

*The United States Senate Commission on Art
welcomes you to the unveiling of the
Leadership Portrait of*

Trent Lott



*Old Senate Chamber
United States Capitol
Wednesday, the sixteenth of September
Two thousand and nine*

Program

Welcome

SENATOR HARRY REID

Reminiscences

SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

Remarks

SENATOR TRENT LOTT

Closing

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL

Unveiling of the Portrait

CHESTER TRENT LOTT, JR.

TYLER ELIZABETH LOTT ARMSTRONG

CHESTER TRENT LOTT III

LUCIE SIMS LOTT

SHIELDS ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG

ADDISON STATES ARMSTRONG



Trent Lott

It is often said that a great institution like the Senate of the United States has a life of its own. I disagree. For all its grandeur and for all its continuity, the life of this institution is nothing more than the interwoven lives of those who serve here. Their lives are what ennoble this place; their shortcomings are what humanize this place.

—Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, September 15, 1998

Senator Trent Lott concluded his 35-year congressional career in December 2007. On that occasion, the Senate saluted his “warmth, decency, and devotion to the people of Mississippi and the country” and “his legendary skill at working cooperatively with people from all political parties and ideologies.”

Chester Trent Lott was born on October 9, 1941, in Grenada, Mississippi, the son of a shipyard worker and school teacher. He moved with his parents to the Gulf Coast ship-building city of Pascagoula and subsequently earned his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Mississippi in 1963 and 1967. From 1968 to 1972, he served as administrative assistant to U.S. Representative William Colmer, whom he succeeded in 1973. Widely popular in Mississippi’s Fifth Congressional District, Representative Lott won eight successive terms with majorities customarily ranging from 73 to 100 percent. In the House, he served as Republican whip from 1981 to 1989, the first member from the Deep South to hold that post.

In 1988 Trent Lott won the first of his four Senate terms. Republicans elected him their Conference secretary in 1993 and in 1995 elevated him to the post of party whip. When Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole resigned in 1996, Senate Republicans overwhelmingly elected Senator Lott as his successor. The 16th majority leader in Senate history, Trent Lott served as his party’s floor leader until 2003. In 2006 he won election as Senate Republican whip for the second time in his career. He is the only member in the 220-year history of Congress to hold this position in both the House and Senate.

Senator Lott is married to Patricia (Tricia) Thompson Lott, his college sweetheart. They have two children—Chester Trent Lott, Jr. and Tyler Lott Armstrong—and four grandchildren, Chester Trent Lott III, Lucie Sims Lott, Shields Elizabeth Armstrong, and Addison States Armstrong.



Trent Lott

BY STEVEN POLSON
OIL ON CANVAS, 2009

About the Artist

Steven Polson has spent his 25-year career pursuing his passion for drawing and portraiture. At age 16 he began formal study at the Art Students' League in New York City, going on to receive a Fine Arts degree in 1984 from the Cooper Union for the Advancement for Science and Art. He has won recognition for his painting, including the prestigious Allied Artists of America Gold Medal of Honor.

Polson's portraiture is steeped in the traditions of the Old Masters, whom he greatly admires. He employs classical compositions and palettes to capture the character of each sitter.

Portraits recently completed by the artist include those of Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell for the State Department, as well as the official portrait of Donald Rumsfeld for the Department of Defense. In 2004 the Senate commissioned Polson to paint a posthumous portrait of Robert F. Wagner for the Senate Reception Room in the Capitol. Presently, Polson teaches at the Grand Central Academy in New York City and has instructed at the renowned Pratt Institute and Art Students' League.

The artist lives in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, with his wife, Lori, and their two children, Benjamin and Jessie.

United States Senate Commission on Art

THE HONORABLE HARRY REID

Chairman

THE HONORABLE MITCH McCONNELL

Vice Chairman

THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. BYRD

THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. SCHUMER

THE HONORABLE ROBERT F. BENNETT

THE HONORABLE NANCY ERICKSON

Executive Secretary

DIANE K. SKVARLA

Curator

