

January 5, 2009 - 111th Congress to be Sworn-In Tomorrow

According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), when the 111th Congress is officially sworn-in tomorrow (January 6, 2009):

Congress

John P. Murtha will be entering his 19th term in the United States House of Representatives. Murtha was first elected by a special election in February of 1974, and then was re-elected to a second term in November of that year.

Congressman Murtha will have served 12,755 days in the United States House of Representatives. This is 34 years and 336 days in the House.

Congressman Murtha is the second longest serving member from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to serve in the U.S. Congress. Only Joseph McDade, who served a total of 13,150 days, has served longer. Murtha will become the longest serving Pennsylvanian in February 2010.

Congressman Murtha is the "Dean" of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, meaning that he is the most senior member of Congress representing the Commonwealth.

Of the nearly 10,650 men and women who have served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1789, only 81 have served longer than Congressman Murtha.

In the 111th Congress, Congressman Murtha will be the 8th most senior member of the 435-member House of Representatives and the 12th most senior member of Congress (435-member House and 100-member Senate).

The top-25 most senior members of the 111th Congress:

Sen.
Robert Byrd (D-WV)

Rep.
John Dingell, Jr. (D-MI)

Sen.

Daniel Inouye (D-HI)

Sen.
Edward Kennedy (D-MA)

Rep.
John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI)

Rep.
David Obey (D-WI)

Rep.
Charles Rangel (D-NY)

Rep.
C.W. Young (R-FL)

Sen.
Thad Cochran (R-MS)

Rep.
Pete Stark (D-CA)

Rep.
Don Young (R-AK)

Rep.
John Murtha (D-PA)

Sen.
Max Baucus (D-MT)

Sen.
Christopher Dodd (D-CT)

Sen.
Charles Grassley (R-IA)

Sen.
Tom Harkin (D-IA)

Sen.
Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

Rep.
George Miller (D-CA)

Rep.
James Oberstar (D-MN)

Rep.
Henry Waxman (D-CA)

Rep.
Edward Markey (D-MA)

- Sen.
Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

Sen.
Richard Lugar (R-IN)

Sen.
Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)

Sen.
Daniel Akaka (D-HI)

Additional
Information on the 111th Congress:

The current party alignments are 257 voting-Democrats in the House of Representatives (not including the five non-voting members that are also Democrats) and 178 Republicans. The Senate has 56 Democrats; two Independents, who caucus with the Democrats; and 41 Republicans. The Minnesota Senate Race has yet to be officially certified.

The average length of service of Members of the House at the beginning of the 111th Congress is 11.0 years (5.5 terms), a year longer than that of the 110th. The average length of service of Members of the Senate at the beginning of the 111th Congress is 12.9 years (2.2 terms), six months longer than that of the 110th Congress (12.3 years).

A record number of 95 women will serve in the 111th Congress; 78 in the House and 17 in the Senate. Of the 78 women in the House, 61 are Democrats, including 3 Delegates, and 17 are Republicans. Of the 17 women serving in the Senate, 13 are Democrats and 4 are Republicans.

In the 111th Congress there are 121 Members who have served in the military, five less than in the 110th Congress. The House has 96 veterans (including two Delegates); the Senate 25. These Members served in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo, as well as during times of peace. The number of veterans in the 111th Congress reflects the trend of a steady decline in the number of Members who have served in the military. For example, there were 298 veterans (240 Representatives, 58 Senators) in the 96th Congress (1979-1981); and 398 veterans (329 Representatives, 69 Senators) in the 91st Congress (1969-1971).