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1953

WOMEN MEMBERS

OF THE

83D CONGRESS

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WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS
1917 - 1953

<u>Congress</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Total</u>
83d	1	11	12
82d	1	10	11
81st	1	9	10
80th	-	8	8
79th	-	10	10
78th	1	8	9
77th	1	9	10
76th	1	8	9
75th	3	6	9
74th	2	6	8
73d	1	7	8
72d	1	7	8
71st	-	9	9
70th	-	5	5
69th	-	3	3
68th	-	1	1
67th	1	3	4
66th	-	-	-
65th	-	1	1

April 1953

Senator Smith (R) of Maine

Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, Republican of Maine, for nearly 9 years a member of the House of Representatives from Maine's Second District, became on September 13, 1948, the first Republican woman elected to a full term in the United States Senate and the only woman elected to a full 6-year term without first being appointed.

Born in Skowhegan, Maine, Mrs. Smith was successively a teacher, an executive for the Maine Telephone and Telegraph Company, treasurer of a waste process company, and executive for a woolen company. Her political life began in 1930, when she married Clyde H. Smith, a former State Senator. She became active in State politics and during her husband's subsequent service in the House of Representatives, acted as his assistant. At his death in 1940, she was elected to fill his unexpired term and has been elected to every Congress since that time.

While in the House of Representatives, Mrs. Smith became the first woman member of the important Armed Services Committee and, as chairman of its Medical Subcommittee, was the first Member of Congress to achieve unification of legislation requested by the Army and Navy. She also was a member of the Naval Affairs Committee and, with a subcommittee, made a 25,000-mile inspection tour of the Pacific war theater. She also served on the Naval Affairs Subcommittee on Congested Areas, the only Congressional committee ever to draw the official commendation of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In the 1948 primary in Maine, Mrs. Smith polled, as a Senatorial candidate, a majority vote over three opponents and had twice as many votes as her major opponent. In the general election, she won by the highest plurality and percentage in the history of Maine. In the 82d Congress she was a member of the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments and the Committee on Rules and Administration. Her committees in the 83d Congress are (1) Appropriations; (2) Armed Services; (3) Government Operations; and (4) Republican Policy. She is chairman of the Senate Reorganization Subcommittee.

The Women's National Press Club gave Mrs. Smith their Politics Achievement Award for 1948. The Associated Press named her the 1948 "Woman of the Year" and in 1949 and 1950 "Woman of the Year in Politics." Honorary degrees have been conferred upon her by Colby College, Wilson College, Coe College, Alabama College, the University of Maine, Smith College, Syracuse University, and Bowdoin College.

Though she is a champion for women, Mrs. Smith is not a feminist. She believes that "a woman's viewpoint should be objective and free of any emphasis on feminine interests." She thinks, however, that more women should qualify for public office, as responsibility for good Government rests equally on men and women. As a word of encouragement, she says: "We can't all be Members of Congress and the Senate but there must be good people working all down the line . . . America has been made great, not from Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, but from Main Streets in our villages."

Representative Rogers (R) of Massachusetts

Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, Republican from the Fifth District of Massachusetts, has been a Member of Congress since 1925, when she was elected to the House of Representatives to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, John Jacob Rogers. Mr. Rogers served in the House from 1913 until his death.

Born in Saco, Me., Mrs. Rogers was educated at Rogers Hall School in Lowell, Mass., and at Madame Julien's School in Paris. She has received honorary degrees from Tufts College, Bates College, Staley College, and Washington College of Law.

Long identified with affairs pertaining to the American war veteran, Mrs. Rogers is chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, a post she also held in the 80th Congress. Her especial interest in the welfare of veterans dates back to the First World War, when she served in France and England under a Presidential assignment relating to the inspection of soldiers hospitals and to a survey of the hospital and medical care of wounded American soldiers. During the same period, she also served in France with the YMCA and the American Red Cross, and with the latter organization at the Army's National Hospital (Walter Reed Hospital) in Washington.

In recognition of her work for the welfare of veterans, President Harding in 1922 appointed Mrs. Rogers as his personal representative in charge of the hospitalization and care for disabled veterans throughout the entire country. She was reappointed to this position by President Coolidge in 1923 and by President Hoover in 1929. During World War II, Mrs. Rogers again served overseas, under special assignment of President Roosevelt.

Active also in other important fields, Mrs. Rogers for many years was ranking Republican member on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and on the Civil Service Committee.

Significant legislation attributed to Mrs. Rogers includes the improvement of the American Foreign Service; the establishment of the Women's Army Corps (WAC); the enactment of the G.I. Bill of Rights; the enactment of the bill for Korean Veterans' Benefits; establishment of a permanent Nurse Corps for Veterans; and other laws providing aid and assistance to permanently disabled American war veterans.

Mrs. Rogers is "Dean" of women now serving in the Congress in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, having held national public office longer than any other woman in public life in the United States.

Representative Bolton (R) of Ohio

Mrs. Frances P. Bolton, Republican from the Twenty-Second District of Ohio (parts of Cleveland and suburbs), has been a member of Congress for more than 12 years. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1940 to fill the unexpired term of her husband, Chester Castle Bolton, she has served continuously since that time.

Noted for her early service on the Committees on Indian Affairs and on Expenditures in the Executive Department, Mrs. Bolton in the present Congress is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on which she has served for more than 12 years. As chairman in 1946 of its Subcommittee on National and International Movements, she was the first woman Member of Congress to head an official mission abroad. Her supervision of the work of this subcommittee in the preparation of the report, "The Strategy and Tactics of World Communism," was a contribution which has received widespread recognition.

Active in both public health and nursing education for many years, Mrs. Bolton was made an honorary member of the alumni of the Army School of Nursing because of the part she played in its establishment during the First World War period. Her endowment of the School of Nursing of Western Reserve University in her home city of Cleveland also was incident to many years of active participation in the building of the school.

During World War II, she introduced the measure (the Bolton Act) which later resulted in the creation of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps and, prior to the creation of the Corps, was instrumental in securing funds to increase the teaching capacity of many schools of nursing. During the 82d Congress, Mrs. Bolton introduced a bill for Federal aid to nursing education on a long-range basis, writing the bill to fill needs which became apparent during World War II and critical after the outbreak of hostilities in Korea.

During her service in the Congress, Mrs. Bolton has introduced, sponsored, and advanced through the House of Representatives many other measures having to do with social, hygienic, educational, and industrial statutes looking to the betterment of women and minors. Prominent among such measures have been a bill to establish a national housing objective for the construction of low-rent public housing units (Public Law No. 171 of the 81st Congress) and a bill to make it unlawful for parents to "black market" their children across State lines for the purpose of adoption.

Mrs. Bolton holds honorary degrees in law from Colgate University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Kenyon College, and the College of Wooster. She also has received degrees in humanities from Western Reserve University and from Baldwin-Wallace College. Among the recent awards given to Mrs. Bolton was the "William Freeman Snow Award" for Distinguished Service to Humanity, a recognition she received in 1949. In 1951, she was honored by the National League of Nursing Education, the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, and Women for Achievement, Inc.

Mrs. Bolton is the mother of three sons, one of whom is Oliver Payne Bolton, freshman Congressman in the present session.

Representative St. George (R) of New York

Mrs. Katharine St. George, Republican from the Twenty-Eighth District of New York (southeastern section, including suburbs of New York City), is beginning her fourth consecutive term in the House of Representatives, having been first elected in November 1946 to the 80th Congress. She was born in England, where her father was European editor of Forum magazine. Since the age of 18, however, she has lived in Tuxedo, N. Y. Married to George Baker St. George in 1917, she has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Mrs. St. George's interest in politics is of long standing. She participated in local government affairs, serving on her town board and board of education for a number of years. She was one of the first women to be elected chairman of a Republican County Committee in New York State.

Among her other activities are those of: Former president of the Tuxedo Republican Club and of the Orange County Federation of Women's Republican Clubs; former member of the Council of New York State Republican Women, Inc.; delegate from Orange County to the 1944 Republican National Convention; member of the New York State Agricultural Society and the Orange County Home Bureau; member of the Newburgh Chamber of Commerce; and chairman and officer of the Tuxedo Chapter of the American Red Cross. During World War II she was a representative of the WAC recruitment program and a member of the board of governors of the New York Military Service Club.

Mrs. St. George is now a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee and of the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives.

Representative Harden (R) of Indiana

Mrs. Cecil Murray Harden, Republican from the Sixth District of Indiana (west central section, including Terre Haute and Covington), first elected to the 81st Congress, was re-elected to the 82d and 83d Congresses. Born in Covington, Indiana, she attended public schools in Covington and, later, Indiana University. Until her marriage to Frost R. Harden in 1914, she taught in Troy township and Covington public schools.

Mrs. Harden has been active in Republican party work since 1932, when she was elected a precinct vice-committeewoman. For 12 years she served as county vice-chairman for Fountain County, a congressional district vice-chairman, and a member of the State Central Committee. Elected a Republican National Committeewoman for Indiana in 1944, her party responsibilities have continuously increased, and in 1948 she was a member of the Arrangements Committee for the Republican National Convention and also a delegate-at-large from Indiana. She was re-elected National Committeewoman in 1952 and served as delegate-at-large for Indiana at the Republican National Convention. During the convention she made one of the seconding speeches for Vice President Richard M. Nixon and also made a regular address to the convention. She was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee in September 1952.

During the 81st Congress, Mrs. Harden served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. She transferred to the Government Operations Committee during the 82d Congress and now serves as chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee. She also is a member of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Active in local, civic, and national organizations, Mrs. Harden is a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, and belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution, Order of the Eastern Star, Kappa Kappa Kappa sorority, the Indiana Federation of Women's Clubs, and the American Legion Auxiliary. She is a member of the Covington Presbyterian Church.

The Hardens have one son, Dr. Murray E. Harden, who with his wife and three children lives in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Representative Kelly (D) of New York

Mrs. Edna F. Kelly, Democrat from the Tenth District of New York, was elected to the House of Representatives on November 8, 1949, the first woman elected to Congress from the New York City district on the Democratic ticket. She was re-elected to the 82d and 83d Congresses. Mrs. Kelly is the widow of Edward L. Kelly, City Court Justice.

A graduate of Hunter College, Mrs. Kelly was research director for Democratic members of the New York State Legislature in Albany from 1942 to 1949. Over a period of years, she also has been active in Red Cross work, cancer research, Catholic charities, Brooklyn day nurseries, child guidance work, and aid to the blind.

Mrs. Kelly's platform in first campaigning for Congress stressed full support of the United Nations program to maintain world peace, support of the Marshall Plan and Atlantic Pact, support of the civil rights program, aid to Israel, Federal aid to education, extension and broadening of Social Security, more Federal low-cost housing and slum clearance, support of legislation granting admission to the United States of at least 400,000 displaced persons, opposition to the Taft-Hartley Law and "all other legislation inimical to labor," reform and repeal of wartime excise taxes. She has sponsored legislation to provide for equal pay for equal work for women and a bill to allow certain tax deductions by widows and widowers who must employ household help to care for minor children.

Mrs. Kelly has two children—William E. Kelly, an Ensign in the U. S. Coast Guard, and a daughter Maura Patricia, who is a student of Marymount College.

In the 83d Congress, as in the preceding Congress, Mrs. Kelly is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Representative Church (R) of Illinois

Mrs. Marguerite Stitt Church, Republican from the Thirteenth District of Illinois, is serving her second term in Congress. She was the active teammate in political campaigns and legislative programs of her husband, the late Congressman Ralph E. Church, during his 16 years in the Illinois State Legislature and 14 years in the United States Congress.

During her first term in the House of Representatives, Mrs. Church was a member of the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments and of its Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization. In the present Congress, she is serving on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and also on her original committee, now called the Committee on Government Operations. On that committee she is a member of the Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization and also of the Subcommittee on Military Operations.

A member of many civic and welfare organizations, Mrs. Church has been especially active in those dealing with child welfare and education, in Washington, D. C., as well as in her home State.

Mrs. Church is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wellesley, where her major studies were in economics, psychology, and sociology, and she holds a master's degree in political science from Columbia University. She taught a year at Wellesley College and, prior to her marriage in 1918, served as consulting psychologist with the State Charities Aid Associates of New York City.

Mrs. Church has three children—two sons who were in service during World War II, and a daughter.

Representative Thompson (R) of Michigan

Miss Ruth Thompson, Republican from the Ninth District of Michigan, is serving her second term in the House of Representatives. In the present Congress, as was the case in the 82d, she is a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Long active in the public affairs of Michigan and in Whitehall, her birthplace, Miss Thompson for 2 years served as a member of the Michigan State Legislature. She was registrar of the probate court in Muskegon County for 18 years and judge of the same court for twelve years. Among other offices she held were the presidency of the Michigan Association of Probate Judges and the chairmanship of the Michigan State Prison Commission for Women. She also was a member of the Governor's Advisory Board.

Prior to becoming a member of the Congress in 1951, Miss Thompson had served as an attorney in several branches of the Executive Department of the Federal Government. During the World War II period, she was attached to the civilian personnel branch of the Adjutant General's Office of the War Department and served in Frankfurt, Germany, as well as in Washington. Earlier, she had performed legal work for the Social Security Board and the Department of Labor.

Miss Thompson is a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Muskegon and a former president of the Young Women's Christian Association. She is a member of the First Congregational Church in Muskegon.

Representative Kee (D) of West Virginia

Mrs. Elizabeth Kee, Democrat from the Fifth Congressional District of West Virginia, is the widow of the late Congressman John Kee, who was chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives at the time of his death on May 8, 1951. Mrs. Kee served the unexpired term of her husband and was re-elected to serve in the 83d Congress. She is a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The first woman to be elected to Congress from her State, Mrs. Kee has been active in Democratic politics since 1922 and served as her husband's administrative assistant during his long term of office. She also is known to West Virginians as the author of a weekly newspaper column and as the sponsor of radio programs over West Virginia networks.

Long interested in the work of the Red Cross and participant in many of its programs, Mrs. Kee also has been deeply concerned with the problems of the physically handicapped, for whom she established a library at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville, Va. She also is a vice regent of the Board of Regents of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation.

Mrs. Kee is a member of the American Newspaper Women's Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Congressional Club, English-Speaking Union, and the Women's National Democratic Club. She is especially active in organizations in the Episcopal Church.

She is the mother of two children, a daughter and a son.

Representative Buchanan (D) of Pennsylvania

Mrs. Vera Buchanan, Democrat of Pennsylvania, representing that State's Thirty-Third Congressional District, is the widow of the late Congressman Frank Buchanan, who was chairman of the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities. After her husband's death, Mrs. Buchanan won a special election on July 24, 1951, to become a Representative in the 82d Congress. She was re-elected to the 83d Congress in November 1952. Mrs. Buchanan is a member of the House Committee on Public Works.

Before she came to Washington as a Congressional wife, Mrs. Buchanan had spent all of her life in McKeesport, near Pittsburgh and in the heart of Pennsylvania's industrial section. Her husband, whom she married in McKeesport in 1929, began his political career there and served as mayor of McKeesport from 1941 until his election to Congress in 1945.

As the city's "First Lady," Mrs. Buchanan took an active part in civic affairs, serving on a number of committees and helping her husband in a civic as well as social capacity. She also worked closely with him while he served in Congress and was well equipped to campaign for the position left open by his death.

Mrs. Buchanan has twin daughters, both of whom are married, and two grandchildren.

Representative Pfost (D) of Idaho

Mrs. Gracie Pfost of Nampa, Democrat from the First District of Idaho, is the first woman to be elected to Congress from her State, and was the only Idaho Democrat elected to a major post in the 1952 campaign. In the primary, she defeated three men to win the nomination, receiving almost as many votes as all three together.

Her major campaign issues included vigorous support of the United Nations, the construction by the Federal Government of the Hell's Canyon Dam on the Snake River in Idaho, the stabilization of farm products, Federal aid to education, the extension of Social Security, and improved labor legislation.

She is a member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and of three of its subcommittees: Irrigation and Reclamation, Mines and Mining, and Public Lands.

Mrs. Pfost began her political career as Deputy County Clerk, Auditor and Recorder of Canyon County in 1929, an office she held for 9 years. She was elected County Treasurer in Canyon County in 1940, and served for 10 years. In 1950, she made her first race for Congress, losing by only 783 votes. In both of her political campaigns, she had the advice and counsel of her husband, John Walter Pfost, to whom she gives a generous amount of credit for her second-try success.

A delegate to the Democratic National Conventions in 1944, 1948, and 1952, she served as a member of the Platform and Resolutions Committee on each occasion.

During the past 2 years, Mrs. Pfost has owned and operated her own real estate firm. She is secretary of the Nampa Real Estate Board and a member of the Idaho Real Estate Board and the Chamber of Commerce of Nampa. Other outside activities include membership in the Soroptimist Club, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Idaho Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Gem Area Girl Scout Council.

Born in Boone County, Ark., Mrs. Pfost grew up on a farm in Boise Valley in Idaho. She was educated in Idaho public schools, and Links Business University in Boise. For several years after graduation, she was a chemist for a milk products company.

Representative Sullivan (D) of Missouri

Mrs. John B. Sullivan (Leonor K.), Democrat from the Third District of Missouri, is the first woman to be elected to the United States House of Representatives from that State. She won the nomination over seven opponents and the election over her Republican opponent by a two-to-one majority. Prior to becoming a member of the 83d Congress, Mrs. Sullivan had never held public office.

A native of St. Louis, Mrs. Sullivan is the widow of John Berchmans Sullivan, who was serving his fourth term in Congress at the time of his death on January 29, 1951. Mrs. Sullivan was her husband's administrative aide throughout his Congressional career and later, after his death, served in a similar capacity in the office of Representative Irving of her State.

Educated in public and private schools of St. Louis, Mrs. Sullivan attended Washington University at night, taking special training in vocational psychology. She taught business arithmetic and accounting and served as Director of the St. Louis Business Training School prior to her marriage in 1941.

Mrs. Sullivan is a member of the St. Louis League of Women Voters and of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Two of the projects in which Mrs. Sullivan will interest herself in this Congress, besides the normal work for her District, will be strengthening the Food and Drug Administration, so that a more effective job can be done to protect the consumers, and a study of Social Security, to provide assistance to the aged who are not now covered by the Act.

Mrs. Sullivan is a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee of the House of Representatives.