



# WikiLeaks Document Release

<http://wikileaks.org/wiki/CRS-RL34347>

February 2, 2009

Congressional Research Service

Report RL34347

*Members of Congress Who Die in Office: Historic and  
Current Practices*

R. Eric Petersen, Government and Finance Division; Jennifer Manning, Knowledge Services Group

September 12, 2008

**Abstract.** Since 1987, 45 Members of Congress - 37 Representatives, and eight Senators - have died in office. When a sitting Member dies, the House and Senate carry out a number of actions based on chamber rules, statutes, and longstanding practices. Some observances, such as adjourning briefly as a mark of respect to the deceased, appointing Member delegations to attend funerals of deceased colleagues, or paying the costs of a funeral from public funds, were initially observed in the earliest Congresses, or predate the national legislature established under the Constitution. It appears that contemporary congressional response to the death of a sitting Member is affected by a number of external factors including the following: circumstances of the Member's death, preferences of the deceased Member or the Member's family regarding funeral services, whether Congress is in session when the Member dies, pending congressional business at the time of the Member's death, and events external to Congress at the time.

WikiLeaks



# Members of Congress Who Die in Office: Historic and Current Practices

**R. Eric Petersen**

Analyst in American National Government

**Jennifer E. Manning**

Information Research Specialist

January 16, 2009

<http://wikileaks.org/wiki/CRS-RL34347>

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

RL34347

**CRS Report for Congress**

*Prepared for Members and Committees of Congress*

## Summary

Since 1973, 79 Members of Congress—67 Representatives, and 12 Senators—have died in office. When a sitting Member dies, the House and Senate carry out a number of actions based on chamber rules, statutes, and longstanding practices. Some observances, such as adjourning briefly as a mark of respect to the deceased, appointing Member delegations to attend funerals of deceased colleagues, or paying the costs of a funeral from public funds, were initially observed in the earliest Congresses, or predate the national legislature established under the Constitution. It appears that contemporary congressional response to the death of a sitting Member is affected by a number of external factors including the following: circumstances of the Member's death, preferences of the deceased Member or the Member's family regarding funeral services, whether Congress is in session when the Member dies, pending congressional business at the time of the Member's death, and events external to Congress at the time.

Congressional response to the death of a sitting Member could be characterized as a broad set of actions that are determined in detail at or around the time of the death, in response to a wide array of factors. Broadly, these actions fall into five categories, including announcement or acknowledgment on the House or Senate floor; consideration of resolutions of condolence; a funeral or other rites; issues related to the deceased Member's office, staff, and survivor benefits; and publication of memorials.

This report, which will be updated as events warrant, is one of several CRS products focusing on various aspects of congressional operations and administration. Others include CRS Report RL30064, *Congressional Salaries and Allowances*, by Ida A. Brudnick; CRS Report RL34619, *Use of the Capitol Rotunda and Capitol Grounds: Concurrent Resolutions, 101st to 110th Congress*, by Matthew Eric Glassman and Jacob R. Straus; and CRS Report RL34545, *Congressional Staff: Duties and Functions of Selected Positions*, by R. Eric Petersen.

## Contents

Background and Context .....	1
Floor Announcement or Acknowledgment of a Member’s Death.....	3
House Practice.....	3
Representatives-Elect.....	5
Senate Practice .....	6
Resolutions of Condolence.....	7
House Practice.....	7
Senate Practice .....	8
Funeral and Disposition of Remains .....	9
House Practice.....	10
Senate Practice .....	11
Deceased Member’s Office, Staff, and Survivor Benefits.....	12
House Practice.....	12
Senate Practice .....	13
Publication of Memorials .....	14
House Practice.....	14
Senate Practice .....	14

## Tables

Table 1. Members of the House Who Died in Office, and Resolutions of Condolence Adopted in the House and Senate, 1973-2008 .....	15
Table 2. Senators Who Died in Office, And Resolutions of Condolence Adopted in the Senate and House, 1978-2007.....	18

## Contacts

Author Contact Information .....	19
----------------------------------	----

<http://wikileaks.org/wiki/CRS-RL34347>

## Background and Context

Since 1987, 79 Members of Congress—67 Representatives and 12 Senators—have died in office. When a sitting Member dies, the House and Senate carry out a number of actions based on chamber rules, statutes, and longstanding practices. Some congressional practices related to the death of a sitting Member predate the national legislature established by the Constitution. On October 23, 1775, the Continental Congress, sitting in Philadelphia, was informed that Peyton Randolph, a Delegate from Virginia and president of the Continental Congress, “suddenly departed this life” the day before, and resolved that its members would “attend his funeral as mourners, with a crape round their left arm,” and “continue in Mourning for the space of one month.” A committee of three Delegates was appointed to “superintend the funeral” and the Reverend Jacob Duché, rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal and Christ Churches<sup>1</sup> was requested to “prepare a proper discourse to be delivered at the funeral.”<sup>2</sup>

During the First Congress (1789-1791), the first instances of the death of a sitting Senator and Representative occurred. Senator William Grayson of Virginia died on March 12, 1790. No direct mention of the event is recorded in the *Senate Journal* or the *Annals of Congress*.<sup>3</sup> On June 1, 1790, the House was informed of the death of Representative Theodorick Bland of Virginia. The House ordered the Virginia delegation to “be a committee to superintend the funeral, and that the House attend the same.” The next day, it was ordered that the House Members go into mourning for one month, “by the usual method of wearing crape around the left arm.”<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See University of Pennsylvania, “Penn in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century: Jacob Duché (1737-1798),” website at [http://www.archives.upenn.edu/histy/features/1700s/people/duche\\_jacob.html](http://www.archives.upenn.edu/histy/features/1700s/people/duche_jacob.html).

<sup>2</sup> Quotes taken from U.S. Continental Congress, *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, 34 vols. (Washington: GPO, 1905), vol. 3, pp. 302-303.

<sup>3</sup> An indirect mention of Senator Grayson’s demise occurred at the beginning of the third session of the First Congress on December 6, 1790. Senator John Walker was appointed to the seat held by Senator Grayson by the governor of Virginia and served in the Senate from March 31 to November 9, 1790 (taking his seat in the chamber on April 26), when Senator James Monroe was elected to the seat by the Virginia legislature. When Senator Walker took his seat on the first day of the third session, the *Journal* noted that he had come to the Senate in place of Senator Grayson. See *Senate Journal*, 1<sup>st</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., April 26, 1790 (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1820), p. 134; *Ibid.*, 1<sup>st</sup> Cong., 3<sup>rd</sup> sess., December 6, 1790, p. 215; and *Annals of the Congress of the United States*, vol. II, December 6, 1790 (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834), p. 1770. The absence of a record of direct official recognition of Senator Grayson’s death does not conclusively demonstrate that the Senate took no action. During the early years of the republic, substantially verbatim records of congressional proceedings were not required. Available records are limited, official minutes of measures considered and formal actions taken by the chamber in the *Journal* of each chamber. Moreover, the Senate, until 1794, met in secret. Accordingly, while it appears that the Senate adopted no resolution in response to Senator Grayson’s death, it cannot be determined whether individual Senators spoke on the matter, or whether the chamber marked the occasion with a moment of silence or other tribute. The first public, direct acknowledgment by the Senate of the death of one of its Members appears to have occurred on March 19, 1806, the day after the death of Senator James Jackson of Georgia. In response, the Senate adopted resolutions appointing a committee to superintend the funeral, attend the funeral, notify the House, observe 30 days of mourning, and wear crape. See *Senate Journal*, 9<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., March 19, 1806 (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1821), p. 60. A searchable version of the *Senate Journal* entries for the first 43 Congresses is available at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsjlink.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Asher C. Hinds, *Hinds’ Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States*, vol. V (Washington: GPO, 1907), p. 1039.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Congress adopted the practice of paying some of the expenses of funeral services for sitting Members. Services were sometimes held in the House<sup>5</sup> or Senate<sup>6</sup> chamber. On February 27, 1838, for example, funeral services for Representative Jonathan Cilley of Maine were held in the Hall of the House, with the House and Senate in attendance.<sup>7</sup> When services or interment were not held in Washington, DC, it was the practice of both chambers to appoint a committee of Members to escort the remains of a deceased colleague to their final destination. On June 28, 1847, the House and Senate each voted to accompany the remains of Senator John Fairfield of Maine “from his house to the depot, where they were to be delivered to” Representative Franklin Clark, who accompanied them to Maine.<sup>8</sup> By the 41<sup>st</sup> Congress (1869-1871), it had “for a long time been a custom to appoint a joint committee to attend the remains of a deceased Senator or Member to his home, as in the instance of Senator Daniel S. Morton, of Minnesota, on July 14, 1870.”<sup>9</sup>

In contemporary times, chamber rules and statutes set out some of the congressional response to the death of a sitting Member, and former Members who served as Speaker.<sup>10</sup> Evidence from the *Senate Journal*, House precedents, and other historical documents shows that some long-standing observances, such as adjourning briefly as a mark of respect to the deceased, appointing Member delegations to attend funerals of deceased colleagues, or paying the costs of a funeral from public funds, may be employed. Other customs, such as wearing crape, holding services in the House or Senate chambers,<sup>11</sup> or appointing Members to escort the body back to the home state, have not been observed for at least several decades. In addition to some evolutionary changes in institutional patterns, it appears that contemporary congressional response is affected by a number of external factors including the following:

---

<sup>5</sup> Funeral services were held for 31 deceased Representatives who died in office between 1820 and 1940. See Clerk of the House website, “Funerals in the House Chamber,” at [http://clerk.house.gov/art\\_history/house\\_history/funerals.html](http://clerk.house.gov/art_history/house_history/funerals.html).

<sup>6</sup> Senate documents indicate that between 1812 and 1959, funeral services were held in the Senate chamber for 40 people, including Vice President George Clinton (1812), 35 Senators who died in office, and four former Senators. See “Funerals Held in the Senate Chamber,” retrieved from the Senate Library, and available from the authors upon request.

<sup>7</sup> Following the services, a funeral procession accompanied the body of Representative Cilley to a place of interment. The procession consisted of the chaplains of the House and Senate; a seven-Member House committee of arrangements; six Representatives appointed as pallbearers; family and friends of the deceased; Representatives and Senators from Maine as mourners; the House Sergeant at Arms; the Members of the House, preceded by the Speaker and the Clerk; the Senate Sergeant at Arms; the Senate, preceded by the Vice President and the Secretary of the Senate; President Martin Van Buren; executive branch department secretaries; “judges of the Supreme Court and its officers;” foreign ministers; and citizens and strangers, See *Congressional Globe*, vol. 6, February 26, 1838 (Washington: Blair and Rives, 1838), p. 200. While the House and Senate typically voted to attend services held in Washington, DC, for a sitting Member, the presence of officials from the executive and judicial branches and diplomatic corps appears to be atypical. A partial explanation may be found in the circumstances of Representative Cilley’s death. Representative Cilley was killed in a duel with Representative William J. Graves of Kentucky on February 24, 1838. Congress subsequently passed legislation prohibiting the giving or accepting, within the District of Columbia, of challenges to a duel (Chap. XXX, Feb 20, 1839, 5 Stat. 318). See *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-Present* website at <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000395> and <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=G000392>.

<sup>8</sup> Hinds, *Hinds’ Precedents*, vol. V, p. 1039.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1040.

<sup>10</sup> The death of former Members of either chamber may or may not be acknowledged by a resolution of condolence or floor statements in the House or Senate.

<sup>11</sup> Ceremonies to mark the passing of a sitting Member are sometimes held elsewhere in the Capitol. Most recently, a memorial service was held in Statuary Hall of the Capitol for Representative Robert Matsui of California, January 5, 2005.

- circumstances of the Member's death;
- preferences of the deceased Member, or the Member's family, regarding funeral services;
- whether Congress is in session when the Member dies;
- pending congressional business at the time of the Member's death; and
- events external to Congress.

Consequently, it appears that congressional response to the death of a sitting Member could be characterized as a set of actions that are determined in detail at or around the time of the death, in response to an array of factors. Generally, these actions fall into five categories:

- Floor Announcement or Acknowledgment;
- Resolution of Condolence;
- Funeral;
- Deceased Member's Office, Staff, and Survivor Benefits; and
- Publication of Memorials.

## **Floor Announcement or Acknowledgment of a Member's Death**

Congressional recognition of the death of a sitting Member occurs principally on the floor of the chamber in which the deceased served. Specific actions are contingent on whether Congress is in session, the business pending before the chamber, and the circumstances of the Member's death.<sup>12</sup>

### **House Practice**

If the House is in session, the death of a sitting Member is typically announced on the floor. No specific protocol has been identified, but notices of death have typically been made by the Speaker, by a Member who indicates that they have been informed by House leaders of the death of a colleague, or by a Member from the decedent's state delegation. Depending on floor business, the House may continue with pending matters, suspend business for special order speeches and other memorials to the deceased Member, or immediately adjourn for the day in honor of the decedent.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> In addition to congressional activity related to the death of a sitting Member or former Speaker, 4 U.S.C. 7 provides that the American flag be flown at half staff for a former Speaker of the House for 10 days from the day of his or her death, and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. In practice, the flag is typically flown at half staff on the Capitol and congressional buildings in Washington, DC, from the day of death until the funeral of the deceased Member.

<sup>13</sup> Regardless of when the House adjourns, on the day the death of a Member is acknowledged, it adjourns "as a further mark of respect to the memory" of the decedent. See, e.g., Congressional Record, daily edition, April 23, 2007, p. H 3775; and October 9, 2007, p. H11390.

The death of Representative Julia May Carson of Indiana, who died on December 15, 2007, was acknowledged when the House met on December 17. In his opening prayer, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, chaplain of the House, noted Representative Carson's demise.<sup>14</sup> A short time later, Representative Dan Burton, dean of the Indiana delegation, was recognized to speak, and yielded to Representative Peter Visclosky of Indiana, who informed the House of Representative Carson's passing, and announced a special order for tributes to her. Following brief remarks by Representative Burton, Representative Visclosky asked for and was granted a moment of silence in Representative Carson's memory.<sup>15</sup>

Other contemporary examples of the House acknowledging the death of a sitting Member include the following:

- No formal announcement regarding the death of Representative Jo Ann Davis of Virginia, who died Saturday, October 6, 2007, was made in the House when the chamber next met on October 9, and no moment of silence was observed. During the prayer at the beginning of the session, the chaplain mentioned Representative Davis, and some Members commented through one minute speeches.<sup>16</sup> A resolution of condolence was considered and adopted later in the day.<sup>17</sup>

Following the death of Representative Paul E. Gillmor of Ohio on September 5, 2007, Representative John Boehner, the Republican leader, received unanimous consent to speak out of order to inform the chamber.<sup>18</sup> Later in the day, Representative Ralph Regula of Ohio rose to announce his intention to introduce a "resolution of bereavement" and asked that the House rise for a moment of silence.<sup>19</sup>

- The death of Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald of California, on April 22, 2007, was announced the next day by Representative Pete Stark of California, who asked for a moment of silence. Following brief consideration of other matters, the House moved to consideration and adoption of a resolution of condolence before adjourning.<sup>20</sup>
- An announcement of the death of Representative Charles W. Norwood Jr. of Georgia, who died on February 13, 2007, after a long illness, was made to the House in the middle of debate on H.Con.Res. 63, regarding President George W. Bush's decision to send additional military personnel to Iraq.<sup>21</sup> On February 13, debate on the concurrent resolution was briefly interrupted twice to acknowledge Representative Norwood's death. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida,

<sup>14</sup> "Prayer," Congressional Record, daily edition, December 17, 2007, p. H15472.

<sup>15</sup> "Moment of Silence in Memory of the Honorable Julia Carson, Member of Congress," Congressional Record, daily edition, December 17, 2007, p. H15514.

<sup>16</sup> Congressional Record, daily edition, October 9, 2007, p. H11323.

<sup>17</sup> Congressional Record, daily edition, October 9, 2007, pp. H 11369-H11390.

<sup>18</sup> "Announcing the Passing of Congressman Paul E. Gillmor," Congressional Record, daily edition, September 5, 2007, p. H10103.

<sup>19</sup> "Moment of Silence in Memory of the Late Honorable Paul E. Gillmor," Congressional Record, daily edition, September 5, 2007, p. H10112.

<sup>20</sup> Congressional Record, daily edition, April 23, 2007, pp. H3742-H3775.

<sup>21</sup> H.Con.Res. 63, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq, introduced February 12, 2007.

who was recognized to speak on the pending resolution, announced Representative Norwood's death.<sup>22</sup> A short time later, Representative John Nathan Deal of Georgia came to the floor on behalf of the Georgia delegation to announce Representative Norwood's death and to ask for a moment of silence.<sup>23</sup>

Pursuant to House Rule XX, clause 5(d), the Speaker or Speaker pro tempore typically announces a revised whole number of the House in light of the passing of a Representative soon after the House acknowledges the Member's passing.<sup>24</sup>

When a Member of the House dies during an extended period of congressional recess or adjournment, it has been the practice of the House since at least 1826 to make an announcement on the next day the chamber convened.<sup>25</sup> This approach was taken when Representative Floyd Spence of South Carolina died on August 16, 2001. When the House reconvened on September 5, Speaker Dennis Hastert addressed the House to announce Representative Spence's death, that a funeral had been held, that Representative John Spratt would later offer a resolution of condolence, and that a special order in tribute to Representative Spence<sup>26</sup> would be held in the future.

## **Representatives-Elect**

Representatives-elect who died between their election and the convening of Congress have been acknowledged by the House. In 1833, news of the death of Representative-elect Thomas D. Singleton of South Carolina, while traveling to take his seat in Washington, DC, was announced. Representative Henry L. Pinckney of South Carolina, noting that while Mr. Singleton had not appeared and qualified, "it was fitting, and according to the usages of the House, to pay him the usual observances of respect." Following the adoption of a resolution of condolence, Representative Pinckney "moved an adjournment of the House, saying that he believed such to be the custom in these cases."<sup>27</sup>

According to House precedents and more recent practice, recognizing deceased Representatives-elect in a manner similar to that of sitting Members also occurred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>28</sup> On the first day of the 98<sup>th</sup> Congress (1983-1984), the House took official notice of the death of Representative-elect Jack Swigert through an announcement of his passing by the Sergeant at Arms. Later in the day, the House adopted a resolution of condolence and appointed five Members to attend Mr. Swigert's funeral.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>22</sup> "Announcing the Passing of the Honorable Charlie Norwood," Congressional Record, daily edition, February 13, 2007, pp. H1500-H1501.

<sup>23</sup> "Moment of Silence Observed in Memory of the Honorable Charlie Norwood," Congressional Record, daily edition, February 13, 2007, p. H1502.

<sup>24</sup> See, e.g., Congressional Record, daily edition, December 17, 2007, p. H15472; and April 23, 2007, p. H3742.

<sup>25</sup> Hinds, Hinds' Precedents, vol. V, p. 1042.

<sup>26</sup> "In Honor of Our Great Colleagues," Congressional Record, September 5, 2001, p. 16381. It appears that the special order was not held, possibly due in part to the increase in congressional activity in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks.

<sup>27</sup> Hinds, Hinds' Precedents, vol. V, p. 1045.

<sup>28</sup> See *Ibid.*; and Clarence Cannon, *Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States*, vol. VIII (Washington: GPO, 1935), p. 928.

<sup>29</sup> "Announcements of the Sergeant at Arms," Congressional Record, vol. 135, Jan 3, 1983, p. 30; H.Res. 14, 98<sup>th</sup> (continued...)

In addition to a resolution of condolence, discussed below, there may be other tributes to the deceased Member offered on the floor of the House. These may include one minute speeches by individual Members, or special orders dedicated to the memory of the deceased Member. Either of these approaches would be subject to House rules regarding non-legislative debate in the House.<sup>30</sup>

## Senate Practice

When the Senate is in session, news of the passing of a sitting Senator is often widely known when the chamber meets. Consequently, a formal floor announcement is generally not made. The death of a sitting Senator is typically acknowledged on the Senate floor in prayers offered by the chaplain, through tributes offered by other Senators, and consideration of a resolution of condolence. The Senate may continue with other business, or adjourn after acknowledging a Senator's demise. When it does adjourn, the chamber typically does so as a mark of further respect to the late Senator. Exceptions to this practice arise when news of the death of a Senator reaches the Senate while it is meeting. In those circumstances, including the deaths of Senator Paul Coverdell of Georgia on July 18, 2000, and Senator Quentin Burdick of North Dakota on September 8, 1992, the majority leader made an announcement.<sup>31</sup>

Senator Craig Thomas of Wyoming died on June 4, 2007. No formal announcement of his passing was made in the Senate. When the Senate met the next day, the chaplain mentioned Senator Thomas in the opening prayer. Senator Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader, subsequently offered a tribute, followed by Majority Leader Harry Reid, who also offered a tribute, and who asked for unanimous consent to postpone previously scheduled Senate activity to later in the day so "people have the opportunity to come and speak about" Senator Thomas. Senator Reid then asked for a moment of silence in recognition of Senator Thomas.<sup>32</sup> After several Senators offered tributes, the Senate resumed planned business before adopting a resolution of condolence and adjourning "as a mark of further respect to the memory of"<sup>33</sup> Senator Thomas.

Similar exercises were carried out to honor Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, who died in an aircraft accident while campaigning for reelection on October 27, 2002.<sup>34</sup> When the Senate met October 28, it observed a moment of silence, adopted a resolution of condolence, and adjourned

---

(...continued)

Congress, "A Resolution That the House Adjourn as a Mark of Respect to the Memory of the Honorable Jack Swigert, Representative-elect from the State of Colorado," adopted January 3, 1983; and "The Late Honorable Jack Swigert," Congressional Record, vol. 135, January 3, 1983, p. 54.

<sup>30</sup> For further information, see CRS Report RS21174, *Special Order Speeches and Other Forms of Non-Legislative Debate in the House*, by Betsy Palmer; and CRS Report RL30136, *Special Order Speeches: Current House Practices*, by Judy Schneider.

<sup>31</sup> "The Death of Senator Paul Coverdell, of Georgia," Congressional Record, vol. 146, July 18, 2000, p. 15121; and "Death of Senator Quentin N. Burdick," Congressional Record, vol. 138, September 8, 1992, p. 23751.

<sup>32</sup> Congressional Record, daily edition, June 5, 2007, pp. S7017-S7018, quote, p. 7018.

<sup>33</sup> Congressional Record, daily edition, June 5, 2007, p. S7096.

<sup>34</sup> Senator Wellstone's wife and daughter, along with three campaign aides and two pilots, were also killed in the accident.

as a further mark of respect to Senator Wellstone's memory.<sup>35</sup> On November 12, several Senators offered tributes.<sup>36</sup>

Since 1807, Senators who have died during periods of recess or adjournment have been acknowledged when the Senate reconvened.<sup>37</sup> The most recent sitting Senator to die during a recess was Senator John East of North Carolina, who died by suicide on June 29, 1986. When the Senate met on July 14, Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina announced Senator East's demise and offered a tribute. Other Senators also offered tributes, and the Senate adopted a resolution of condolence.<sup>38</sup>

## Resolutions of Condolence

The first resolution of mourning for a sitting Senator appears to have been adopted in 1806. Although the House had taken other, ad hoc actions in the early years of the nation, formal resolutions adopted in response to the death of a sitting Member date back at least to 1827. House precedents and the *Senate Journal* typically refer to resolutions designating the use of crape or other badges of mourning, and authorizing Members to attend funeral services. In the House it was typical to adjourn as a mark of respect for the deceased Member. House resolutions that included expressions of condolences to the family of the deceased Member appear to have been considered in some cases dating to 1864, before becoming more routine beginning around 1899.<sup>39</sup>

### House Practice

In current practice, the House considers a resolution expressing its condolences to the family of a deceased Member. If the House is in session, a resolution is typically introduced within a day of the Member's passing by the senior Member of the state delegation in which the deceased Member served. One hour of debate is allotted for consideration of the measure, equally divided between majority and minority, although in some cases, that time is not used if another memorial is planned under special orders at a later date.<sup>40</sup> At the conclusion of debate the resolution of condolence is typically adopted by voice vote or unanimous consent.<sup>41</sup> In the text of the resolution, the House notes the following:

<sup>35</sup> Congressional Record, vol. 148, October 28, 2002, pp. 21241-21246, 21250.

<sup>36</sup> Congressional Record, vol. 148, November 12, 2002, pp. 21288-21309.

<sup>37</sup> Soon after convening for the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the 10th Congress, the Senate adopted resolutions of mourning in honor of Senator Abraham Baldwin of Georgia, who died on March 4, 1807, and Senator Uriah Tracy of Connecticut, who died on July 19, 1807. *Senate Journal*, 10th Cong, 1st sess., November 2, 1807 (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1821), pp. 190-191.

<sup>38</sup> Congressional Record, vol. 132, Jul. 14, 1986, pp. 16328-16335, 16378.

<sup>39</sup> Hinds, *Hinds' Precedents*, vol. V, pp. 1040-1042, 1054, 1055.

<sup>40</sup> See, e.g., "Expressing Sorrow of the House at the Death of the Honorable George E. Brown, Jr., Member of Congress from the State of California," Congressional Record, vol. 145, July 16, 1999, pp. 16483-16484.

<sup>41</sup> See, e.g., "Expressing Sorrow of the House at the Death of the Hon. Sonny Bono, Representative from the State of California," Congressional Record, vol. 144, January 27, 1998, pp. 81-91; and "Expressing Sorrow of the House at the Death of the Hon. Norman Sisisky, Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia," Congressional Record, vol. 147, March 29, 2001, pp. 4982-4994.

- “The House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, a Representative/Delegate/Resident Commissioner from \_\_\_\_\_”
- the Clerk of the House communicates these Resolutions to the Senate and transmits a copy to the family of the deceased; and
- upon adjournment, the House “adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.”<sup>42</sup>

In addition, the House sometimes authorizes and directs the House Sergeant at Arms to “take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House,”<sup>43</sup> or to appoint “a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.”<sup>44</sup>

When a Representative dies, the Senate sometimes adopts a resolution of condolence. **Table 1** summarizes House and Senate resolutions adopted to mark the passing of a sitting Representative since 1973.

## Senate Practice

In current practice, the Senate typically considers a resolution expressing its condolences to the family of a deceased Senator and to the citizens of the state the Senator represented. The measure may be introduced by the majority leader, the minority leader, or the surviving Senator from the state the deceased Senator represented. All living, sitting Senators are listed as cosponsors. There may follow a period of debate, particularly if other tributes have not already been offered or a future tribute is scheduled. At the conclusion of debate, the resolution of condolence is typically adopted by unanimous consent.<sup>45</sup> In the text of the resolution, the Senate typically includes a preamble containing various milestones of the late Senator’s public career, and resolves that

- “The United States Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, a Senator from the State of \_\_\_\_\_”;
- “the Secretary of the Senate shall communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of Senator \_\_\_\_\_”; and

<sup>42</sup> See, e.g., H.Res. 338, 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, Expressing the Condolences of the House on the Death of the Honorable Sonny Bono, a Representative from the State of California, adopted January 27, 1998; and H.Res. 157, 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, Expressing the Condolences of the House of Representatives on the Death of the Honorable John Joseph Moakley, a Representative from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, adopted June 6, 2001.

<sup>43</sup> See, e.g., H.Res. 252, 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, Expressing the Condolences of the House on the Death of the Honorable George E. Brown, Jr., adopted July 16, 1999; and H.Res. 107, 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, Expressing the Condolences of the House of Representatives on the Death of the Honorable Norman Sisisky, a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia, adopted March 29, 2001. This clause may not be necessary since the Sergeant at Arms has statutory authority to assist with funeral preparations. See Funeral section, below.

<sup>44</sup> See, e.g., H.Res. 159, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Expressing the Condolences of the House of Representatives on the Death of the Honorable Charlie Norwood, a Representative of the State of Georgia, adopted February 4, 2007.

<sup>45</sup> See, e.g., S.Res. 354, 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, A resolution relative to the death of Paul Wellstone, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, adopted October 28, 2002; and S.Res. 338, 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Paul Coverdell, a Senator from the State of Georgia, adopted July 1, 2000.

- “when the Senate adjourns today, it shall stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Senator \_\_\_\_\_.”<sup>46</sup>

In addition to observances of record, a deceased Senator’s desk in the Senate chamber may be draped in black for a brief period.<sup>47</sup> Additionally, upon the death of a sitting Senator, the majority leader and minority leader may permit a display of flowers to be placed upon the desk of a deceased Senator on the day set aside for eulogies.<sup>48</sup>

When a Senator dies, the House sometimes adopts a resolution of condolence. **Table 2** summarizes Senate and House resolutions adopted to mark the passing of a sitting Senator since 1978.

## Funeral and Disposition of Remains

Since the earliest days of the republic, some of the expenses of holding funerals of sitting Members, or the procurement of cemetery monuments, have been defrayed in part from public funds. From 1789-1801, it appears that the travel allowances of deceased Members of the House were applied to funeral costs. When Delegate Narsworthy Hunter of Mississippi Territory died on March 11, 1802, a week after the Seventh Congress (1801-1803) convened, the practice of providing a funeral at public expense was first adopted by the House.<sup>49</sup> On June 5, 1809, the Senate adopted a resolution “that a sum not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars be applied out of the contingent fund for placing a neat slab or monument with a suitable inscription” over the tomb of Senator Francis Malbone of Rhode Island, who died on March 4.<sup>50</sup> On June 15, 1809, the Senate authorized the secretary of the Senate to pay the expenses of Senator Malbone’s funeral, upon allowance and certification “by the committee of arrangement.”<sup>51</sup>

Paying for Member funerals with public funds has not been without controversy. In an 1820 remembrance of Delegate Hunter’s funeral, Representative John Randolph of Virginia noted that since 1802, the practice of funding Member funerals had been “observed and abused.”<sup>52</sup> In 1848, the subject came up twice within a few weeks. Contrary to precedent, the tenor of those discussions was that it was unusual to pay the expenses of a Member’s funeral except when it was held in Washington, DC, and that the cost of such ceremonies amounted to an average of \$1,500.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>46</sup> In addition, the Senate has expressed its condolences to the people of the state the Senator represented and to his or her family. See, e.g., S.Res. 220, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, a resolution honoring the life of Senator Craig Thomas, adopted June 5, 2007.

<sup>47</sup> Explicit authority to drape a desk in black was not identified. Nevertheless, references to draping of a deceased Senator’s desk were identified in Senate debates regarding the death of Senators Thomas, Wellstone, and Chafee. See, e.g., “Remembering Senator Craig Thomas,” *Congressional Record*, daily edition, June 6, 2007, p. S7106; vol. 148, October 28, 2002, p. 21242; and vol. 145, October 29, 1999, p. 27620.

<sup>48</sup> S.Res. 221, 98<sup>th</sup> Congress, A Resolution Relative to Flower Displays in the Chamber for Deceased Senators, adopted September 15, 1983. Incorporated as a standing rule of the Senate in U.S. Senate, *Senate Manual*, 107<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1st sess., S. Doc. 107-1 (Washington: GPO, 2002), p. 97.

<sup>49</sup> Hinds, *Hinds’ Precedents*, vol. V, p. 1046.

<sup>50</sup> *Senate Journal*, vol. IV, June 5, 1809, pp. 380-381.

<sup>51</sup> *Senate Journal*, vol. IV, June 15, 1809, p. 387.

<sup>52</sup> Hinds, *Hinds’ Precedents*, vol. V, p. 1046.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1047.

In 1895, the Senate considered S. 236, to provide for disposition of the remains of deceased Members of the House and Senate who died at the Capitol during sessions. Upon the death of a sitting Member in the District of Columbia, the measure would have provided for a committee of Members from the chamber in which the deceased served to prepare the body for transport to family or friends. The measure provided for a specially appointed sergeant at arms to accompany the body to its final destination. S. 236 would have authorized payment for the preparation and transport of a deceased Member and prohibited payment on any other related expenses. In introductory remarks, the bill's sponsor, Senator William Alfred Peffer of Kansas, noted that the costs associated with Member funerals were rising and that the services themselves were "not usually conducted reverently and with that outward deportment which ... ought to characterize the bearing of eminent persons who accompany the remains of a public man." S. 236 was reported by the Committee on Civil Service, but the Senate took no further action.<sup>54</sup>

Finally, some concern was expressed in 1906 after Representative Robert Adams Jr. of Pennsylvania committed suicide and left a letter for Speaker Joseph Cannon indicating that he would accept payment of his funeral expenses, but asked that the House not appoint a committee or hold memorial services.<sup>55</sup>

In contemporary practice, as described below, both chambers may pay for funeral services for Members who die in office. Further, if a deceased Member is buried in the so-called Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC,<sup>56</sup> the Sergeant at Arms of the House or Senate, as appropriate, is authorized to pay for a granite monument with suitable inscriptions for the grave site.<sup>57</sup>

## House Practice

Subject to any rules and regulations the Committee on House Administration may prescribe, the House Sergeant at Arms is authorized and directed to make necessary arrangements for any committee of Representatives and Senators appointed by their chambers to attend the funeral of a deceased Member of the House. An official congressional delegation does not attend if the family of the deceased Member arranges for private services. The Sergeant at Arms defrays the funeral expenses of the deceased Member and the expenses of duly appointed congressional participants, the widow or widower, and minor children incurred in attending the funeral rites and burial of the

<sup>54</sup> Congressional Record, vol. 28, December 12, 1895, pp. 145-150; quote, p. 148.

<sup>55</sup> Hinds, *Hinds' Precedents*, vol. V, p. 1057. See also "House Is Astounded at 'Bertie' Adams' Suicide," *The Washington Post*, June 2, 1906, p. 2; and "Congressman a Suicide After Losses at Bridge," *The New York Times*, June 2, 1906, p. 1.

<sup>56</sup> Founded in 1807, the burying ground of Christ Church, Washington Parish, was, for more than 60 years, reportedly "the sole place of burial in Washington for Members of Congress" and other federal government officials, and is often identified, formally and informally, as the Congressional Cemetery. By the 1870s, however, advances in transportation and embalming allowed Members of Congress who died in office to be transported to their home states or districts for interment. A recent history of the burying ground notes that, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 16 Senators, 68 Members of the House, and Vice Presidents Elbridge Gerry and George Clinton were buried there. See Cathleen Breikreutz, *Historic Congressional Cemetery: Developmental History* (Washington: 2003), pp. 7-8, available at the Historic Congressional Cemetery website, <http://www.congressionalcemetery.org/index.html>. A list of Members of Congress who were interred, or for whom a monument has been erected, is available from the organization's website. Some of the Members listed died after their service in Congress concluded.

<sup>57</sup> 2 U.S.C. 51.

deceased Member.<sup>58</sup> Published, publicly available House procedures for the remains of a sitting Member of the House to lie in state in the Capitol have not been identified.<sup>59</sup>

## Senate Practice

While the location of any funeral service is chosen by a deceased Senator's widow, widower, or heirs, the responsibility for official arrangements, including funeral or other services, and for any committee appointed to attend services, rests with the Senate Sergeant at Arms.<sup>60</sup> Costs of arrangements made by the office of Sergeant at Arms for the transportation, preparation, and disposition of the remains are paid from the contingent fund of the Senate, subject to regulations of the Committee on Rules and Administration.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>58</sup> 2 U.S.C. 124. Although it is not mentioned in any congressional or statutory authority, the House Sergeant at Arms typically arranges for a wreath from the House to be sent to the site of the funeral.

<sup>59</sup> Since 1953, Congress has typically adopted a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Rotunda for services or for the remains of a government official or prominent citizen to lie in the Capitol. If Congress is not in session, the use of Capitol facilities has in the past been authorized by the Speaker of the House and the majority leader of the Senate. The most recent Member of Congress to lie in the Capitol was Representative Claude Denson Pepper of Florida, June 1-2, 1989. Prior to his House service, Representative Pepper served as a Senator. See H.Con.Res. 139, 101<sup>st</sup> Congress, Authorizing the Use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for the Lying in State of the Remains of the Late Honorable Claude Pepper, adopted May 31, 1989; and the AOC website, "Those Who Have Lain in State or in Honor in the Capitol Rotunda," at [http://www.aoc.gov/cc/capitol/lain\\_in\\_state.cfm](http://www.aoc.gov/cc/capitol/lain_in_state.cfm). See CRS Report RL34619, *Use of the Capitol Rotunda and Capitol Grounds: Concurrent Resolutions, 101st to 110th Congress*, by Matthew Eric Glassman and Jacob R. Straus, for detailed information on the use of Capitol facilities.

<sup>60</sup> S.Res. 458, 98<sup>th</sup> Congress, adopted October 4, 1984, as amended. The measure is incorporated as a standing rule of the Senate in U.S. Senate, *Senate Manual*, pp. 100-103.

<sup>61</sup> Arrangements may include ordinary and necessary expenses for the following:

Transportation of remains to the mortuary.

Complete preparation and care of the remains.

Automotive equipment, including limousine service for the immediate family, pallbearers, and the funeral coach.

Funeral home expenses for the receipt, care, and arrangement of floral tributes and a supply of acknowledgment cards. Floral expenses themselves are deemed personal in nature and are not considered an official expense, with the exception of one floral arrangement from the United States Senate.

Preparation of newspaper notices.

Procuring and executing the required certificates and permits.

Fees for use of a church, synagogue or other place of service.

Cremation fees, including an urn.

Interment fees or charges for grave services.

Burial vault and casket. Casket expense may not exceed \$5,000.

One burial plot, not to exceed \$2,000, if not previously purchased by the family, and a temporary marker. Permanent grave markers or headstones are personal items and are not authorized by committee regulations to be paid from appropriated funds.

Miscellaneous expenses directly related to the funeral, including fees for clergy or musicians, not to exceed \$2,500 in the aggregate. Expenses of a personal nature including food, flowers, or cards are not authorized by committee regulations to be paid from appropriated funds.

The Senate Handbook notes that any request for exceptions must be made to the Sergeant at Arms and approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration. U.S. Senate, Committee on Rules and Administration, *United States Senate Handbook*, November 2006, pp. I-92—I-93.

If there is a request for the remains to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda, the *Senate Handbook* indicates that a decision is made by the leadership of the Senate and the House, and the Architect of the Capitol. Since 1953, Congress has typically adopted a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Rotunda for services or for the remains of a government official or prominent citizen to lie in the Capitol. If Congress is not in session, the use of Capitol facilities has in the past been authorized by the Speaker of the House and the majority leader of the Senate. If the deceased does lie in state, the *Senate Handbook* notes that the Architect of the Capitol makes arrangements with the Department of Defense for an honor guard. If there is to be a ceremony at the Capitol, the Senate Sergeant at Arms makes the necessary arrangements.<sup>62</sup>

## Deceased Member's Office, Staff, and Survivor Benefits

### House Practice

On the first business day after the death of a Member of the House, his or her office is renamed the Office of the \_\_\_ Congressional District of State/Territory. Pursuant to House Rule II, cl.2(i)(1),<sup>63</sup> staff on payroll of the congressional office at the time of the Member's death remain employed by the House, and carry out their duties under the supervision of the Clerk of the House until a successor is elected.<sup>64</sup>

By law, any unpaid balance of salary or other sums due to a deceased Representative or Resident Commissioner are to be paid to their beneficiaries.<sup>65</sup> In addition, it has been the typical practice of the House to provide a death gratuity,<sup>66</sup> equal to the Member's annual salary, payable to the

<sup>62</sup> U.S. Senate, *United States Senate Handbook*, p. I-92; *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-Present*, website at <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>; and Architect of the Capitol website, "Those Who Have Lain in State or in Honor in the Capitol Rotunda," at [http://www.aoc.gov/cc/capitol/lain\\_in\\_state.cfm](http://www.aoc.gov/cc/capitol/lain_in_state.cfm). Six Senators who died in office have lain in state in the Capitol. Hubert Horatio Humphrey of Minnesota, January 14-15, 1978; Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, September 9-10, 1969; Robert Alphonso Taft of Ohio, August 2-3, 1953; John Alexander Logan of Illinois, December 30-31, 1886; Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, March 13, 1874; and Henry Clay of Kentucky, July 1, 1852.

<sup>63</sup> House Rule II, cl. 2(i)(1) provides that "[t]he Clerk shall supervise the staff and manage the office of a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who has died, resigned, or been expelled until a successor is elected." 2 U.S.C. 92a, on the other hand, provides that staff of a deceased Member of the House or Senate are continued on the payroll for 30 days. As Article I, Section 5, clause 2 of the Constitution provides that "[e]ach House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings," House Rule II, cl.2(i)(1) arguably provides the House with sufficient authority to take actions related to its administrative operations beyond the scope of the limitations specified in 2 U.S.C. 92.

<sup>64</sup> A new Member of the House would have authority to hire staff, and is not required to retain staff members of the deceased Member.

<sup>65</sup> 2 U.S.C. 38a. Payment of unpaid salary is disbursed in the following order: (1) to the beneficiary or beneficiaries designated in writing by Member prior to his or her demise, and filed with the House Chief Administrative Officer (CAO); (2) if there is no such beneficiary, to the widow or widower; (3) if there is no beneficiary or surviving spouse, to the child or children of the deceased Member, and descendants of deceased children, by representation; (4) if none of the above, to the parents of the deceased Member, or their survivors; (5) if there are none of the above, to the duly appointed legal representative of the estate of the deceased Member; or if there is none, (6) to the person or persons determined to be entitled under the laws of the domicile of the deceased Member.

<sup>66</sup> Cannon, *Cannon's Precedents*, vol. VI, p. 380; and Lewis Deschler, *Deschler's Precedents of the United States House of Representatives*, vol. II, H.Doc. 94-661, 94<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2nd sess. (Washington: GPO, 1977), p. 52.

deceased Member's widow or widower, or children,<sup>67</sup> either in the annual legislative branch appropriations act or a measure providing supplemental funds for the legislative branch. By statute, a death gratuity is considered a gift.<sup>68</sup>

## Senate Practice

Employees in the personal office of a deceased sitting Senator<sup>69</sup> are continued on the Senate payroll at their respective salaries for up to 60 days after the Senator's death, unless the Senator's term of office expires sooner.<sup>70</sup> The Committee on Rules and Administration may extend this period in cases where it will take longer to close a deceased Senator's office. Employee duties are performed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.<sup>71</sup>

An amount equal to one-tenth of the official office expense account portion of the Senator's Official Personnel and Office Expense Account<sup>72</sup> is available to the Secretary of the Senate to defray those expenses directly related to closing a Senator's office. Expenses are paid from the Contingent Fund of the Senate as Miscellaneous Items. The Senate Financial Clerk provides information concerning allowances for the operation of the deceased Senator's office during the 60-day period.<sup>73</sup>

A deceased Senator is removed from the Senate payroll as of the date of death. The Employee Benefits Section of the Senate Disbursing Office ascertains any benefits<sup>74</sup> due to a beneficiary previously identified by the Senator, or the widow or widower or other relevant survivors.<sup>75</sup> The *Senate Handbook* indicates that "[i]n the next Appropriation Bill, an item will be inserted for a

<sup>67</sup> The CAO Office of Finance notifies the Committee on Appropriations of the names of the deceased Member's heirs.

<sup>68</sup> 2 U.S.C. 38b.

<sup>69</sup> Employees of Senators who die while holding the office of President pro tempore, Deputy President pro tempore, President pro tempore emeritus, majority leader, minority leader, majority whip, minority whip, secretary of the Conference of the Majority, secretary of the Conference of the Minority, the chairman of the Conference of the Majority, the chairman of the Conference of the Minority, the chairman of the majority Policy Committee, or the chairman of the minority Policy Committee, are also continued in their positions at their respective salaries for up to 60 days, subject to the same limitations of employees working in personal offices.

<sup>70</sup> See also, CRS Report RL34553, *Closing a Congressional Office: Overview and Guide to House and Senate Practices*, by R. Eric Petersen.

<sup>71</sup> S.Res. 458, 98<sup>th</sup> Congress, adopted October 4, 1984, as amended. Incorporated as a standing rule of the Senate in U.S. Senate, Senate Manual, pp. 100-103. 2 U.S.C. 92a, on the other hand, provides that staff of a deceased Member of the House or Senate are continued on the payroll for 30 days. As Article 1, Section 5, clause 2 of the Constitution provides that "[e]ach House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings," S.Res. 458, as amended, arguably provides the Senate with sufficient authority to take actions related to its administrative operations beyond the scope of the limitations specified in 2 U.S.C. 92.

<sup>72</sup> Senators have three official allowances available to them for personnel and official office expenses. They are the administrative and clerical assistance allowance, the legislative assistance allowance, and the official office expense allowance. The three allowances are funded together in a "Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account," within the "Contingent Expenses of the Senate" in the annual legislative branch appropriations bill. For further information, see CRS Report RL30064, *Congressional Salaries and Allowances*, by Ida A. Brudnick.

<sup>73</sup> U.S. Senate, United States Senate Handbook, p. I-91.

<sup>74</sup> Benefits may include pay, retirement, life insurance, and health insurance.

<sup>75</sup> 2 U.S.C. 36a.

gratuity to be paid to the widow(er) or other next-of-kin, in the amount of one year's compensation."<sup>76</sup> By statute, a death gratuity is considered a gift.<sup>77</sup>

## Publication of Memorials

### House Practice

At the conclusion of a Congress in which a sitting Member of the House, or former Member who served as Speaker, dies, the Government Printing Office, subject to the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, compiles, prepares, and prints, with illustrations, a tribute book. The book contains the legislative proceedings of Congress, and the exercises at the general memorial services held in the House in tribute to the deceased Member or former Speaker, together with all relevant memorial addresses and eulogies published in the *Congressional Record* during the same session of Congress, and any other matter the Joint Committee considers relevant. Fifty copies, bound in full morocco, with gilt edges, and suitably lettered as may be requested, are delivered to the family of the deceased. Further copies are distributed to Members of Congress.<sup>78</sup>

### Senate Practice

The Senate may adopt a resolution ordering the printing of tributes to a deceased Senator be printed as a Senate document.<sup>79</sup>

---

<sup>76</sup> U.S. Senate, United States Senate Handbook, p. I-92.

<sup>77</sup> 2 U.S.C. 38b.

<sup>78</sup> 44 U.S.C. 723. The remaining copies are sent as follows: one copy of all eulogies on the deceased Members of Congress to the Vice President and each Senator, Representative, and Resident Commissioner in Congress. Additionally, for a deceased Senator, 250 copies of eulogies are furnished to each Senator of the state represented by the deceased, with 20 copies for each of the other Representatives, or Resident Commissioner of the state, or insular possession. For a deceased Representative or Resident Commissioner, 250 copies of eulogies are furnished to his or her successor in office; 20 copies for each of the other Representatives, or Resident Commissioner of the state, or insular possession represented by the deceased; and 20 copies for each Senator from that state.

<sup>79</sup> See, e.g., "Order for Printing and Submission of Tributes to Senator Craig Thomas," *Congressional Record*, daily edition, June 14, 2007, p. S7776; and "Printing of a Senate Document," *Congressional Record*, vol. 148, November 12, 2002, p. 21309.

**Table I. Members of the House Who Died in Office, and Resolutions of Condolence Adopted in the House and Senate, 1973-2008**

Name	State	Date of Death	Congress	House Resolution	Senate Resolution
Stephanie Tubbs Jones <sup>a</sup>	Ohio	8/20/2008	110th	H.Res. 1415, 9/8/08	S.Res. 654, 9/10/08
Thomas Peter Lantos <sup>b</sup>	California	2/11/2008	110th	H.Res. 975, 2/12/08	S.Res. 446, 2/11/08
Julia May Carson	Indiana	12/15/2007	110th	H.Res. 880, 12/17/07	S.Res. 407, 12/17/07
Jo Ann Davis	Virginia	10/6/2007	110th	H.Res. 717, 10/6/07	—
Paul E. Gillmor	Ohio	9/5/2007	110th	H.Res. 632, 9/5/07	—
Juanita Millender-McDonald	California	4/22/2007	110th	H.Res. 328, 4/23/07	—
Charles W. (Charlie) Norwood, Jr.	Georgia	2/13/2007	110th	H.Res. 159, 2/14/07	S.Res. 79, 2/13/07
Robert T. Matsui <sup>c</sup>	California	1/1/2005	— <sup>d</sup>	H.Res. 11, 109 <sup>th</sup> Congress 1/4/05	—
Patsy T. Mink <sup>e</sup>	Hawaii	9/28/2002	107th	H.Res. 566, 10/1/02	S.Res. 331, 9/30/02
Floyd D. Spence	South Carolina	8/16/2001	107th	H.Res. 234, 9/5/01	—
John Joseph Moakley <sup>f</sup>	Massachusetts	5/28/2001	107th	H.Res. 157, 6/6/01	—
Norman Sisisky	Virginia	3/29/2001	107th	H.Res. 107, 3/29/01	—
Julian C. Dixon <sup>g</sup>	California	12/8/2000	106th	H.Res. 671, 12/8/00	S.Res. 387, 12/11/00
Bruce F. Vento	Minnesota	10/10/2000	106th	H.Res. 618, 10/10/2000	S.Res. 369, 10/10/00
Herbert H. Bateman	Virginia	9/11/2000	106th	H.Res. 573, 9/12/2000	S.Res. 352, 9/11/2000
George E. Brown, Jr. <sup>h</sup>	California	7/16/1999	106th	H.Res. 252, 7/16/99	—
Steven H. Schiff	New Mexico	3/25/1998	105th	H.Res. 395, 3/25/98	—
Sonny Bono <sup>i</sup>	California	1/5/1998	105th	H.Res. 338, 1/27/1998	—
Walter H. Capps	California	10/28/1997	105th	H.Res. 286, 10/29/97	—
Frank M. Tejeda <sup>j</sup>	Texas	1/30/1997	105th	H.Res. 35, 2/4/97	S.Res. 49, 2/4/97
Norvell W. (Bill) Emerson <sup>k</sup>	Missouri	6/22/1996	104th	H.Res. 459, 6/25/96	—
Dean A. Gallo	New Jersey	11/6/1994	103rd	H.Res. 587, 11/29/94	—
William H. Natcher <sup>l</sup>	Mississippi	3/29/1994	103rd	H.Res. 400, 4/12/94	—
Paul B. Henry	Michigan	7/31/1993	103rd	H.Res. 232, 8/2/93	—
Walter B. Jones	North Carolina	9/15/1992	102nd	H.Res. 567, 9/15/92	—
Theodore S. (Ted) Weiss	New York	9/14/1992	102nd	H.Res. 564, 9/14/92	—

http://wikileaks.org/wiki/CRS-RL3434

<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Congress</b>	<b>House Resolution</b>	<b>Senate Resolution</b>
Silvio O. Conte <sup>m</sup>	Massachusetts	2/8/1991	102nd	H.Res. 76, 2/20/91	S.Res. 59, 2/21/91
Larkin I. Smith	Mississippi	8/13/1989	101st	H.Res. 232, 9/6/89	S.Res. 177, 9/13/89
George T. (Mickey) Leland	Texas	8/7/1989	101st	H.Res. 233, 9/6/89	S.Res. 176, 9/13/89
Claude D. Pepper <sup>n</sup>	Florida	5/30/1989	101st	H.Res. 163, 5/31/89	S.Res. 137, 5/31/89
William (Bill) Flynt Nichols	Alabama	12/13/1988	— <sup>o</sup>	H.Res. 6, 101st Congress, 1/3/89	—
John James Duncan	Tennessee	6/22/1988	100th	H.Res. 481, 6/22/88	S.Res. 446, 6/23/88
Charles Melvin Price	Illinois	4/22/1988	100th	H.Res. 434, 4/25/88	S.Res. 416, 4/25/88
James John Howard	New Jersey	3/25/1988	100th	H.Res. 414, 3/28/88	S.Res. 401, 3/28/88
Wilbur Clarence (Dan) Daniel	Virginia	1/23/1988	100th	H.Res. 349, 1/25/88	S.Res. 375, 2/2/88
Stewart Brett McKinney	Connecticut	5/7/1987	100th	H.Res. 161, 5/7/87	S.Res. 209, 5/8/87
Sala Galante Burton	California	2/1/1987	100th	H.Res. 60, 2/2/87	S.Res. 96, 2/2/87
John Grotberg	Illinois	11/15/1986	— <sup>p</sup>	—	—
George Miller O'Brien	Illinois	7/17/1986	99th	H. Res. 500, 7/17/86	S. Res. 449, 7/21/86
Joseph Patrick Addabbo	New York	4/10/1986	99th	H. Res. 416, 4/14/86	S. Res. 382, 4/14/86
Gillis William Long	Louisiana	1/20/1985	99th	H.Res. 29, 1/22/85	S. Res. 39, 1/21/85
Carl Dewey Perkins	Kentucky	8/3/1984	98th	H. Res. 566, 8/6/84	S.Res. 428, 8/6/84
Edwin Bell Forsythe	New York	3/29/1984	98th	H.Res. 474, 3/29/84	S. Res. 363, 3/29/84
Clement John Zablocki	Wisconsin	12/3/1983	98th	H.Res. 389, 1/23/84	S. Res. 307, 1/23/84
Lawrence Patton "Larry" McDonald	Georgia	9/1/1983	98th	H.Res. 307, 9/12/83	S. Res. 212, 9/12/83
Phillip Burton <sup>q</sup>	California	4/10/1983	98th	H.Res. 157, 4/11/83	S. Res. 109, 4/12/83
Benjamin Stanley Rosenthal <sup>r</sup>	New York	1/4/1983	98th	H. Res. 28, 1/6/83	S. Res. 19, 1/27/83
Adam Benjamin Jr.	Indiana	9/7/1982	97th	H.Res. 579, 9/8/82	S. Res. 457, 9/8/82
John Milan Ashbrook	Ohio	4/24/1982	97th	H.Res. 436, 4/26/82	S. Res. 375, 4/26/82
William Ross Cotter	Connecticut	9/8/1981	97th	H. Res. 206, 9/9/81	S. Res. 208, 9/1/81
Tennyson Guyer	Ohio	4/12/1981	97th	H.Res. 128, 4/27/81	S. Res. 117, 4/27/81
Harold Lowell Runnels	New Mexico	8/5/1980	96th	H.Res. 761, 8/18/80	S. Res. 505, 8/19/80
John Mark Slack, Jr.	West Virginia	3/17/1980	96th	H.Res. 611, 3/18/80	S. Res. 386, 3/19/80
William Albert Steiger	Wisconsin	12/4/1978	— <sup>s</sup>	H.Res. 12, 96th Congress, 1/15/79	S. Res. 16, 1/18/79

http://wikileaks.org/wiki/CRS-RL34347

Name	State	Date of Death	Congress	House Resolution	Senate Resolution
Leo Joseph Ryan	California	11/18/1978	— <sup>c</sup>	H.Res. 11, 96th Congress, 1/15/79	S. Res. 17, 1/18/79
Goodloe Edgar Byron	Maryland	10/11/1978	95th	—	—
Ralph Harold Metcalfe	Illinois	10/10/1978	95th	H. Res. 1422, 10/10/78	S. Res. 583, 10/10/78
William Matthew Ketchum	California	6/24/1978	95th	H.Res. 1249, 6/26/78	S. Res. 493, 6/26/78
Clifford Robertson Allen	Tennessee	6/18/1978	95th	H.Res. 1241, 6/19/78	S. Res. 490, 6/23/78
Jerry Lon Litton	Missouri	8/3/1976	94th	H.Res. 1461, 8/4/76	S. Res. 509, 8/4/76
Torbert H. MacDonald	Massachusetts	5/21/1976	94th	H. Res. 1212, 5/24/76	S. Res. 452, 5/24/76
William Aloysius Barrett	Pennsylvania	4/12/1976	94th	H. Res. 1154, 4/13/76	S. Res. 433, 4/14/76
Wright Patman	Texas	3/7/1976	94th	H.Res. 1080, 3/8/76	S. Res. 402, 3/19/76
Jerry Lyle Pettis	California	2/14/1976	94th	H. Res. 171, 2/17/75	S. Res. 81, 2/17/75
John Carl Kluczynski	Illinois	1/26/1975	94th	H. Res. 97, 1/27/75	S. Res. 34, 1/27/75
John Phillips Saylor	Pennsylvania	10/28/1973	93rd	H. Res. 667, 10/29/73	S. Res. 193, 10/30/73
William Oswald Mills	Maryland	5/24/1973	93rd	H. Res. 411, 5/24/73	S. Res. 119, 5/29/73

**Source:** CRS “Changes in the Membership of the 101<sup>st</sup>–110<sup>th</sup> Congress” lists; Roll Call “Departures” lists, Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>, and the Legislative Information System (LIS). In the Resolutions columns, “—” indicates no resolution was identified.

- a. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, September 10, 2008.
- b. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, February 14, 2008.
- c. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, January 5, 2005.
- d. Died after adjournment of the 108th Congress (2003-2004), and before the 109th Congress (2005-2006) convened.
- e. Posthumously reelected to 108th Congress (2003-2004).
- f. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, June 13, 2001.
- g. Reelected to the 107th Congress (2001-2002), but died before it convened.
- h. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, July 30, 1999.
- i. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, April 31, 1998.
- j. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, January 28, 1998.
- k. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, March 5, 1997.
- l. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, May 4, 1994.
- m. Memorial service held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, February 27, 1991.

- n. Served in the Senate prior to service in the House. Laid in state in the Capitol Rotunda, June 1-2, 1989 (authorized by H.Con.Res. 139, 101st Congress).
- o. Died after adjournment of the 100th Congress (1989-1990), and before the 101st Congress (1991-1992) convened.
- p. Died after adjournment of the 99th Congress (1985-86).
- q. Joint memorial service, honoring Representative Burton and Representative Benjamin Stanley Rosenthal held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, June 27, 1983.
- r. Joint memorial service, honoring Representative Rosenthal and Representative Phillip Burton held in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol, June 27, 1983.
- s. Died after adjournment of the 95th Congress (1977-78), and before the 96th Congress (1979-80) convened.
- t. Died after adjournment of the 95th Congress (1977-78), and before the 96th Congress (1979-80) convened.

**Table 2. Senators Who Died in Office, And Resolutions of Condolence Adopted in the Senate and House, 1978-2007**

Name	State	Date of Death	Congress	Senate Resolution	House Resolution
Craig Lyle Thomas	Wyoming	6/4/2007	110th	S.Res. 6/4/07	H.Res. 454, 6/5/07
Paul David Wellstone	Minnesota	10/25/2002	107th	S.Res. 354, 10/28/02	H.Res. 598, 11/12/02
Paul Coverdell	Georgia	7/18/2000	106th	S.Res. 388, 7/18/00	H.Res. 558, 7/19/00
John Hubbard Chafee	Rhode Island	10/24/1999	106th	S.Res. 206, 10/25/99	H.Res. 341, 10/25/99
Quentin Northrup Burdick	North Dakota	8/8/1992	102nd	S.Res. 338, 9/8/92	H.Res. 559, 9/9/92
Henry John Heinz, III	Pennsylvania	4/4/1991	102nd	S.Res. 92, 4/9/91	H.Res. 119, 4/9/91
Spark Masayuki Matsunaga	Hawaii	4/15/1990	101st	S.Res. 271, 4/18/90	H.Res. 377, 4/18/90
Edward Zorinsky	Nebraska	3/6/1987	100th	S.Res. 163, 3/10/86	H.Res. 115, 3/10/87
John Porter East	North Carolina	6/29/1986	99th	S.Res. 442, 7/14/86	H.Res. 491, 7/15/86
Henry Martin (Scoop) Jackson	Washington	9/1/1983	98th	S.Res. 209, 9/12/83 <sup>a</sup>	H.Res. 306, 9/12/83
James Browning Allen	Alabama	6/1/1978	95th	S.Res. 472, 5/5/78 <sup>b</sup>	H.Res. 1216, 6/15/78
Hubert Horatio Humphrey, Jr.	Minnesota	1/13/1978	95th	S.Res. 350, 1/19/78 <sup>c</sup>	H.Res. 951, 1/19/78

**Source:** CRS “Changes in the Membership of the 101<sup>st</sup>—110<sup>th</sup> Congress” lists; Roll Call “Departures” lists, Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>, and the Legislative Information System (LIS).

- a. The same day, the Senate also passed S.Res. 210, authorizing funeral delegation expenses.
- b. The same day, the Senate also passed S.Res. 473, authorizing funeral delegation expenses.
- c. The same day, the Senate also passed S.Res. 351, authorizing funeral delegation expenses.

## **Author Contact Information**

R. Eric Petersen  
Analyst in American National Government  
epetersen@crs.loc.gov, 7-0643

Jennifer E. Manning  
Information Research Specialist  
jmanning@crs.loc.gov, 7-7565

<http://wikileaks.org/wiki/CRS-RL34347>