

THE U.S. SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE



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History of the Committee

The appropriating power of Congress rests upon the authority conferred by Article 1, section 9, of the U.S. Constitution: “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

The Founding Fathers placed ultimate control over funds in the hands of those who were directly responsible to the people. James Madison wrote, “This power over the purse may, in fact, be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people, for obtaining a redress of every grievance, and for carrying into effect every just and salutary measure.”

From the Senate’s earliest years through the end of the Civil War, the Senate Finance Committee handled most appropriations, but it did so without system or discipline. The Civil War vastly expanded and complicated federal spending. The lack of centralized control in the Senate, tolerable in an earlier era, worked to the Senate’s disadvantage in its relations with the executive branch. No less than the power of the purse was at stake.

To reform the appropriations process, the Senate on March 6, 1867 created a separate Committee on Appropriations. This seven-member panel rapidly became a Senate powerhouse. Today the committee is composed of 30 members, making it the largest committee of the Senate. With the assistance of 12 subcommittees, it is responsible for allocating more than a trillion dollars in federal funds among various government programs, agencies, and departments.

Chairman of the Committee



Daniel K. Inouye
(D-HI)
Chairman 2009–Present

Senator Daniel K. Inouye has served on the Appropriations Committee since 1971. He was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 7, 1924. At the age of 18, eager to join the U.S. military effort in World War II, he left his studies as a pre-med student to enlist in the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Composed of soldiers of Japanese ancestry, the 442nd subsequently became the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. For his combat heroism, which cost him his right arm, Senator Inouye was awarded many medals including the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with Cluster, and twelve others. After graduating from the University of Hawaii and the George Washington University Law School, Senator Inouye entered political life. He has represented Hawaii in Congress since that state joined the Union in 1959. Elected to the Senate in 1962, he gained

national distinction in the 1970s as a member of the Senate Watergate Committee and, in 1987, as chairman of the Senate Iran-Contra Committee. He previously chaired the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Indian Affairs, and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and served in the leadership as Secretary of the Democratic Conference from 1979 through 1988.

Recent Chairmen of the Committee



Robert Carlyle Byrd
(D-WV)
Chairman 2007–2009
2001–2003 and
1989–1995

Robert C. Byrd is the longest-serving member of the U.S. Senate and the Appropriations Committee;

he joined the panel at the start of his Senate service in 1959. Byrd was born in North Carolina on November 20, 1917. He attended Beckley College, Concord College, Morris Harvey College, and Marshall College, all in West Virginia, and George Washington University Law School. He graduated from American University Law School, cum laude, in 1963, and from Marshall University, summa cum laude, in 1994. During World War II, Byrd worked as a welder building naval ships in Baltimore, Maryland, and Tampa, Florida. After the war he was elected to the West Virginia house of delegates and to the state senate, and in 1952 he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served for three terms until his election to the U.S. Senate in 1958. In the Senate, Byrd has held all major leadership positions, including secretary of the Democratic Conference, majority whip, majority leader, minority leader, and president pro tempore.



Thad Cochran
(R-MS)
Chairman 2005–2007

Thad Cochran was born in Pontotoc, Mississippi, on December 7, 1937, and later attended the University of Mississippi where he earned a B.A.

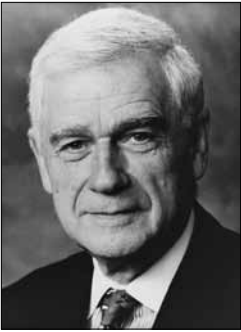
degree and a Juris Doctor degree. He also studied international law and jurisprudence at Trinity College, University of Dublin, Ireland, and served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Admitted to the Mississippi bar in 1965, he practiced law until his election in 1972 to the U.S. House of Representatives. After serving three terms in the House, Cochran won election to the Senate where he has served since 1978. Cochran joined the Appropriations Committee in 1981.



Ted Stevens
(R-AK)
Chairman 2003–2005
and 1997–2001

Ted Stevens was a member of the committee for more than 35 years. He was born in Indiana on November 18,

1923. During World War II, his service as a pilot in the China-Burma-India theater won him many combat decorations. Following the war, Stevens graduated from UCLA and Harvard Law School, and practiced law in Washington, D.C. In the early 1950s, he moved to Alaska, at that time a territory of the United States. He practiced law in Fairbanks and later was appointed U.S. attorney in Fairbanks. After a series of government posts, Stevens was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served from 1968 to 2009.



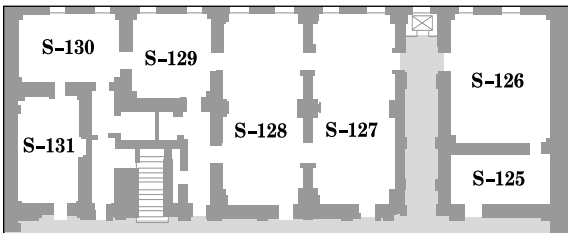
**Mark Odom Hatfield
(R-OR)**

Chairman 1995–1997 and
1981–1987

Born in Oregon on July 12, 1922, Mark Hatfield earned his undergraduate degree from Willamette University in 1943 and a graduate degree from Stanford University in 1948. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was one of the first U.S. military personnel to enter Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. In the 1950s, Hatfield was a college professor, and served as a state representative, state senator, secretary of state, and governor of Oregon. He began his 30-year U.S. Senate career in 1967 and joined the Appropriations Committee in 1972. He retired from the Senate in 1997.

History of the Committee Rooms

The Senate Appropriations Committee’s suite of offices is perhaps the most elegant of all Senate or House committee quarters. The seven rooms span the west side of the first floor in the Senate wing of the U.S. Capitol; the wing was built in the 1850s to accommodate the growing legislature. In 1911 the Appropriations Committee moved from second floor quarters into these rooms, first occupying



Floor plan of Appropriations Committee Suite

rooms S-127, 128, and 129, and eventually expanding into adjacent rooms S-125, 126, 130, and 131.



Constantino Brumidi, ca. 1866

Much of the mural painting in the suite is the work of artist Constantino Brumidi, who had experience as a fresco painter in Rome. Brumidi prepared designs, supervised the decoration, and painted murals in many parts of the Capitol from 1855 until his death in 1880. While trained

in the Renaissance tradition of Michelangelo and Raphael, Brumidi integrated national themes into his classical repertoire, making the images in the Capitol uniquely American. His designs also reflected the use of the room, as can be seen throughout the Appropriations suite.



Room S-127 when used by the Senate Committee on the Philippines, ca. 1900



Brumidi was inspired by these murals excavated at Pompeii in painting room S-127

S-127. The main committee room was first occupied by the Committee on Naval Affairs, and the art reflects a naval theme. The decoration is in a style derived from ancient Roman wall paintings in the Baths of Titus and the excavations of Pompeii. As originally designed by Brumidi, the walls were to be filled with depictions of U.S. naval battles in illusionistic porticoes. Because of dissatisfaction with the artists who were to have carried out the work, only one scene was completed. The highly ornate ceiling as executed by Brumidi and his assistants is painted in fresco and tempera. Seven Roman gods and goddesses of the sea, together with America in the form of a Native American woman, dominate the room. Interspersed throughout are scenes of mermaids, centaurs, eagles, Native Americans, and settlers. The walls depict classical maidens in flowing robes with various naval instruments. Other original details in the room include the marble mantel, gilded mirror, and wooden shutters. The central chandelier, originally gas-burning and purchased in 1873 for the White House, was later acquired for the Capitol and modified for electricity. The room's other dominant features

include a rich red carpet in a pattern studded with gold stars, and a 31-foot conference table at which each committee member has a designated place.

S-128. A fresco entitled *Bellona, the Roman Goddess of War* is located over the main entrance to the suite, reflecting the room's original use by the Committee on Military Affairs.

The room itself was decorated over a 15-year period by Brumidi and English artist James Leslie; Brumidi painted the lunettes with Revolutionary War scenes—*The Boston Massacre, 1770*; *The Battle of Lexington (1775)*; *Death of General Wooster, 1777*; *Washington at Valley Forge, 1778*; and *Storming of Stony Point, 1779*—while Leslie painted the pilasters with elaborate military arms representing different historical periods. The ornate gilded valances and mirror over the marble mantel are also decorated with military accouterments. In a eulogy to Brumidi, shortly after his death, Senator Daniel Voorhees of Indiana praised the decorations and reflected: “Who ever passed through the room of the Committee on Military Affairs without the feeling that the very genius of heroism had left there its immortal aspirations?”



Room S-128 when used by the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, ca. 1900



The Battle of Lexington, S-128

The elaborate floor tiles were manufactured by Minton, Hollins and Company of Stoke-Upon-Trent, England. Despite nearly 150 years of service, the tiles remain in excellent condition due to a unique “encaustic” tile-making process that used layers of colored clay embedded in a neutral clay base to enhance color and durability.

S-129. The smaller room to the south of S-128 was assigned to the Committee on the Library at the time Brumidi painted the ceiling frescoes in 1875. The frescoes show allegorical figures of science, architecture, sculpture, and painting. After the ceiling was completed, the walls of the room remained undecorated for many years. It was not until 1910 that Carl Rakemann, whose father had worked with Brumidi, completed the decoration of the room. Since the room was used by the Military Affairs Committee at the time he worked on it, Rakemann chose a motif in keeping with the adjoining reception room, painting the four lunettes with portraits of outstanding Revolutionary War generals and historic flags. George Washington, Joseph Warren, Anthony Wayne and Horatio Gates are depicted in each of the rooms four lunettes.

S-125, 126, 130, 131. Four less elaborately decorated rooms complete the committee’s suite. These include S-125 and 126, both used for decades by the Committee on the Judiciary before being transferred to Appropriations in 1947. Rooms S-130



Authority Consults the Written Law, a fresco over the door to S-131

and 131 were once assigned to the Senate majority leader. A lunette over the door into S-131 depicts the fresco, *Authority Consults the Written Law*, designed by Brumidi for the Committee on Revision of the Laws, which occupied the room at the time. In September 1996 the Senate designated S-131 as the “Mark Hatfield Room,” in honor of the former committee chairman.

* From January 3 to January 20, 2001, with the Senate divided evenly between the two parties, the Democrats held the majority due to the deciding vote of outgoing Democratic Vice President Al Gore. Beginning on January 20, 2001, Republican Vice President Richard Cheney held the deciding vote, giving the majority to the Republicans. On May 24, 2001, Senator James Jeffords of Vermont announced his switch from Republican to Independent status, effective June 6, 2001. Jeffords announced that he would caucus with the Democrats, giving the Democrats a one-seat advantage, changing control of the Senate from the Republicans back to the Democrats for the remainder of the 107th Congress.

Chairmen of the Committee

Name	Party/State	Dates of Service
Lot Morrill	(R-ME)	1867-1869
William Pitt Fessenden	(R-ME)	1869
Lot Morrill	(R-ME)	1869-1871
Cornelius Cole	(R-CA)	1871-1873
Lot Morrill	(R-ME)	1873-1876
William Windom	(R-MN)	1876-1879
Henry Davis	(D-WV)	1879-1881
William Allison	(R-IA)	1881-1893
Francis Cockrell	(D-MO)	1893-1895
William Allison	(R-IA)	1896-1908
Eugene Hale	(R-ME)	1909-1911
Francis E. Warren	(R-WY)	1911-1913
Thomas S. Martin	(D-VA)	1913-1919
Francis E. Warren	(R-WY)	1919-1929
Wesley L. Jones	(R-WA)	1930-1932
Frederick Hale	(R-ME)	1932-1933
Carter Glass	(D-VA)	1933-1946
Kenneth McKellar	(D-TN)	1946-1947
Styles Bridges	(R-NH)	1947-1949
Kenneth McKellar	(D-TN)	1949-1953
Styles Bridges	(R-NH)	1953-1955
Carl Hayden	(D-AZ)	1955-1969
Richard B. Russell	(D-GA)	1969-1971
Allen J. Ellender	(D-LA)	1971-1972
John L. McClellan	(D-AR)	1972-1977
Warren G. Magnuson	(D-WA)	1978-1981
Mark O. Hatfield	(R-OR)	1981-1987
John C. Stennis	(D-MS)	1987-1989
Robert C. Byrd	(D-WV)	1989-1995
Mark O. Hatfield	(R-OR)	1995-1997
Ted Stevens	(R-AK)	1997-2001*
Robert C. Byrd	(D-WV)	1/3 to 1/20/2001*
Ted Stevens	(R-AK)	1/20 to 6/6/2001*
Robert C. Byrd	(D-WV)	6/6/2001-2003
Ted Stevens	(R-AK)	2003-2005
Thad Cochran	(R-MS)	2005-2007
Robert C. Byrd	(D-WV)	2007-2009
Daniel K. Inouye	(D-HI)	2009-Present

On the cover: Senate Appropriations Committee hearing room, S-127, courtesy Architect of the Capitol

The Ixion Room, Pompeii, © Alinari/Art Resource, NY

The Battle of Lexington, Authority Consults the Written Law, and historic views of rooms S-127 and S-128, courtesy Architect of the Capitol

Constantino Brumidi, courtesy Library of Congress

Senators' images, courtesy Senate Historical Office

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