Union Leadership Council, 1959–1964

Referee, Michigan Workmen's Compensation Department, 1961–1963

Recipient, Rosa Parks Award for Civil Rights

Activities from Martin Luther King, Jr. and the
Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 1967

Vice Chairman, Americans for Democratic Action

Vice Chairman, National Advisory Board, American
Civil Liberties Union

*Hon. William L. Clay*

April 30, 1931—
U.S. House of Representatives—Missouri
Democrat

91st Congress—

*Committees*

Education and Labor 91st—
Post Office and Civil Service 93rd—
Democratic Study Group

First Black Member of the House of Representatives
from Missouri

Chairman, Subcommittee on Employee Political
Activities and Intergovernmental Programs of the

Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

Treasurer, Congressional Black Caucus, 1972–1974

Real Estate Broker

Manager, Life Insurance Company, 1959–1961

Alderman, Twenty-sixth Ward; St. Louis, Missouri, 1959–1964

Business Representative, State, County and Municipal

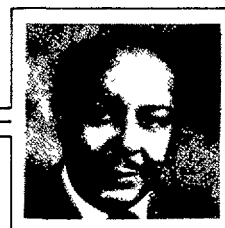
Employees Union, 1961–1964

Education Coordinator, Steamfitters Local No. 562, 1966–1967

Hon. Louis Stokes

February 23, 1925—
U.S. House of Representatives—Ohio
Democrat

91st Congress—

*Committees*

Education and Labor 91st
Internal Security 91st
Appropriations 92nd—
Budget 94th—

Select Committee on Assassinations 95th—

First Black Member of Congress from Ohio

Chairman, Task Force on Community Resources and

General Government of House Budget Committee

U.S. Army, 1943–1946

Attorney; Cleveland, Ohio, 1954

Chairman, Ohio State Bar Association, Criminal
Justice Committee

Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus, 1972–1974

Chairman, Select Committee on Assassinations, 1977–

*Hon. Shirley Chisholm*

November 30, 1924—
U.S. House of Representatives—New York
Democrat

91st Congress—

*Committees*

Agriculture	91st
Veterans' Affairs	91st–92nd
Education and Labor	92nd–94th
Rules	95th–

First Black woman elected to Congress
First Black woman Presidential candidate, 1972
Nursery School Teacher and Director, 1946–1953
Director, Hamilton-Madison Child Care Center; New York, 1953–1959
Educational Consultant, New York City Division of Day Care, 1959–1964
Assemblywoman, New York State Legislature, 1964–1968

Hon. George W. Collins

March 5, 1926—December 8, 1972
U.S. House of Representatives—Illinois
Democrat

91st–92nd Congresses

*Committees*

Government Operations	91st–92nd
Public Works	91st–92nd

U.S. Army Engineers, World War II
Administrative Assistant to Health Commissioner;
Chicago, Illinois, 1963
Alderman, Chicago City Council, 1964–1970

*Hon. Ronald V. Dellums*

November 24, 1935—

U.S. House of Representatives—California
Democrat

92nd Congress—

*Committees*

District of Columbia 92nd—

Foreign Affairs 92nd

Armed Services 93rd—

Select Committee on Intelligence 94th

Chairman, Subcommittee on Education, Manpower and
Social Services of the District of Columbia Committee
U.S. Marine Corps. Two years active duty.Psychiatric Social Worker, California Department of
Mental Hygiene, 1962–1964

Program Director, Bayview Community Center, 1964–1965

Director, Hunters Point Youth Opportunity Center, 1965–1966

Associate Director, Concentrated Employment Program
of the San Francisco Economic Opportunity Council, 1967–1968

Member, Berkeley City Council, 1967–1971

Hon. Ralph H. Metcalfe

May 30, 1910—

U.S. House of Representatives—Illinois
Democrat

92nd Congress—

*Committees*Interstate and Foreign Commerce; Merchant Marine and Fisheries 92nd—
Post Office and Civil Service 95th—Chairman, Subcommittee on the Panama Canal, House
Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

National Interscholastic Champion in Sprinting, 1929

National Collegiate Champion in 100- and 200-yard dash, 1932–1934

U.S. Olympic Team, 1932 and 1936

Track Coach and Political Science Instructor, Xavier U., 1936–1942

Associate Director, USO Mobile Unit, 93rd Infantry, 1942–1943

First Black Illinois State Athletic Commissioner, 1949–1952

Alderman; Chicago, Illinois, 1955–1970

President, *pro tempore*, Chicago City Council, 1969

Board of Directors, U.S. Olympic Committee

Secretary, Democratic Study Group, 1973–1975

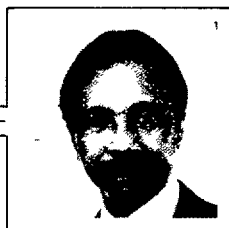
Member, President's Commission on Olympic Sports, 1975–

House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, 1975–

*Hon. Parren J. Mitchell*

April 29, 1922—
U.S. House of Representatives—Maryland
Democrat

92nd Congress—

*Committees*

Banking, Currency and Housing 92nd—
Small Business 92nd–93rd
Budget 94th—
Joint Committee on Defense Production 94th–95th

First Black Member of the House of Representatives from Maryland
Chairman, Subcommittee on Housing, Minority
Enterprise and Economic Development;
Congressional Black Caucus, 1971—
Chairman, Task Force on Human Resources of House
Budget Committee, 1975—
Commissioned Officer and Company Commander; U.S.
Army, World War II, 1942–1945; Recipient of Purple Heart
Professor of Sociology and Assistant Director, Urban
Studies Institute, Morgan State University
President, Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc.

Hon. Charles B. Rangel

June 11, 1930—
U.S. House of Representatives—New York
Democrat

92nd Congress—

*Committees*

Public Works 92nd Crime 92nd
Science and Aeronautics 92nd
District of Columbia 93rd
Judiciary 93rd
Ways and Means 94th—
Narcotics Abuse and Control 95th—

U.S. Army, 1948–1952. Awarded Purple Heart, Bronze
Star for Valor, U.S. and Korean Presidential Citations
and three battle stars for combat in Korea.
Assistant U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, 1961
Legal Counsel, New York City Housing and
Redevelopment Board, Neighborhood Conservation Bureau
General Counsel, National Advisory Commission on
Selective Service, 1966
Member, New York Assembly, 1966–1970
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus, 1974–1976

*Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy*

February 6, 1933—
U.S. Delegate—District of Columbia 92nd Congress—
Democrat

*Committees*

District of Columbia 92nd—/Banking, Currency and Housing 93rd—
Select Committee on Assassinations 95th—
First Black Member of Congress from the District of Columbia
Pastor, New Bethel Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., 1958—
Director, Washington Bureau, Southern Christian
Leadership Conference, 1960–1971
D.C. Coordinator, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 1963
Coordinator, Selma to Montgomery March, 1965
Vice Chairman, White House Conference to Fulfill These Rights, 1966
Vice Chairman, D.C. City Council, 1967–1969
National Coordinator, Poor People's Campaign, 1969
Chairman, Board of Directors, Martin Luther King, Jr.
Center for Social Change, 1969
Chairman, Platform Committee, National Black Political Convention, 1972
Vice Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus, 1976

Hon. Yvonne B. Burke

October 5, 1932—
U.S. House of Representatives—California 93rd Congress—
Democrat

*Committees*

Interior and Insular Affairs 93rd/Public Works 93rd
Appropriations 94th—
Select Committee on Assassinations 95th—
First Black woman Member of the House of
Representatives from California
Chairperson, Congressional Black Caucus, 1976—
Vice Chairperson, 1972 Democratic National Convention
Attorney, 1956—
Deputy Corporation Commissioner and Hearing Officer;
Los Angeles Police Commission, 1964–1966
Staff Attorney, McCone Commission, 1965
Member, California State Assembly, 1966–1972
Chairman, Urban Development and Housing Commission, 1971–1972
Fellow, Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of
Government; Harvard University, 1971–1972
Chubb Fellow, Yale University, 1972
First Congresswoman to give birth while in office

*Hon. Barbara C. Jordan*

February 21, 1936—
U.S. House of Representatives—Texas 93rd Congress—
Democrat

*Committees*

Judiciary 93rd—
Government Operations 94th—
Democratic Steering and Policy Committee 94th—

First Black Member of Congress from Texas
First Black Woman Governor in U.S. History; served
June 10, 1972 as President *pro tempore* of Texas Senate
Attorney, 1959—
Member, Texas Senate, 1966–1972
Vice Chairman, Texas State Democratic Party

Hon. Andrew Young

March 12, 1932—
U.S. House of Representatives—Georgia 93rd–95th Congresses
Democrat

*Committees*

Banking, Currency and Housing 93rd
Rules 94th
U.S. Representative to U.N. with rank of Ambassador, 1976–
Treasurer and Member of Executive Committee;
Congressional Black Caucus, 1974–
Minister; Pastor in Marion, Alabama; and in
Thomasville and Beachton, Georgia
Youth Activities Director, National Council of Churches,
1957–1961
Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership
Conference, 1964; elected Executive Vice President,
1967
Chairman, Atlanta Community Relations Commission,
1970–1972
Executive Committee, Democratic Study Group

*Hon. Cardiss Collins*

September 24, 1931—
U.S. House of Representatives—Illinois 93rd Congress—
Democrat

*Committees*

Government Operations 93rd—
Public Works 93rd
International Relations 94th—
District of Columbia 95th—

First Black Whip-at-Large of U.S. House of
Representatives; appointed by House Majority Leader
on January 20, 1975
Stenographer, Secretary, Accountant
Revenue Auditor, Illinois Department of Revenue
Vice President, Lawndale Youth Commission
Widow of Hon. George Collins, Member of Congress
Advisory Board Member, Illinois Labor History Society

Hon. Harold Ford

May 20, 1945—
U.S. House of Representatives—Tennessee 94th Congress—
Democrat

*Committees*

Banking, Currency and Housing 94th
Ways and Means 94th—
Select Committee on Aging 94th—
Select Committee on Assassinations 95th—

First Black Member of Congress from Tennessee
Mortuary Manager
Member, Tennessee Legislature, 1970
(Majority Whip for the House)
Fellow, Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School
of Government; Harvard University

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