WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

SEVENTEEN WOMEN ELECTED TO THE 36TH CONGRESS

A total of 17 women (9 Republicans and 8 Democrats) are serving in the 86th Congress, now in First Session. This equals the record for any one Congressional session, first established in 1955 in the 84th Congress.

Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, Republican of Maine, is the only woman in the Senate and is the only woman to have been elected without first being appointed to that body.

Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, Republican of Massachusetts, is dean of Congressional women, having served continuously since June, 1925. Only six men in the House of Representatives have more seniority than Representative Rogers.

There were 17 women members (8 Republicans and 9 Democrats) in the first session (1955) of the 84th Congress. The figure dropped to 16 upon the death in November, 1955 of Mrs. Vera Buchanan, Democrat of Pennsylvania's 30th District.

The following year, however, the number was restored to 17. At a special election held November 6, 1956, Mrs. W. T. Granahan, Democrat of Pennsylvania's 2nd District, was elected to fill the vacancy created by her husband's death during the 84th Congress.

Now serving in the House of Representatives are 16 women, evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats.

SIXTY-SIX CONGRESSWOMEN TO DATE

A total of 66 women (29 Republicans and 37 Democrats) have been elected or appointed to Congress since 1916 when the first woman, Miss Jeanette Rankin, Republican of Montana, was elected. She served one term. In 1940 she was again elected from the same district for one term.
Nine women have served in the United States Senate. Of these, only two, Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith (R. Me.) and Mrs. Hattie Caraway (D. Ark.) were elected. Mrs. Caraway, after appointment to her late husband's unexpired term, won a special and two general elections, serving from 1931 to 1944. The other seven (4 Republicans and 3 Democrats) were appointed and served short terms.

Fifty-seven women (24 Republicans and 33 Democrats) have been elected or appointed to the House of Representatives.

THE SENATE (86th Congress, 1st Session):

1. **MRS. MARGARET CHASE SMITH,** Republican, Skowhegan, Maine
   2nd Term -

   After serving 8 1/2 years in the House of Representatives, Mrs. Smith was elected to the Senate in 1948 and re-elected in 1954. She was first elected to the House in June, 1940, to complete the unexpired term of her late husband, Clyde H. Smith, Representative from Maine's 2nd District.

   While in the House she became the first woman on the Armed Services Committee, continuing her service in this area by her current membership on the Senate Armed Services Committee. She has served as Chairman of Armed Services subcommittees in both House and Senate.

   Senator Smith is also a member of the Appropriation Committee and the Space and Aeronautical Sciences Committee, another outstanding "first" for a woman. She served three terms on the Senate Republican Policy Committee, first woman named to a Party policy committee in the Senate, and is a former member of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee.

   Senator Smith began her career as a teacher. From 1930 to 1936 she was on the Maine Republican State Committee and in 1944 was Chairman of the Party's State Convention. She is a past President of the Maine Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

   She is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Air Force Reserve and a strong proponent of reserve legislation.
WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS - 1959

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (86th Congress, 1st Session):

Eight Republican Women Members

1. MRS. EDITH Nourse ROGERS, 5th District of Massachusetts
   18th Term -

   Mrs. Rogers of Lowell was elected June, 1925 to fill the
   vacancy created by the death of her husband, John Jacob
   Rogers.

   She is now ranking minority member of the House Veterans
   Affairs Committee. In the Republican 80th and 83rd Congresses
   she was Chairman, the first Republican woman to head a Con-
   gressional Committee.

   Representative Rogers' concern for veterans, especially
   disabled veterans, dates back to her service with the American
   Red Cross in World War I. She has served as the personal
   representative of Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover in
   establishment of suitable veterans' hospital facilities, inspection
   of veterans' hospitals and devising of suitable hospital construc-
   tion programs.

   During World War II she introduced the bill creating the
   Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later the WAC. Her
   numerous other bills include equal pay for equal work.

   Representative Rogers is a graduate of the Rogers School,
   Lowell, Massachusetts, and Madame Julien's School in Paris
   where she also attended the Sorbonne. She is a member of
   the Women's Overseas League and the American Legion
   Auxiliary and is the first and only woman to receive the
   American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal.

2. MRS. FRANCES P. BOLTON, 22nd District of Ohio
   11th Term -

   Representative Bolton of Cleveland was elected in February,
   1940 to complete the unexpired term of her late husband,
   Chester C. Bolton. She is the only Ohio woman ever elected
   to Congress. When Oliver Bolton, one of her three sons,
   represented Ohio's 11th District in the House, they were the
   only mother-son team ever to serve in Congress.
Representative Bolton is now second ranking minority member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and during Republican Congresses has served as subcommittee chairman.

In 1953 she was U. S. Delegate to the 8th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the first woman to represent the United States on that body. In 1955 she was ranking Republican member of a Special Study Mission to Africa, visiting 24 countries. In 1957 she was a U. S. Delegate to the Ghana independence ceremonies.

One of Representative Bolton's special interests has been nursing, and she authored the bill creating the Cadet Nurse Corps. Among other bills she has sponsored are those for low-cost housing, equal pay for women, and legislation making it unlawful to "black-market" children across State lines for adoption.

In 1938-40 Congresswoman Bolton was a member of the Ohio Republican State Central Committee, at the same time serving as Vice Chairman of the National Republican Program Committee.

She was educated at the Hathaway-Brown School in Cleveland and Miss Spence's School in New York. She is an officer of the French Legion of Honor, a member of numerous women's organizations, and vice regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

3. MRS. KATHARINE ST. GEORGE, 28th District of New York 7th Term -

Representative St. George of Tuxedo Park was elected November, 1946 to the 80th Congress. She is now a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, where she served as a sub-committee chairman in the Republican 83rd Congress.

Representative St. George was the first woman to represent the United States at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference and has participated in the Conferences since 1956. She is one of the few women in the nation ever to serve as a Republican County Chairman (Orange County, New York). She has twice addressed Republican National Conventions and at the 1956 Convention was Parliamentarian, the first time in Republican history that honor was accorded a woman.
Representative St. George is the sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, now pending in Congress. Her legislative efforts have reflected an interest in improving the Federal Civil Service.

She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, National Institute of Social Sciences, the American Society of International Law and the New York State Agricultural Society.

She was married to the late George Baker St. George, and they have one daughter.

4. MRS. MARGUERITE STITT CHURCH, 13th District of Illinois 5th Term -

Mrs. Church of Evanston was elected November, 1950 to the seat held by her late husband, Ralph E. Church. She is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and formerly served on the Government Operations Committee and the House Republican Policy Committee.

She is an active worker for international peace and has been particularly interested in legislation affecting education, health and the protection of children. She sponsored a national law prohibiting the transportation of fireworks into a State where they are illegal.

A member of many civic organizations, Representative Church has served on the Board of the Family Welfare Association of Evanston, the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, is a past President of the Congressional Club of Washington, D. C., and the National Alumnae Association of Wellesley College.

Representative Church, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wellesley, holds a master's degree in political science from Columbia University. She taught one year at Wellesley and prior to her marriage in 1918 was consulting psychologist, State Charities Aid Associates, New York.

She has two sons and a daughter.
5. **MRS. FLORENCE P. DWYER, 6th District of New Jersey  
2nd Term -**

Representative Dwyer of Elizabeth is on the Banking and Currency and Government Operations Committees.

She came to Congress after seven years in the New Jersey Legislature where she was the first woman in the State's history to be appointed Assistant Majority Leader in the State Assembly. She was also first woman to be appointed for five consecutive years to the important policy-making committee of the New Jersey Legislature. She authored the State's equal-pay-for-equal-work for women law.

Representative Dwyer is a former State Legislative Chairman of the New Jersey Business and Professional Women's Club. She is married to M. Joseph Dwyer and has one son.

6. **MRS. CATHERINE MAY, 4th District of Washington  
1st Term -**

As a freshman Congresswoman, Representative May is the first woman to be elected from the State of Washington. She serves on the Committee on Agriculture.

Representative May was elected to three terms in the Washington State Legislature beginning in 1952. During that time she served as vice chairman of the Governor's State-Wide Committee on Educational Television, legislative chairman of the Washington State Federation of Republican Women's Clubs, and was a member of the Washington Association for Retarded Children and the Governor's Safety Council.

In the spring of 1959 Representative May traveled to London as Congressional Delegate to the Atlantic Congress. Earlier the same year she received the McCall's Magazine "Togetherness" Award.

She holds the degree of B.A. in Education from the University of Washington. Before entering public life she was a teacher, a radio and advertising writer, and broadcaster.

She is married to James O. May, a Yakima, Washington real estate broker, and they have two children.
7. **MRS. EDNA SIMPSON**, 20th District of Illinois
1st Term -

Representative Simpson is the widow of former Congressman Sid Simpson of Carrollton. She is a member of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and the House Administration Committee.

She is interested primarily in legislation for flood control and agriculture. She is the first woman Board member ever appointed to the National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

During World War I Mrs. Simpson was a volunteer worker for the American Red Cross. In her husband's lifetime, during which he served in the House of Representatives 16 years, she assisted in his campaigns.

8. **MRS. JESSICA McC. WEIS**, 38th District of New York
1st Term -

Representative Weis of Rochester is a member of the House Government Operations and District of Columbia Committees.

She has been active in the Republican Party since 1935, holding various local, State and national posts. From 1940 to 1942 she was President of the National Federation of Republican Women's Clubs; has been National Republican Committeewoman from New York since 1943; and a member of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee since 1954.

Representative Weis, as delegate-at-large to the last five Republican Presidential nominating conventions, has served four times as vice chairman of the New York delegation. She was associate campaign manager in the 1948 national election, first woman ever to hold that job.

In 1954 Mrs. Weis was appointed by President Eisenhower to the National Civil Defense Advisory Council. The same year she was appointed by the State Department to serve as Advisor to the American delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Mrs. Weis attended Miss Wright's School, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and did post graduate work in New York. She was married to the late Charles W. Weis, Jr. in 1921, and was recently widowed.
Eight Democratic Women Members

1. **MRS. EDNA F. KELLY**, 10th District of New York
   5th Term -

   Representative Kelly of Brooklyn was elected in 1949 to fill a vacancy. She is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Chairman of its Subcommittee on European Affairs. In 1955 she conducted a study mission to Europe as a subcommittee chairman, and this year served as Co-Chairman of the United States - Canada Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

   Representative Kelly is experienced in local politics, having served as Democratic State Committee woman for Kings County and as a member of the County Executive Committee. She was research director for the Democratic Delegation in the New York State Legislature from 1943 until 1949.

   She has sponsored legislation covering income tax deductions for working widows and widowers and introduced an equal-pay bill.

   Representative Kelly is a graduate of Hunter College and has been active in Red Cross and numerous welfare causes. She is the widow of New York City Court Justice Edward L. Kelly and has two children.

2. **MRS. ELIZABETH KEE**, 5th District of West Virginia
   5th Term -

   Representative Kee of Bluefield is the first woman in Congress from her State. She was elected July, 1951 to the 82nd Congress to fill the unexpired term of her late husband, Chairman John Kee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She had worked closely with her husband during his 19 years in the House and was his secretary.

   Representative Kee is on the Government Operations Committee and Veterans Affairs Committee, on which she serves as chairman of the Hospital Subcommittee.
For many years she has written a weekly column for West Virginia newspapers, as well as radio and television programs for State networks. She sponsored a library for the physically handicapped at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Virginia. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1955 Representative Kee was named "Daughter of the Year" by the West Virginia Society, and in 1956 named "Mother of the Year."

Representative Kee has two children, a son and a daughter.

3. MRS. GRACIE PFOST, 1st District of Idaho
   4th Term -

Representative Pfost of Nampa was elected November, 1952, the first woman from her State. She is a member of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, serving as its Chairman of Public Lands Subcommittee, and a member of the Public Works Committee.

Prior to coming to Congress she served nine years as deputy county clerk, auditor and recorder for Canyon County, Idaho, and for ten years as county treasurer. She is a charter member and a former officer of the Idaho Young Democrats and a four-time delegate to Democratic National Conventions, where she was a member of the Platform and Resolutions Committee.

A graduate of a business university, Representative Pfost has worked as a chemist for a milk products company and has owned and operated her own real estate business. She is a former officer of the Nampa Real Estate Board and a member of the State and national real estate organizations.

She is married to John Walters Pfost.

4. MRS. LEONOR K. SULLIVAN, 3rd District of Missouri
   4th Term -

Representative Sullivan of St. Louis is Missouri's first Congresswoman. She is the widow of the late Representative John B. Sullivan who died in office in January, 1951. Mrs. Sullivan, who had been her husband's administrative assistant, waited until 1952 to run and that November defeated the incumbent who had won the special election for Sullivan's unexpired term.
She is a member of two House Committees - Banking and Currency and Merchant Marine and Fisheries, on which she serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Panama Canal.

In Congress Representative Sullivan has advocated better housing legislation, improved social security benefits and coverage, effective regulation of natural gas rates, increased appropriations for the Food and Drug Administration. She was one of the authors of the Food Additives Bill, passed in 1958.

Prior to her marriage she held responsible positions in a business training school.

5. MRS. IRIS FAIRCLOTH BLITCH, 8th District of Georgia
   3rd Term -

Representative Blitch was elected in 1954, having held the distinction of being the only woman in Georgia's history to serve two terms in the State Senate. She also served a term in the State House of Representatives and led in passage of the bill giving women the right to serve on juries in Georgia.

In Congress Representative Blitch is a member of the House Public Works Committee.

She has served as Assistant Secretary and as Acting Secretary of the State Democratic Executive Committee. She has been a member of the Democratic National Committee since 1948 and is now on the Executive Committee.

Representative Blitch was educated at the University of Georgia and South Georgia College. She is married to Brooks Erwin Blitch, and they have two children.

6. MRS. EDITH GREEN, 3rd District of Oregon
   3rd Term -

Representative Green of Portland was elected in 1954 and is a member of the Education and Labor Committee and the House Administration Committee. She has introduced an equal-pay bill for women and legislation providing equitable tax treatment for working widows.
A graduate of Willamette University, she also attended the University of Oregon and did graduate work at Stanford. She taught in the Salem, Oregon public schools for 11 years. Active in educational circles, she served in 1951 as State legislative representative of the Oregon Parent Teacher Association and for several years was public relations director for the Oregon Education Association.

She is a member of the American Association of University Women, United Nations Association, League of Women Voters and others.

During the 84th Congress she was President of the 84th Congress Democratic Club, an organization of freshman House members.

She is married to Arthur N. Green and they have two sons.

7. **MRS. MARTHA GRIFFITHS**, 17th District of Michigan 3rd Term -

Representative Griffiths of Detroit, an attorney and former judge, was elected in 1954, having served in the Michigan State Legislature from 1948 to 1952. She was the first woman ever appointed recorder and judge of the Recorder's Court, a criminal court in Detroit.

Mrs. Griffiths received an A.B. degree from the University of Missouri and an LL.B. from the University of Michigan. She and her husband, Hicks G. Griffiths, are members of a law firm which at one time included the present Governor of Michigan.

During the time Representative Griffiths was in the State Legislature she was named by the Capitol Press Corps as one of the ten best lawmakers. For her work on the judge's bench she was commended by the City Council and the Detroit Free Press as "Woman of Achievement" for 1953.

In Congress she is a member of two committees - Banking and Currency and Government Operations.
8. **MRS. KATHRYN E. GRANAHAN**, 2nd District of Pennsylvania
   3rd Term -

Representative Granahan of Philadelphia was elected in 1956
to succeed her late husband, Representative William T.
Granahan, who was serving his fifth term at the time of his
death in May, 1956.

She serves on the Post Office and Civil Service and Government
Operations Committees. She simultaneously continues to hold
her post as Democratic leader of the Philadelphia ward in
which she resides.

Representative Granahan is interested in legislation and
governmental policies affecting wages and working conditions
of federal employees; in housing, urban renewal, slum clearance, aid to small business, social security and unemployment
compensation.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Operations, she
has launched an extensive series of inquiries into proposals
for expediting mail deliveries and has undertaken an investi-
gation of the adequacy of laws and policies for prohibiting
mailing of obscene material.

**NUMBER OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS, 1917 - 1959**

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(1) There were 17 women in the First Session, 84th Congress. This reduced to 16 at death of Mrs. Vera Buchanan (D-Pa.) November, 1955. Number restored to 17 at Second Session with election of Mrs. W. T. Granahan (D-Pa.).

(2) Includes the Delegate from Hawaii. (Mrs. Elizabeth P. Farrington)

FORMER WOMEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

SENATE

REPUBLICAN

Miss Gladys Pyle, South Dakota, elected Nov. 8, 1938 to fill unexpired term (two months) of the late Sen. Peter Norbeck. She was never sworn in and seated as Congress was not in session between time of her election and the expiration of the term, Jan. 3, 1939.

Mrs. Vera C. Bushfield, South Dakota, appointed Oct. 6, 1948, to fill unexpired term of her late husband, Harlan J. Bushfield. She resigned Dec., 1948.

Mrs. Eva Bowring, Nebraska, appointed in April, 1954 to fill the unexpired term of the late Sen. Dwight Griswold. She served until Nov., 1954.

WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS - 1959

DEMOCRATS

Mrs. Rebecca Latimer Felton, Georgia, appointed by the Governor of Georgia to serve 24 hours, Nov. 21-22, 1922.

Mrs. Rose Long, Louisiana, appointed Feb., 1936 to fill the unexpired term of her husband, Huey Long.


Mrs. Hattie Caraway, Arkansas, appointed Nov., 1931, then elected Jan., 1932 to fill unexpired term of her late husband in the 72nd Congress. Re-elected 1932 and 1938.

REPUBLICANS

Miss Jeanette Rankin, Montana, elected Nov., 1916 as first woman member of Congress. Only woman to serve before adoption of Federal Suffrage Amendment. Elected again for one term in Nov., 1940.

Miss Alice Robertson, Oklahoma, elected to 67th Congress, 1921-23.

Mrs. Winifred Mason Huck, Illinois, elected Nov., 1922 to fill unexpired term of her late father, William E. Mason, in 67th Congress.

Mrs. Mae E. Nolan, California, elected to fill unexpired term of her late husband. Served 1923-25.

Mrs. Florence P. Kahn, California, elected Feb., 1925 to fill unexpired term of her late husband; re-elected five times.

Mrs. Katherine Langley, Kentucky, elected Nov., 1926 to 70th Congress; re-elected to 71st.

Mrs. Ruth Baker Pratt, New York, elected Nov., 1928 to 71st Congress; re-elected to 72nd.


Mrs. Marian W. Clarke, New York, elected Dec., 1933 to fill the unexpired term of her late husband.

Miss Jessie Sumner, Illinois, elected Nov., 1938 to 76th Congress; re-elected three times.

Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce, Connecticut, elected Nov., 1942 to 78th Congress; re-elected in 1944.

Miss Winifred C. Stanley, New York, elected Nov., 1942 to 78th Congress.

Miss Ruth Thompson, Michigan, elected Nov., 1950 to 82nd Congress; re-elected twice.

Mrs. Elizabeth Farrington, Delegate from Hawaii, elected July 31, 1954 to succeed her late husband in the 83rd Congress; re-elected once.

Mrs. Cecil Murray Harden, Indiana, elected to 81st Congress Nov., 1948; re-elected four times.
DEMOCRATS

Mrs. Mary T. Norton, New Jersey, elected Nov., 1924; re-elected 12 times.

Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, Florida, elected Nov., 1928 to 71st Congress. 

Mrs. Pearl Oldfield, Arkansas, at special election Jan. 9, 1929, 

elected to 70th Congress to fill unexpired term (expiring 

March, 1929) of her late husband, and also on Jan. 9, 

1929, elected to 71st Congress, term expiring March, 1931. 

Mrs. Effigene Wingo, Arkansas, elected Nov., 1930 to fill unexpired 

term of her late husband in 71st Congress; re-elected. 

Mrs. Willa Black Eslick, Tennessee, elected Nov., 1932, to fill 

unexpired term of her late husband in 72nd Congress. 

Mrs. Virginia Ellis Jenckes, Indiana, elected Nov., 1932; re-elected 

twice. 

Mrs. Kathryn O'Loughlin McCarthy, Kansas, elected Nov., 1932 to 

73rd Congress. 

Mrs. Isabella Greenway King, Arizona, elected October, 1933 to fill 

vacancy caused by resignation of Lewis W. Douglas; re-

elected. 

Mrs. Caroline O'Day, New York, elected Nov., 1934; re-elected 

three times. 

Mrs. Nan Honeyman, Oregon, elected Nov., 1936 to 75th Congress. 

Mrs. Bessie H. Gasque, South Carolina, elected Sept., 1938 to fill 

unexpired term of her late husband in 76th Congress. 

Mrs. Thomas S. McMillan, South Carolina, elected Sept., 1938 to 

fill unexpired term of her late husband in 76th Congress. 

Mrs. Florence Gibbs, Georgia, elected Oct. 1, 1940 to fill unexpired 

term of her late husband in 76th Congress. 

Mrs. Katherine Edgar Byron, Maryland, elected May 27, 1941, to 

fill unexpired term of her late husband in the 77th Congress. 

Mrs. Veronica Boland, Pennsylvania, elected Nov. 3, 1942, to fill 

the unexpired term of her late husband in the 78th Congress. 

Mrs. Helen Cahagan Douglas, California, elected Nov., 1944 to 79th 

Congress; re-elected twice. 

Mrs. Chase Going Woodhouse, Connecticut, elected Nov. 7, 1944, to 

79th Congress and in Nov., 1948 elected to 81st Congress. 

Mrs. Hampton Pitts Fulmer, South Carolina, elected Nov., 1944, to 

fill out unexpired term of her late husband in 78th Congress.
Mrs. Emily Taft Douglas, Illinois, elected Nov., 1944 to 79th Congress.

Mrs. Helen Douglas Mankin, Georgia, elected Feb. 11, 1946 to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Robert Ramspeck in 79th Congress.

Miss Jane Pratt, North Carolina, elected in special election May 25, 1946, to fill a vacancy in 79th Congress.

Mrs. Georgia L. Lusk, New Mexico, elected Nov., 1946 to 80th Congress.

Mrs. Reva Beck Bosone, Utah, elected Nov., 1948 to 81st Congress; re-elected once.

Mrs. Vera Buchanan, Pennsylvania, elected July, 1951, to 82nd Congress to fill unexpired term of her late husband, died Nov. 26, 1955.

Mrs. Coya Knutson, Minnesota, elected Nov., 1954 to 84th Congress; re-elected once.