

Portrait Monument to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott

Situated in the Capitol Rotunda, this group portrait monument to the pioneers of the woman suffrage movement, which won women the right to vote in 1920, was sculpted by Adelaide Johnson from an eight-ton block of marble in Carrara, Italy.



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The monument features portrait busts of three leaders of the woman suffrage movement: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott. The portraits are copies of the individual busts Johnson carved for the Court

of Honor of the Woman's Building at the World's Columbian Exhibition in 1893. The detailed busts are surrounded by rough-hewn marble at the top of the sculpture. The monument was presented to the U.S. Capitol as a gift from the women of the United States by the National Woman's Party and was accepted on behalf of Congress by the Joint Committee on the Library on February 10, 1921.

Helen Keller

Author, lecturer, and activist for the disabled and other social causes, Helen Keller (1880–1968) became blind and deaf following an illness in infancy. She learned sign language, speech, and Braille, and she was the first blind and deaf person to graduate from college. She was known as “America’s goodwill ambassador to the world.” In a statue in Emancipation Hall, she is depicted as a seven-year-old child at the water pump at her home in Tuscumbia, Alabama, where she first understood the signed word “water” and learned to communicate.



Statue of Helen Keller in Emancipation Hall

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Women in the House of Representatives



Patsy Mink

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In 1964, **Patsy Mink** from Hawaii became the first woman of color and the first Asian American woman elected to Congress. As one of only eight women in Congress at the time, she said “I always felt that we were serving a dual role,” representing both their districts and American women. True to that approach, she championed legislation focused on child care, education and gender equality.

A champion of women’s rights, **Martha Griffiths** from Michigan was the first woman to serve on the powerful tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. She played a key role in securing the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972. After serving ten terms in the House, Griffiths returned to the practice of law and then served as the 57th Lieutenant Governor of Michigan from 1983 to 1991.



Barbara Jordan

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In her first term in 1972, **Barbara Jordan** from Texas electrified the Nixon impeachment hearings with her eloquence. She was the first African American elected to the Texas Senate after Reconstruction and the first southern African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She received

the Presidential Medal of Freedom among numerous other honors. On her death she became the first African American woman to be buried in the Texas State Cemetery.

Nancy Pelosi of California, currently the Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, served as the 60th Speaker of the House. She was the first woman to hold that office. In the current 113th Congress, 78 women serve in the House of Representatives.

Women in the U.S. Senate

The first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate, **Rebecca Latimer Felton** was appointed to fill a vacancy on October 3, 1922. She took the oath of office on November 21, 1922, but she served only 24 hours after taking the oath. The 87-year-old Felton’s largely symbolic Senate service capped a long career in Georgia politics and journalism. In her only Senate speech, delivered to a large audience in the Senate Chamber, Felton concluded with the following prediction: “When the women of the country come in and sit with you . . . you will get ability, you will get integrity of purpose, you will get exalted patriotism, and you will get unstinted usefulness.”

Appointed to the Senate in 1931, **Hattie Caraway** from Arkansas filled a vacancy caused by the death of her husband. The second woman to serve in the Senate, Caraway became the first woman *elected* to the Senate in January of 1932, easily winning a special election to fill out the remainder of her husband’s term. Most considered her a longshot for the general election of 1932, however, so “Silent Hattie”



Hattie Caraway

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enlisted the help of controversial senator Huey P. Long of Louisiana to bolster her campaign. The highly-publicized “Hattie and Huey” tour through Arkansas resulted in a landslide victory for Caraway. Reelected in 1938, she served until 1945. Hattie Caraway broke many gender barriers in the Senate, including becoming the first woman to chair a Senate committee in 1933 and the first woman to preside over the Senate in 1943.

To date, 44 women have served as senators, including 20 current members.

Senator **Barbara Mikulski** from Maryland is the longest-serving woman in the history of the U.S. Congress having served since 1977 when she was elected to the House of Representatives. She has been a member of the Senate since 1987.