

Overview

2

Attracting Young People to  
Public Service Leadership

4

Congress to Campus Program

Stennis National Student Congress

7

9

Civil-Military Developing  
Leaders Program

Truman Scholars Program

11

13

Stennis Congressional Intern Program

Strengthening Public Service  
Leadership in America

Southern Women in Public Service:  
*Coming Together to Make a Difference*

16

19

Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program

Emerging Congressional Staff  
Leadership Program

21

24

Civil-Military Leadership Program

Aircraft Carrier Leadership Awards

26

28

Connecting Carriers and Congress Program

Stennis Leadership Lecture

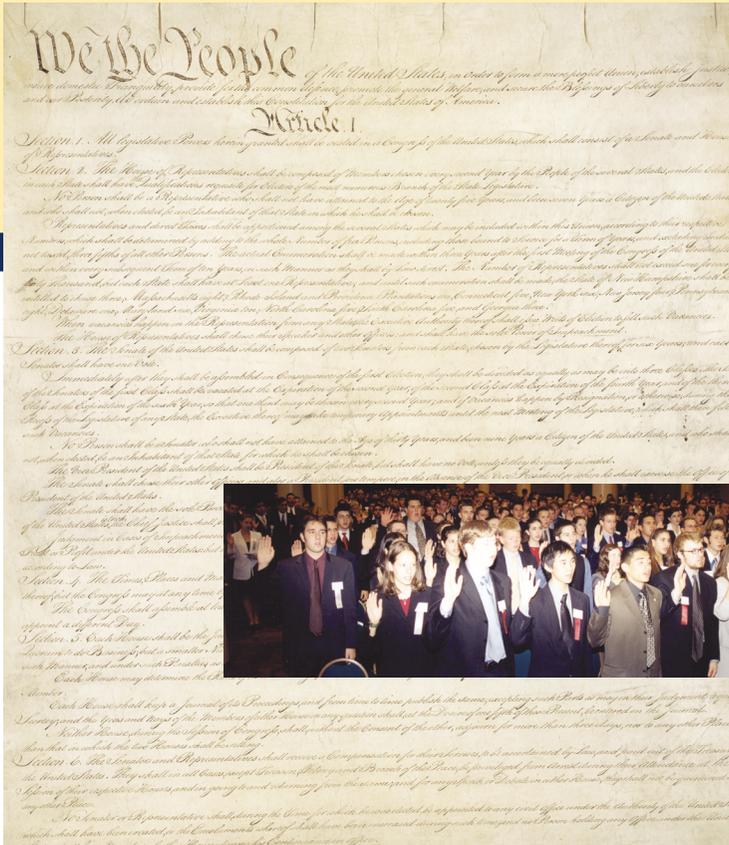
29

31

Senator John C. Stennis

Board of Directors and Staff

32



## Overview

The U.S. Constitution is arguably the most brilliant political document ever written. Through a web of tensions created by overlapping powers among the three branches of government and between the states and the national government, the Constitution ingeniously provides for majority rule, while protecting minority rights.

While the Founders created a mechanical masterpiece to accommodate competing interests, this self-balancing system of government will not maintain itself. Its success depends in the end on the character of the men and women who lead it – their common sense, their uncommon ability, and their capacity to rise above partisan passions to act for the common good.

The late Senator John C. Stennis was a man who fit this description. The Stennis Center for Public Service carries on his legacy by nurturing young leaders and enhancing the capacity of current political leaders to implement America's ideals. Programs focus on developing people, not policy. The eloquence of the Constitution – to form a more perfect Union and secure the blessings of liberty – is meaningless without principled leaders to make those words come to life.

The following pages will feature leaders in public service who tell in their own words how the programs of the Stennis Center are helping them to promote life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for citizens throughout the United States.

## Attracting Young People to Public Service Leadership





Former Congressmen Lou Frey (R-FL) and Jerry Patterson (D-CA) talk with students at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

## Congress to Campus Program

The Congress to Campus program is an effort by the Stennis Center to help young people love their country more, understand it better and believe in the nobility of public service. The program sends bipartisan pairs of former Members of Congress – one Democrat and one Republican – to visit college campuses around the country. During a two and a half day visit, the former Members conduct classes, hold community forums, meet informally with students and faculty and do interviews with local media. Their aim is to encourage students to consider careers in public service and to provide firsthand knowledge about the work of Congress.

The Stennis Center's partners in this program are the Center for Democracy and Citizenship (CDC) at the Council for

Excellence in Government and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

David Skaggs, a former Democratic congressman from Colorado who heads the CDC, describes the program's purpose. "We try to give students a better understanding of Congress, which is confounding at times. We're concerned about the anti-politician feeling that seems to prevail in the country today," Skaggs says. "You seldom hear about the honest day-to-day work of our elected officials." He adds, "The bipartisan pairing of former Members demonstrates the reality that we actually get along. Both parties care a lot about the same things."

Skaggs reported on the program in the U.S. Capitol's House chamber, "We had

Former Congressmen David Skaggs (D-CO) and Dan Miller (R-FL) respond to a student's question during their visit to Mississippi State University.



“You seldom hear about the honest day-to-day work of our elected officials.”  
- David Skaggs, Executive Director, Center for Democracy & Citizenship

nearly 20 campus visits last year and are on course to more than doubling the program for the next academic year. I had a wonderful experience myself this spring with Dan Miller (R-FL) at Mississippi State University visiting with students, faculty and the local community.”

Ken Hechler (D-WV), while visiting Bowling Green State University in the fall of 2003, said, “My colleagues in Congress were some of the most honest, loyal, hardworking people I have ever met.” He continued, “They were public servants trying their darndest to do the best possible job they could for their constituents and for the nation.”

The professors who host the program believe it makes a difference for their students. Dr. Jacqueline Switzer, who organized the visit to Northern Arizona University states, “The students have been unanimous in expressing both their appreciation and how much they learned. For most of them, seeing a ‘real live’ member of Congress is something they would never experience, and the exposure they received at NAU will stay with them for a long time.”

# 2002-2003 Congress to Campus Participants

**Wesleyan University**  
October 14-16, 2003  
Tony Beilenson (D-CA)  
Mickey Edwards (R-OK)

**University of Georgia**  
October 14-16, 2003  
Bob Carr (D-MI)  
Orval Hansen (R-ID)

**Principia College**  
October 7-9, 2003  
Martha Keys (D-KS)  
George Wortley (R-NY)

**University of Texas at Austin**  
September 30-  
October 2, 2003  
Robin L. Beard, Jr. (R-TN)  
Butler Derrick (D-SC)

**Bowling Green State  
University**  
September 16-18, 2003  
Bill Barrett (R-NE)  
Ken Hechler (D-WV)

**Truman Scholars  
Leadership Week**  
May 19-21, 2003  
Denny Smith (R-OR)  
Martha Keys (D-KS)

**University of Colorado**  
April 21-23, 2003  
Beverly D. Byron (D-MD)  
Barbara Vucanovich  
(R-NV)

**University of Nebraska at  
Omaha**  
April 16-18, 2003  
James Billbray (D-NV)  
Greg Laughlin (R-TX)

**Albany State University**  
April 15-17, 2003  
Mike Parker (R-MS)  
Barbara Rose-Collins (D-MI)

**University of Utah**  
April 14-16, 2003  
Barry Goldwater, Jr. (R-CA)  
Jim Lloyd (D-CA)

**Wellesley College**  
April 8-10, 2003  
Jan Meyers (R-KS)  
Liz Patterson (D-SC)

**Mississippi State University**  
March 31-April 2, 2003  
Daniel Miller (R-FL)  
David E. Skaggs (D-CO)

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy**  
March 31-April 2, 2003  
Lou Frey, Jr. (R-FL)  
Jerry Patterson (D-CA)

**Abilene Christian University**  
March 31-April 2, 2003  
David R. Minge (D-MN)  
George Wortley (R-NY)

**Ball State University**  
March 27-29, 2003  
Harold Volkmer (D-MO)  
Bill Zeliff, Jr. (R-NH)

**Emory University**  
March 18-20, 2003  
Andy Jacobs (D-IN)  
Steven T. Kuykendall (R-CA)

**U.S. Naval Academy**  
February 24-26, 2003  
Ron Mazzoli (D-KY)  
Stan Parris (R-VA)

**University of North Florida**  
February 10-12, 2003  
Barber Conable (R-NY)  
Ken Hechler (D-WV)

**Sandhills Community College  
(Pinehurst, North Carolina)**  
November 12-14, 2002  
Bill Barrett (R-NE)  
Norman D'Amours (D-NH)

**Central Michigan University**  
October 29-31, 2002  
Sam Coppersmith (D-AZ)  
Edward Derwinski (R-IL)

**Asheville-Buncombe  
Technical Comm. College  
UNC-Asheville**  
October 16-18, 2002  
Earl Hutto (D-FL)  
Robert W. Daniel, Jr.  
(R-VA)

**Northern Arizona University**  
October 8-10, 2002  
Karen English (D-AZ)  
Jack Buechner (R-MO)

**Truman Scholars  
Leadership Week**  
May 20-22, 2002  
John Erlenborn (R-IL)  
Jerry Patterson (D-CA)

**University of North  
Carolina-Wilmington and  
Cape Fear Community  
College**  
April 17-19, 2002  
Beryl Anthony (D-AR)  
William Carney (R-NY)

**Denison University**  
March 26-28, 2002  
Beverly Byron (D-MD)  
Robert W. Daniel, Jr.  
(R-VA)

**Cameron University,  
Lawton, OK**  
February 19-21, 2002  
Manuel Lujan, Jr. (R-NM)  
David E. Skaggs (D-CO)

## Stennis National Student Congress



*I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter, so help me God.*

At the start of each new Congress, the entire House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate take this oath of office. The same oath is administered each year to more than 400 high school students from across the country at the beginning of the annual Stennis Student Congress competition.

Since 1991, the Stennis Center has sponsored the John C. Stennis National Student Congress as part of the National Forensic League's (NFL) National Speech Tournament. The country's top high school debaters assemble every June to compete for the honor of the nation's best.

The Stennis Center supports Student Congress as leadership training for public service. Rex Buffington, executive director of the Stennis Center, told the participants, "This program is a fertile training ground for talented individuals who want to use their leadership abilities to help make our communities, states, nation and world better."

The year 2003 marked a milestone in the competition with the retirement of Iowa debate coach Harold Keller, affectionately known as "Mr. Congress." As the National Clerk of the Congress since 1978, Keller has played a major role in planning and implementing Student Congress for 25 years. He prints and distributes legislation, organizes the chambers, supervises judging and scoring, and records and checks the results.

Billy Tate, the NFL national president, said, "No person has done more to promote and improve NFL Stennis Student Congress as an event than Harold Keller." James Copeland, the NFL national secretary, stated, "Harold is directly responsible for the expansion of Congress to 16 Chambers, the semifinals, the National Student Congress Rule Book, the format to select champions and the upgrading of Congress awards."

This event impacts not only the hundreds who attend the national tournament, but

the thousands of students nationwide who compete for the right to attend nationals. And its legacy is lasting. Joshua Swartzel, a 2003 Student Congress finalist from Florida who is a freshman at the U.S. Military Academy, recently wrote,

"I want to tell you about a briefing we had this summer. It was about the seven Army Values, first being loyalty. The lieutenant general who was briefing us showed us a slide called the Pyramid of Loyalty. At the bottom was Loyalty to Self, at the top, was Loyalty to the Constitution. He went on for several

minutes about how we did not understand that abstract concept yet. I could only smile, and think about the countless times I took the Oath of Office. For me, and the plebes in there who had actively participated in Student Congress, we understood that loyalty right from the start. Student Congress endows you with a sense of constitutional heritage and pride that is matchless in the country. I could not have been more proud of the event that I had been a part of for four years, than that day."

**2003 National Champions  
Atlanta, Georgia**



**Senate Finalists**

Faris Mohiuddin, CA  
Jack Soltysik, IL  
Daniel Chaparian, MA  
George H. Komsky, GA  
Peter Sima, SC

Matthew Friendly, FL  
Brian A. Shactman, MA  
Shella Pechacek, MN  
Lilla Toson, MO



**House Finalists**

Josh D. Swartzel, FL  
Matt Turetsky, FL  
Chistos N. Theophanous, CA  
Matthew Futch, FL  
David Zhou, CA

Andrew Lee, CO  
Patricia England, IL  
Brittany Janis, OH  
Alison Puentes, TX



Rex Buffington and  
Harold Keller (Mr. Congress)

**JOHN C. STENNIS  
FORENSICS TOURNAMENT**

Recognizing the value of high school debate as a forum for the American statesmen of tomorrow, the Stennis Center initiated the John C. Stennis Forensics Tournament at Mississippi State University in 1995. The unique feature of this annual competition is that it is open only to high school students who are novice debaters. "By leveling the playing field, the participants are able to build confidence and hone their speaking skills before competing against more experienced debaters," said tournament organizer Betty Whitlock, debate coach at Clinton (Miss.) High School. Sandra Davis, a debate coach from Tennessee, said, "No other event helps beginners as much. We have found that those students who participate in the Stennis Debate stick with it." The tournament on September 19-20, 2003 attracted nearly 200 students from Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

# Civil-Military Developing Leaders Program



College students from across Mississippi and young military officers from throughout the nation gathered at Mississippi State University on October 25-26, 2002, to explore the future of civil-military relations in the United States. The *Civil-Military Developing Leaders Program*, sponsored by the Stennis Center for Public Service, is the first of its type in the nation.

The purpose of the program is to encourage discussion between college student leaders and junior military officer leaders on the status of mutual understanding between the military and American society. The conference examined whether there is a growing or narrowing gap in civil-military relations, the impact of the All Volunteer Force, and the implications for military effectiveness and civil-military cooperation. At the end of the program, participants compiled a report based on their findings and sent it to the joint Congressional Leadership and Secretary of Defense.

The participants included 32 students: four each from Mississippi's eight public

colleges and universities, eight midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy, and 24 young military officers from the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

The conference speakers were Dr. Charles Moskos, a professor of sociology at Northwestern University who specializes in military sociology and national youth service, and Dr. Bernard Rostker, a Senior Fellow at RAND who was Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness in the Clinton Administration.

In addition, the students heard from a panel of high-ranking congressional staff: John Chapla, professional staff member, House Armed Services Committee; Steve Cortese, Republican staff director of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Defense Appropriations Subcommittee; and David Lyles, staff director, the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Jessica Neno, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi, said, "I enjoyed meeting the students from the Naval



Dr. Charles Moskos, a military sociologist at Northwestern University, and Dr. Bernard Rostker, a Senior Fellow at the RAND Corporation and former Pentagon official, speak to students attending the Civil-Military Developing Leaders Program at Mississippi State University

Academy and the military officers. I definitely have more respect for what they do." Hays Burchfield, who attends the University of Mississippi, said, "The military men and women all seemed to feel a real calling to serve the United States. It was reassuring to hear how much they loved America and its values of freedom and democracy. I still keep in touch by e-mail with one of the Navy officers I met."

According to Rex Buffington, executive director of the Stennis Center, "It is critical for our civilian leaders and military leaders to work well together, especially as the threats to America increase. This conference helps lay the groundwork for that cooperation in the future."



Students from Mississippi Valley State University



Students from the United States Naval Academy



## Truman Scholars Programs

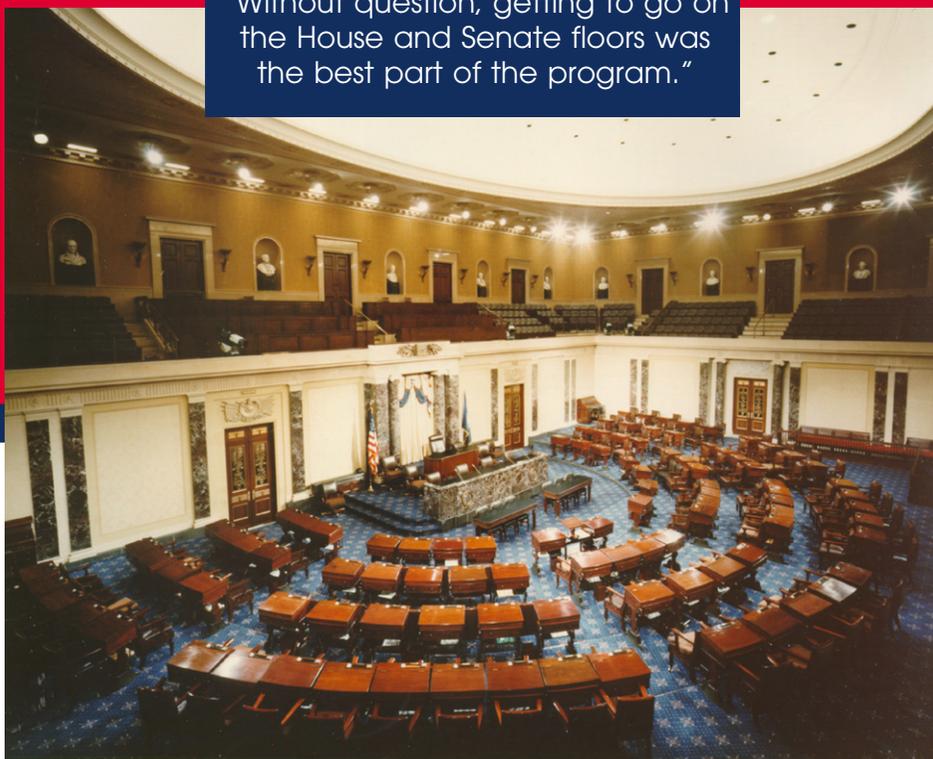
The Stennis Center continued its partnership, which began in 1991, with the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. Truman Scholarships are awarded to college juniors with outstanding academic achievements and a demonstrated desire to pursue a career in public service.

For the first time, the Stennis Center organized *Truman Scholars on Capitol Hill*, a two day program in June to introduce Truman Scholars, already in Washington for summer internships throughout the city, to the congressional environment. Louis Blair, executive secretary of the Truman Scholarship Foundation, said, "The public service institution of most interest to Truman Scholars is the U.S. Congress. Scholars have ambitions to work there as staff and some eventually as Members. They are fascinated by the legislative process. They understand that by and large federal policy is set by the Congress, not by the executive branch."

The program began with an evening reception in the U.S. Capitol where a number of Truman Scholars met informally with their Senator or Congressman. The program on the following day included a tour of the Old Senate Chamber with Senate historian Richard Baker. The Truman Scholars also met with Congressman Chip Pickering of Mississippi. During lunch, the Truman Scholars were paired with Senior Stennis Fellows, who afterwards took each Truman Scholar for a one-on-one visit back in their respective congressional offices. The Truman Scholars were able to meet with high-ranking congressional staff and witness firsthand the kind of work that staff members perform to serve the legislative branch.

Commenting on this intimate exposure to Congress and those who make Congress work, one Truman Scholar observed, "This opportunity gave me new insight into, and appreciation for, the

“Without question, getting to go on the House and Senate floors was the best part of the program.”



**U.S. Senate Chamber, 1990**  
credit: U.S. Senate Historical Office

long hours and hard work put in by the professional staffs of congressional committees.” Another said, “Talking one-on-one with the staffers and touring the offices made everything sort of come together – that was great!”

By far the most popular element of the program was visiting the floors of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. One Truman Scholar spoke for all of them when she stated, “Without question, getting to go on the House and Senate floors was the best part of the program.” She added, “I’ll cherish it always as one of the highlights of my DC experience.” Another said, “Seeing the desks of the Senators overwhelmed me with a sense of history

and patriotism.” Still another declared it “an unforgettable experience.”

The Stennis Center also helps the Truman Scholarship Foundation in other ways. William “Brother” Rogers, assistant director for programs, served on the Nashville Selection Panel for Truman Scholars for the third consecutive year. For the second year in a row, the Stennis Center brought the Congress to Campus program to the Truman Scholars Leadership Week. In other words, two former Members of Congress – Martha Keys (D-KS) and Denny Smith (R-OR) – interacted with the nearly 80 newly selected Truman Scholars from around the country during an intense week of leadership development.

# Stennis Congressional Intern Program

The Stennis Center launched the Stennis Congressional Intern Program in the summer of 2003. This program is a bipartisan, bicameral leadership development experience for summer interns of the United States Congress. Sponsored by the Stennis Center for Public Service and supported by Senior Stennis Fellows, the program is designed to enhance the internship experience beyond the established summer intern program by fostering interaction and discussion with senior congressional staff.

The inaugural group included 26 interns – 14 from the House and 12 from the Senate. To better understand how Congress works, they participated in five sessions over a six-week period:

- **Understanding the Players** – a look at the differences and coordination between personal, committee and leadership offices;
- **Careers in Congress** – a discussion with senior staff about career paths and the work environment on Capitol Hill;
- **Informal Roundtable with Senior Staff** – one-on-one meetings with longtime staff members on the Hill;
- **The Outside Influences** – Former congressional staff explain their roles as lobbyists in the legislative process; and
- **Final luncheon event** – U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre (D-NC) told how he went from intern to Member of Congress and challenged the interns to follow their dreams.

In addition, interns toured the House floor with U.S. Representative Ray

“One of the most informative and valuable experiences I had in Washington. - Jessica Banahan, Intern for U.S. Senator Trent Lott,

“I definitely gained a new respect for Congress as an institution and for those who work there.” - Edward Sanders, Intern for the House Veterans Affairs Committee

LaHood (R-IL) and the Senate floor with Senate Deputy Sergeant of Arms Keith Kennedy.

Jessica Banahan, an intern for Senator Trent Lott, described the program as “one of the most informative and valuable experiences I had in Washington. I left with a better understanding of the vital roles that Congressional staffers play in the inner workings of a Member’s office.”

David Pike, deputy chief of staff to U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, sent two interns to the program, and reported that the experience was a tremendous success. “Your seminars greatly enhanced the intern experience for both of them,” he wrote. “Christine Nelson said that she had not only learned a great deal, but also that she had begun to view the government in a different light – not as an ethereal body comprised of disconnected legislators but rather one made up of real people making decisions that have real world application to her.”

Edward Sanders, who interned for the House Veterans Affairs Committee, echoed the sentiments of all the interns when he said, “I like the combination of listening to senior staff experiences and talking with other interns about their experiences. I definitely gained a new respect for Congress as an institution and for those who work there.”

# Intern Participants for the 108th Congress, First Session

Margarita A. Almanza  
Office of U.S. Representative Jerry  
Weller

Jessica Banahan  
Office of U.S. Senator Trent Lott

Andrea Bowman  
Office of U.S. Representative Ray  
LaHood

Molly Campbell  
Office of U.S. Senator Larry Craig

Ross D. Chanin  
Office of U.S. Senator Herb Kohl

Holly Cummings  
Office of U.S. Representative Jim Davis

F. Scott Dwyer  
Subcommittee on National Parks,  
Recreation and Public Lands  
House Resources Committee

Dawn Fallstich  
Office of U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman

Sam Fletcher  
Office of U.S. Representative Todd Akin

Jason Frazer  
Office of U.S. Representative Charles  
Rangel

Dennis Gucciardo  
Office of U.S. Representative Jim Davis

Jennifer Hedman  
Office of U.S. Representative George  
Radanovich

William Glenn Hunt  
Office of U.S. Senator Trent Lott

Anne Kagi  
Office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Travis Tetsu Lumpkin  
Office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Michael Andrew Maxwell  
Office of U.S. Representative Gresham  
Barrett

Travis D. McNiven  
Office of U.S. Senator Mike Enzi

Christopher William Moore  
Office of U.S. Representative  
Phil English

Christine Nelson  
Office of U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman

Marc Pelka  
Office of U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham  
Clinton

Lindsay Ross  
Office of U.S. Representative Chaka  
Fattah

Anna Marie Sanchez  
Office of U.S. Representative George  
Radanovich

Edward Sanders  
House Veterans Affairs Committee

Badar Tareen  
Office of U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan

James Whittle  
Office of U.S. Senator Kent Conrad

Karen Wilhelm  
Office of U.S. Representative Charles  
Stenholm

# Strengthening Public Service Leadership in America



# Southern Women in Public Service Conference



Pacesetters with Janet Reno at the 2003 conference in Little Rock, AR

The *Southern Women in Public Service: Coming Together to Make a Difference* conference began in 1991 as an effort to promote women in government leadership in the South. This conference is unique because it brings together women leaders from both political parties, all levels and branches of government, along with women leaders in business and academia. They are united behind the idea that women are making a difference in the quality and character of government and that more women need to be involved as leaders in American politics.

The conference features workshops to improve leadership skills and has developed a reputation for outstanding speakers such as Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Dole, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Mary Landrieu, and Janet Reno to name only a few. Nearly every Congresswoman from the South has attended. "As a first time attendee (in 2003), I was simply overwhelmed with the quality of workshops and keynote speakers," said one participant. Eleven of the 13 Southern states have hosted the



Virginia State Senator Yvonne Miller with 2003 Lindy Bogg Award Winner Janet Reno

conference, with Arkansas hosting in 2003 and Georgia set to host again in 2004.

Yvonne Miller, who has the distinction of being the first black woman elected to both the Virginia House of Delegates and later State Senate, has attended every conference since 1998. "I never miss this event," she said, "because it recharges my public service batteries. The Stennis

“I think one of the reasons for the success of this conference year after year is its bipartisanship. Regardless of political ideology, the women at this conference come together in a spirit of unity.” - Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Kay Cobb

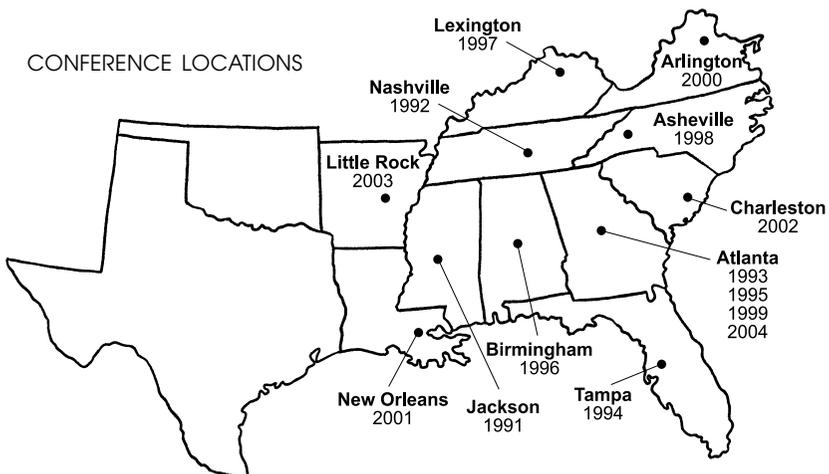
Center’s women’s conference is the best one for women in politics. They do a good job of attracting a diverse group of women leaders as both attendees and as presenters.”

Kay Cobb, a former state legislator and the only female justice on the Mississippi Supreme Court, said, “The 2003 conference was my fifth one, and the best yet. It just keeps getting better and better.” She added, “I think one of the reasons for the success of this conference year after year is its bipartisanship. Regardless of political ideology, the women at this conference come together in a spirit of unity.”

Carole Wells, another former legislator who is the first woman to chair the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, likes the unique networking

opportunities. “I always enjoy meeting people not only from other Southern states, but I like the mix of mayors, judges, legislators, commissioners, board members, business executives, professors and others who are there.”

Jimmie Lou Fisher, who served as Arkansas State Treasurer for 20 years and helped plan the 2003 conference in Little Rock, remembered, “When I came to the first conference back in 1991, women were just beginning to make inroads in the South. The success of this event mirrors the unprecedented progress women have made. Still, the overall number of women leaders in political positions in the South is low. We need conferences like this to encourage women to run and seek appointments and to strengthen the women there now.”





Former AR State Treasurer Jimmie Lou Fisher, Rex Buffington, and AR State Senator Mary Anne Salmon



Lindy Boggs with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), 2002 winner of the Lindy Boggs Award



Nationally known political communications expert Chris Jahnke makes a presentation



U.S. Representative Denise Majette (D-GA) at the 2003 conference



U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) at the 2003 conference

## 108th Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows



## Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program

The Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program was established by the Stennis Center in 1993 during the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress. Popularly known by the shorthand title, Stennis Fellows Program, this bipartisan, bicameral experience for senior-level staff of the United States Congress has become the premiere leadership development program for staff leaders on Capitol Hill.

At the beginning of each new Congress, approximately 30 Congressional staff members are selected through a highly competitive process to become Stennis Fellows. Each group includes staff from the House and Senate, from personal, committee and leadership offices and from the different political parties.

Stennis Fellows include chiefs of staff, committee staff directors, legislative directors, legal counsels and other professional staff members in Congress. They are unified by a passion for congressional public service and a desire to work with the nation's elected leaders to make the Congress function as effectively as possible on behalf of the American people.

The Stennis Fellows of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress used two facilitated retreats and three

roundtable discussions to explore how leaders balance debate with dialogue in Congress. They interacted with leading experts, such as Washington Post reporter Helen Dewar, best-selling author Deborah Tannen, and former U.S. Senator Warren Rudman.

The Stennis Fellows of the 108th Congress are pursuing a learning agenda focused on building greater trust and civility both within and across society.

Joyce Brayboy, chief of staff to Congressman Melvin Watt, observed, "I was delighted with how quickly we all came together across party and chamber lines to find common ground. This program really recharged my public service batteries."

Andy Givens, counsel to the Senate Appropriations Committee, said, "The best part of the program is making friends with other senior staff who also dislike the current level of partisanship and who want to accomplish something positive in public service. We need to communicate better with each other across the aisle and between the House and Senate. This program helps us do that."

# 108th Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows

**Richard A. Arenberg**

Legislative Director &  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

**John M. Ariale**

Chief of Staff  
U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw

**Winfield Boerckel, Jr.**

Administrative Assistant/  
Legislative Director  
U.S. Rep. Gerald D. Kleczka

**David Cavicke**

Counsel  
House Committee on  
Energy and Commerce

**Jo-Ellen Darcy**

Senior Policy Advisor  
Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public  
Works

**Lula Johnson Davis**

Assistant Secretary for the  
Minority  
Office of the Secretary for  
the Minority

**Don DeArmon**

Associate Staff for  
Appropriations  
U.S. Rep. Lucille  
Roybal-Allard

**Bruce M. Evans**

Staff Director  
Subcommittee on Interior  
and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on  
Appropriations

**Beverly Ann Fields**

Chief of Staff  
U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice  
Johnson

**Gene T. Fisher**

Legislative Director/Special  
Assistant for Appropriations  
U.S. Rep. Carolyn C.  
Kilpatrick

**Monique P. Frazier**

Legislative Director  
U.S. Rep. Mike Ross

**Jennice Fuentes**

Chief of Staff  
U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez

**Christina Langelier  
Hamilton**

Administrative Assistant  
U.S. Rep. David Obey

**Elisabeth Wright Hawkings**

Chief of Staff  
U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays

**Clayton Heil**

Legislative Director  
U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran

**Robert Gregory Hinote**

Chief of Staff  
U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper

**Robert Holste**

Administrative Assistant  
U.S. Rep. Phil English

**Virginia Hurt Johnson**

Counsel to the Chairman  
House Committee on  
Standards of Official  
Conduct  
Counsel  
House Armed Services  
Committee

**William Johnson**

Chief of Staff  
U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston

**Stacey Leavandosky**

Legislative Director  
U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey

**Evan Liddiard**

Senior Tax Policy Advisor  
U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch

**Stephanie J. Monroe**

Chief Counsel  
Senate Committee on  
Health, Labor and Pensions

**Carol Murphy**

Clerk  
House Committee on  
Appropriations

**Sue A. Nelson**

Minority Deputy Staff  
Director  
Senate Committee on  
Budget

**Janet Perry Poppleton**

Chief of Staff  
U.S. Rep. Ralph M. Hall

**Judy Schneider**

Specialist on the Congress  
Congressional Research  
Service, Library of Con-  
gress

**Russell Sullivan**

Minority Chief Tax Counsel  
Senate Committee on  
Finance

**Kristine Svinicki**

Senior Policy Advisor  
U.S. Sen. Larry Craig

**Alison Taylor**

Minority Chief Counsel  
Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public  
Works

**Paul Unger**

Counsel and Legislative  
Director  
U.S. Sen. George Allen

**Mark S. Wellman**

Chief of Staff  
U.S. Rep. Paul E. Gillmor



Rex Buffington with Senior Stennis Fellows Terri Ann Lowenthal (right), a key organizer of the program, and mentor Tamera Luzzatto (left), chief of staff to U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton

## Emerging Congressional Staff Leadership Program

The bipartisan, bicameral Emerging Congressional Staff Leadership Program, developed by Senior Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows (see previous page) and the Stennis Center, uses one-on-one mentoring and plenary group discussions to provide leadership development for a select group of less-experienced congressional staff members. This Emerging Leaders program, an outgrowth of the Stennis Center's work with senior congressional staff, was piloted in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress and fully implemented in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Terri Ann Lowenthal, a Senior Stennis Fellow who worked in both the House and Senate from 1981 to 1995, said, "Congressional aides seeking to establish a career path in Congress need successful role models to whom they can turn for advice. Unfortunately, there are few formal efforts to provide newer staff

with the guidance they need. We designed this program to help fill that gap."

Emerging Leaders are congressional aides with one to three years of experience in permanent, full time positions, who have demonstrated an interest in pursuing a career in congressional public service and are recognized by their supervisors and peers as having advancement and leadership potential. They are paired with veteran congressional staff to assist them in developing the skills, confidence and professional networks needed to build a successful, long-term career in the legislative branch.

The 107<sup>th</sup> Congress class included 14 Emerging Leaders divided evenly between the Senate and the House. Over a ten-month period, they met at least four times individually with their



“...there are few formal efforts to provide newer staff with the guidance they need. We designed this program to help fill that gap.”

- Terri Ann Lowenthal, Senior Stennis Fellow and congressional aide from 1981 to 1995

mentors. They also participated in four plenary gatherings of all Emerging Leaders. For example, they learned about the legislative process on the floor of the House of Representatives from experts, such as the House Parliamentarian, Deputy Clerk, Rules Committee Staff Director and Senior Floor Assistant to the Minority Leader. Former Congressman Lee Hamilton, director of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, spoke at the closing ceremony.

Kristina Moore, who was performing administrative work for Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and is now a legislative assistant for Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite, said, “Starting out on the Hill is an exciting and confusing time.

It was very beneficial to be able to have an experienced staffer to go to, to seek advice from, and bounce ideas off of. I developed a friendship with my mentor, Diane Liesman, that has lasted beyond the year in which we were paired together.” She added, “I also enjoyed meeting staffers who worked in both chambers of Congress and both sides of the aisle.”

Moore’s description of her experience demonstrates the value of the program. “It helped to broaden my understanding of how Congress works, and how I can become a more effective staff member,” she said. “It is also a pleasure to meet people with the same drive and dedication as myself to serve my country through congressional public service.”

# 2003 Emerging Congressional Staff Leaders

## **Alison Bean**

Professional Staff Member  
Senate Committee on Governmental  
Affairs  
*Mentor: Susan Hattan (104<sup>th</sup> Congress)*

## **Calli Daly**

Legislative Assistant  
Office of U.S. Senator Larry E. Craig  
*Mentor: Rick Valentine (104<sup>th</sup> Congress)*

## **Kacey Guy**

Legislative Assistant  
Office of U.S. Representative Ronnie  
Shows  
*Mentor: Cheryl Johnson (105<sup>th</sup>  
Congress)*

## **Joey Heffernon**

Legislative Director  
Office of U.S. Representative Porter Goss  
*Mentor: Nick Hayes (103<sup>rd</sup> Congress)*

## **Margo Hennigan**

Staff Assistant  
Office of U.S. Representative Henry  
Waxman  
*Mentor: Rochelle Dornatt (106<sup>th</sup>  
Congress)*

## **Adam Jarvis**

Professional Staff  
House Committee on Rules  
*Mentor: John McCamman (105<sup>th</sup>  
Congress)*

## **Justin King**

Professional Staff Member  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor and Pensions  
*Mentor: Tom Sliter (104<sup>th</sup> Congress)*

## **Ben Miller**

Legislative Assistant  
Office of U.S. Senator Herb Kohl  
*Mentor: Patrick Von Barga (104<sup>th</sup>  
Congress)*

## **Kristina Moore**

Staff Assistant  
Office of the Speaker of the House  
*Mentor: Diane Liesman (106<sup>th</sup> Congress)*

## **Damon Nelson**

Legislative Assistant  
Office of U.S. Representative George  
Radanovich  
*Mentor: Jay Eagen (103<sup>rd</sup> Congress)*

## **Ned Steiner**

Legislative Assistant  
Office of U.S. Representative Sam Farr  
*Mentor: Richard Boykin (106<sup>th</sup> Congress)*

## **William Smith**

Deputy Chief Counsel  
Senate Subcommittee on Administrative  
Oversight  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
*Mentor: Nils Johnson (106<sup>th</sup> Congress)*

## **Dan Utech**

Legislative Assistant  
Office of U.S. Senator John Corzine  
*Mentor: Paul Bock (106<sup>th</sup> Congress)*

## **Quinn Warnick**

Legislative Assistant  
Office of U.S. Senator Robert F. Bennett  
*Mentor: Jim Dykstra (103<sup>rd</sup> Congress)*

# Civil-Military Leadership Program

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Stennis Center established its Civil-Military Leadership Program, "Providing for the Common Defense: Civil-Military Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," to enhance the understanding of Members of Congress regarding military life, values, culture, and institutions. The program targets new Members of Congress and has the strong support of the bipartisan leadership of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

A generation ago, about three quarters of those serving in the House and Senate had personal military experience to help them make decisions about defense policy and matters relating to their constituents serving in the nation's armed forces. Today, about one third of Members of Congress have military experience, and that number continues to decline.

The program's goal is to unite civilian political leaders with military personnel of all ranks, to visit forces in the field and to discuss national security policy among themselves and with distinguished historians, statesmen and others who are knowledgeable about the military's role in American society.

Congressman Todd Platts, who participated in the program, said, "The Stennis Center's Civil-Military Leadership Program has greatly enhanced my understanding of the many challenges facing our Nation's armed services and the critical role of Congress in helping to meet these challenges. I am especially grateful for the Program's coordination of first-hand interactions with military

The Stennis Center's Civil-Military Leadership Program provides an important service to newly-elected Members of Congress, many who do not have prior military experience. As a recipient of the information they have made available, I have a better working knowledge of the military and can better formulate stances on legislation dealing with armed forces issues.

- Congressman Jim Gerlach

personnel and family members of our men and women in uniform. These personal interactions will long guide and strengthen my work as a Member of Congress."

In May of 2003, Members of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress and community leaders visited the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina. The program provided an opportunity for Members and their community leaders to experience firsthand the life, value, culture





Award winners Fred Melnick, David Levu, Ed Fink, and Erica Thorton with Jim McDonell of the USS JOHN C. STENNIS

## Aircraft Carrier Leadership Awards

*"Most of us, most of the time, live in blissful ignorance of what a small, elite, heroic group of Americans are doing for us night and day. As we speak, all over the globe, American Sailors and aviators are doing something very dangerous. People say, 'Well, it can't be too dangerous because there are no wrecks.' But the reason we don't have more accidents is that these are superb professionals; the fact that they master the dangers does not mean that the dangers aren't real."*

*"Right now, somewhere around the world, young men and women are landing high-performance jet aircraft on the pitching decks of aircraft carriers – at night! You can't pay people to do that; they do it out of love of country, of adventure, of the challenge. We all benefit from it, and from the very fact that we don't have to think about it tells you how superbly they're doing their job – living on the edge of danger so the rest of us need not think about, let alone experience, danger." – George Will*

Serving on an aircraft carrier is a special kind of public service. Building on its relationship with the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74), the Stennis Center developed a special awards program to recognize outstanding leadership on the ship. The Stennis Center established a similar program for the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65).

The USS STENNIS annually presents four awards, while the USS ENTERPRISE presents six. Both ships honor officers as well as enlisted personnel. The winners are selected through a ship-wide competition to identify individuals who have demonstrated superior performance and exceptional leadership skills.

As part of the Stennis Center's continuing effort to improve relations between civilian leaders and the military, each of the award winners travels to Washington, D.C. where they meet with high-ranking government officials. For example, in



USS ENTERPRISE Leadership Award Winners

August 2003, the winners from the USS STENNIS toured the Pentagon, met with Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Bill Fallon, toured the U.S. Capitol building and visited other sites of interest in the area. In addition to providing an opportunity for the award winners to learn more about Washington and how policy is formulated in Congress, the individuals who met with the group in Washington also had an opportunity to learn more about life, values, and culture in the military.

Commander Fred Melnick, the recipient of the Straight Furrow Award as the outstanding commissioned officer on the USS STENNIS, oversees more than 400 sailors who maintain the ship's 80 airplanes. He said, "This opportunity to meet with leaders in Washington has renewed my faith in America and my commitment to public service. I look forward to returning to the ship and letting the sailors know how much our country appreciates what they do."

**2003  
LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS  
USS JOHN C. STENNIS**

ATC (AW/SW) Ed Fink  
Look Ahead Award

CDR Fred Melnick  
Straight Furrow Award

PC1 David Levu  
Sailor of the Year

PN3 Erica Thornton  
Junior Sailor of the Year

**2003  
LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS  
USS ENTERPRISE**

CDR Richard C. Gile  
Admiral James L. Holloway III  
Leadership Award

LTJG Rebecca A. Boone  
Stephen Decatur Leadership Award

ABFCS (AW) Michael R. Johnston  
Chief G. F. Lawhon Leadership Award

AW1 (AW/SW) Carlton W. Bennett III  
Billy Hawk Leading Petty Officer Award  
ENTERPRISE Sailor of the Year

HT2 (SW/AW) Raymond L. Benison  
Boatswain's Mate Second Class  
George H. Smith Award  
ENTERPRISE Junior Sailor of the Year

Airman (AW) Jessica Marie Kissel  
Lieutenant Richard H. Best Award  
ENTERPRISE Bluejacket of the Year



Captain Dave Buss and  
U.S. Representative Chip Pickering

## Connecting Carriers and Congress

One of the new programs under the Stennis Center's ongoing initiative to improve civil-military relations is a periodic luncheon on Capitol Hill for prospective commanding officers (PCO) of the Navy's nuclear powered aircraft carriers. Commanding officers of America's aircraft carriers are in a unique position to help civilian leaders better understand the life, values and culture of the Navy, and of the military in general.

Every PCO comes to Washington for a five-week nuclear fresher course as a final step in their preparation to assume command. The Stennis Center has developed a program for these incoming commanding officers to interact with Members of Congress and senior-level congressional staff members who work on national security issues and to develop mutual understanding between the civilian leaders in Congress and the main Fleet units.

The primary purpose of the program is to provide the PCOs opportunities to understand the interests of Congress and the civilian leadership of the government and how to interact with them when their ships are visited. Since the inception of

**2003**  
Captain Dave Buss  
*USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74)*

Captain Johnny Green  
*USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)*

Captain James Symonds  
*USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76)*

**2002**  
Captain Kendall L. Card  
*USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)*

Captain Martin J. Erdossy  
*USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73)*

Captain Robert J. Gilman  
*USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)*

Captain Michael R. Groothousen  
*USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75)*

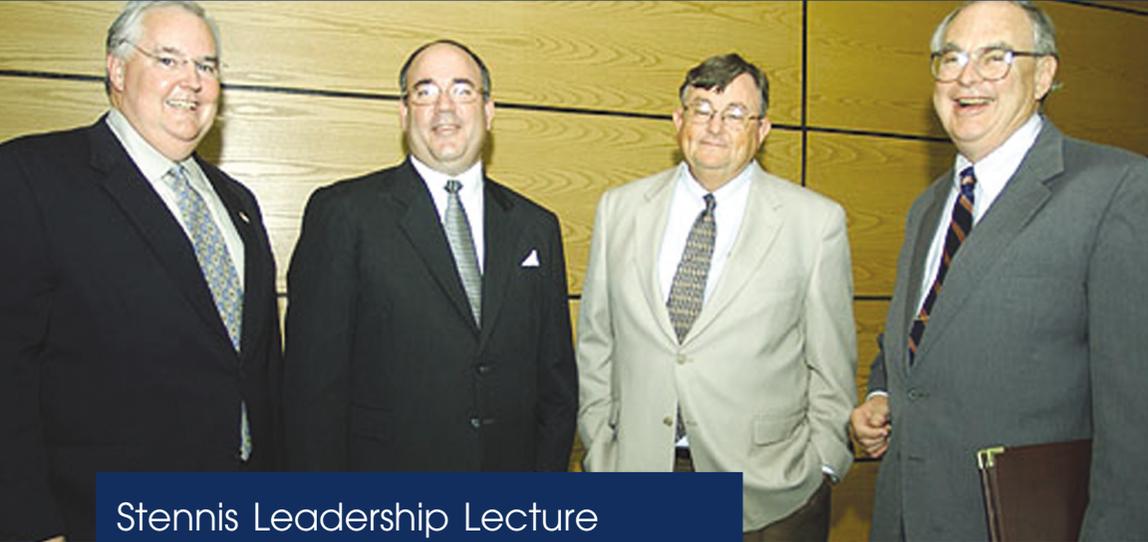
**2001**  
Captain James McDonell  
*USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74)*

Captain Rick Wren  
*USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)*

Captain Rick Neidlinger  
*USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65)*

the program, the Stennis Center has hosted the prospective commanding officers of the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65), USS NIMITZ (CVN-68), USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70), USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71), USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72), USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73), USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74), USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75) and the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76).

Rex Buffington, executive director of the Stennis Center, stated at a luncheon in April of 2003, "We want to be proactive and intentional about strengthening relations and understanding between civilian and military leaders."



## Stennis Leadership Lecture

By Sid Salter

July 8, 2003, Mississippi State University

Each year at the MidSouth Community College Fellowship Program (MCCFP), which focuses on future community college leadership, the Stennis Center sponsors the John C. Stennis Lecture Series. Sid Salter, Perspective Editor of *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Mississippi, delivered the address in 2003.

### **Excerpts from the 2003 Stennis Lecture**

*It is an honor to participate in an event that honors the memory of Senator Stennis—a man I met as a small boy in DeKalb while visiting in the home of his neighbors, my Uncle Earnest and Aunt Pearl Bateman. At the time, Stennis was chairman of the Senate Armed Service Committee and already busy at work building the modern U.S. Navy.*

*My Uncle Earnest was a Kemper County supervisor and Stennis lived in his beat. In DeKalb, there was a healthy debate in the minds of the locals over who held the greatest power. Seems that Mr. John could secure financing for a \$5 billion aircraft carrier, but my Uncle Earnest could supply anybody in his beat with a culvert. Culverts were in far greater demand in rural Kemper County than were aircraft carriers—and instantly, I had learned a valuable political lesson.*

*In later years, I would come to appreciate the “little judge” from Kemper County who “plowed a straight furrow to the end of the row.” John C. Stennis remains the gold standard in Mississippi politics for integrity, honesty, selflessness, vision and genuine compassion and concern for common men and women.*

John C. Stennis remains the gold standard in Mississippi politics for integrity, honesty, selflessness, vision and genuine compassion and concern for common men and women. - Sid Salter, The Clarion-Ledger

*The senator touched my life as a boy, later as a Mississippi State student attending school on a scholarship that bore his name, and each time I'm introduced today—for his name still opens doors and commands respect years after his death. I have been fortunate to receive many honors and accolades over the course of my career, but none that mean more to me than the distinction—Stennis Scholar.*

- A leader does what's right. A follower does what's easy.
- A leader is controlled by virtues, a follower by moods.
- A leader is loyal to the end, a follower will betray or desert.
- A leader looks for solutions, a follower for excuses.
- A leader perseveres when challenged, a follower quits.
- A leader is self-motivated, a follower must be driven.
- A leader's words and actions agree, a follower just talks.
- A leader is self-confident, follower just acts cool.
- A leader's choices lead to success, a follower's choices lead to failure.

*I believe that true leadership is based in the ability to inspire others to be better, live better, think better and behave better than the alluring sirens of their more base instincts.*

*The best leadership is leadership by example. Those leaders who practice a strong work ethic can more easily inspire that same work ethic in others. Strong leaders are the hardest workers.*

*John Cornelius Stennis was neither swift nor strong nor physically imposing. He was possessed of a Southern drawl so thick as to be comical. But his legacy is that of a giant. Why?*

*Stennis was persistent, consistent and insistent. He believed in ethics and integrity and practiced it. He believed in a strong national defense and he provided for it. He believed in helping the poor and downtrodden and he extended the hand of the federal government to them through WPA, TVA and later through the Great Society programs.*

*On a grander scale, leadership must transcend the petty "gotcha" politics that dominate partisan squabbles in Congress and in the administration. Poverty, ignorance, prejudice, crime, disease and fear are problems that are neither Democratic or Republican. They are American problems, global problems. In essence, John Stennis had it right. Leadership is indeed "plowing a straight furrow to the end of the row."*

*I was among the last generation of Mississippi to actually till a field using plowshares under the power of a mule. I know how hard it is to plow any kind of furrow, much less a straight one. I also know how easy it is to succumb to the temptation to stop plowing altogether.*

*But leadership demands that we stay in the field, keep plowing and fight the furrow straight. John Stennis knew that. And that is his legacy to us today. May God bless his memory.*



Senator John C. Stennis

## John C. Stennis 1901-1995

John C. Stennis was a United States Senator from Mississippi from 1947 to 1989. Known as the "Conscience of the Senate," Stennis wrote the first code of ethics for the Senate and chaired the first Senate Ethics Committee. He developed a reputation for personal rectitude and high moral character. Stennis was chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee from 1969 to 1980 and helped shape America's national security policy throughout the Cold War. He concluded his public service career as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Stennis was a trusted colleague to seven U.S. presidents with whom he served, from Truman to Reagan. He was admired and respected by Democrats and Republicans and was often referred to as the "Senator's Senator." His exemplary leadership has been honored in many ways, including the naming of the nation's seventh nuclear-powered aircraft carrier the USS JOHN C. STENNIS.



William E. Cresswell  
Chairman and  
Former Chief of  
Staff to Senator  
John C. Stennis



Tillie Fowler  
Former U.S.  
Representative  
from Florida



John Lewis  
U.S. Representative  
from Georgia



Charles W.  
"Chip" Pickering  
U.S. Representa-  
tive from  
Mississippi



John W. Warner  
U.S. Senator from  
Virginia



William Winter  
Former Governor  
of Mississippi



Rex G. Buffington, II  
Director

## Staff

Mary Shields Dewald  
*Assistant Director for Civil-Military Programs*

Tricia Hollis  
*Assistant Director for Congressional Programs*

Janet D. McKell  
*Executive Secretary*

Tricia Pace  
*Program and Publications Coordinator*

William "Brother" Rogers  
*Assistant Director for Programs*

Frank Sullivan  
*Counsel*

Anita Winton, C.P.A.  
*Assistant Director for Administration*