

## MEMORIAL or FUNERAL SERVICES in the CAPITOL ROTUNDA

In the absence of law or written rule, when the Congress is in session, use of the Rotunda is controlled by Senate-House concurrent resolution. Since 1865, most services have used the catafalque constructed for the coffin of Abraham Lincoln. In the case of the Unknowns of World War II and the Korean War, an additional catafalque was built with the coffin of each at some point resting on the Lincoln catafalque. (The Lincoln catafalque was not used for the two Capitol Police officers in 1998.)

The Lincoln catafalque, which is a bier constructed of pine boards covered with fabric, was also used in 1873 in the Senate chamber for the services of Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase and in 1875 in the House chamber for Congressman Samuel Hooper. It was used in 1993 for Thurgood Marshall and in 1995 for Warren Burger, both at the Supreme Court; in 1996 it was used for Ron Brown, at the Commerce Department.

Of the thirty-one people who have lain in the Capitol Rotunda, eleven have served as senator at some point in their career (indicated by an asterisk). (Since two of the services honored two individuals, there have been a total of twenty-nine services.)

(\* Senator    # Open casket)

<u>Honoree</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Office at time of death (or for which best known)</u>
*#Henry Clay	July 1, 1852	Senator - (W-KY)
#Abraham Lincoln	April 19-21, 1865	President
#Thaddeus Stevens	August 13-14, 1868	Representative (W-PA)
*#Charles Sumner	March 13, 1874	Senator (R-MA)
*#Henry Wilson	Nov. 25-26, 1875	Vice President (Senator, 1855-1873)
#James A. Garfield	Sept. 21-23, 1881	President
*#John A. Logan	Dec. 30-31, 1886	Senator (R-IL)
#William McKinley	September 17, 1901	President
Pierre Charles L'Enfant (reinterment)	April 28, 1909	(Planner of the city of Washington, DC.)
George Dewey	January 20, 1917	(Admiral of the Navy of the

<u>Honoree</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Office at time of death (or for which best known)</u>
Unknown Soldier of World War I	November 9-11, 1921	United States)
*#Warren G. Harding	August 8, 1923	President (Senator, 1915-1921)
#William Howard Taft	March 11, 1930	Chief Justice of the U.S. (President, 1909-1913)
#John Joseph Pershing	July 18-19, 1948	(General of the Armies of the United States)
*Robert A. Taft	August 2-3, 1953	Senator (R-OH)
Unknown Soldiers of World War II and the Korean War (2)	May 28-30, 1958	
*John F. Kennedy	November 24-25, 1963	President (Senator, 1953-1960)
#Douglas MacArthur	April 8-9, 1964	(General of the Army of the United States)
Herbert Hoover	October 23-25, 1964	(President, 1929-1933)
Dwight D. Eisenhower	March 30-31, 1969	(President, 1953-1961)
*Everett McKinley Dirksen	September 9-10, 1969	Senator (R-IL)
J. Edgar Hoover	May 3-4, 1972	Director, FBI
*Lyndon Baines Johnson	January 24-25, 1973	(President, 1963-1969) (Vice President, 1961-1963) (Senator, 1949-1961)
*Hubert H. Humphrey	January 14-15, 1978	Senator (D-MN) (Vice President, 1965-1969)
Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam Conflict	May 25-28, 1984	
*#Claude Pepper	June 1-2, 1989	Representative (D-FL)

<u>Honoree</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Office at time of death (or for which best known)</u>
		(Senator, 1936-1951)
Jacob J. Chestnut John Gibson <sup>1</sup>	July 28, 1998	Capitol Police Officer Capitol Police Special Agent
Ronald Wilson Reagan	June 9-11, 2004	(President, 1981-1989)
Rosa Parks <sup>2</sup>	October 30-31, 2005	(Civil Rights Activist)
Gerald R. Ford	December 30, 2006- January 2, 2007	(President, 1974-1977)

**Source:** Architect of the Capitol

**Senate Historical Office  
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<sup>1</sup>Lay in honor, rather than lay in state.

<sup>2</sup>Lay in honor, the first women to be so honored in the U.S. Capitol.