

WIDOWS WHO SUCCEEDED THEIR HUSBANDS IN CONGRESS

48 women have been elected or appointed to fill congressional vacancies created by the deaths of their husbands, 8 to the U.S. Senate and 40 to the U. S. House of Representatives.

U.S. Senate - 8¹

1931-45	Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-AR)	1978-79	Maryon Pittman Allen (D-AL)
1936-37	Rose McConnell Long (D-LA)	1978-79	Muriel Buck Humphrey (D-MN)
1948	Vera Cahalan Bushfield (R-SD)	1992	Jocelyn Birch Burdick (D-ND)
1960-67	Maurine Brown Neuberger (D-OR)	2001-02	Jean Carnahan (D-MO)

U.S. House of Representatives – 40²

1923-25	Mae Ella Nolan (R-CA)	1957-63	Kathryn Elizabeth Granahan (D-PA)
1925-37	Florence Prag Kahn (R-CA)	1958-61	Edna Oakes Simpson (R-IL)
1925-60	Edith Nourse Rogers (R-MA)	1961-63	Catherine Dorris Norrell (D-AR)
1929-31	Pearl Peden Oldfield (D-AR)	1961-63	Louise Goff Reece (R-TN)
1930-33	Effiegene Locke Wingo (D-AR)	1962-63	Corinne Boyd Riley (D-SC)
1932-33	Willa McCord Blake Eslick (D-TN)	1964-65	Irene Bailey Baker (R-TN)
1934-35	Marian Williams Clarke (R-NY)	1966-67	Lera Millard Thomas (D-TX)
1938	Elizabeth Hawley Gasque (D-SC)	1972-73	Elizabeth B. Andrews (D-AL)
1940-69	Frances Bolton (R-OH)	1973-91	Corinne "Lindy" Boggs (D-LA)
1940-49	Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME) ³	1973-97	Cardiss Collins (D-IL)
1940-41	Florence Reville Gibbs (D-GA)	1975-79	Shirley N. Pettis (R-CA)
1940-41	Clara Gooding McMillan (D-SC)	1979-93	Beverly Barton Butcher Byron (D-MD)
1941-43	Katharine Edgar Byron (D-MD)	1982-83	Jean Ashbrook (R-OH)
1942-43	Veronica Grace Boland (D-PA)	1983-87	Sala Burton (D-CA)
1944-45	Willa Lybrand Fulmer (D-SC)	1985-87	Catherine S. Long (D-LA)
1951-55	Vera Daerr Buchanan (D-PA)	1996-2013	Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
1951-63	Marguerite Stitt Church (R-IL)	1998-2013	Mary Bono (R-CA)
1951-65	Maude Elizabeth Kee (D-WV)	1998-2017	Lois Capps (D-CA)
1952-75	Leonor K. Sullivan (D-MO) ⁴	2005-present	Doris Matsui (D-CA)
1954-57	Mary Elizabeth Pruett Farrington (R-HI) ⁵	2021-present	Julia Letlow (R-LA) ⁶

★ In addition to the 40 widows in the House, Debbie Dingell (D-MI, 2015 – present) succeeded her living husband after his retirement, the only woman to date to do so.

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- ¹ Of the 8 women who took Senate seats after the death of their husbands, six were appointed to their deceased husband's seats and one won a special election addition, Jean Carnahan was appointed to the Senate seat won posthumously by her husband.
- ² Of the 40 women who filled vacancies caused by the deaths of their husbands, 38 won special elections; the exceptions were Leonor Sullivan (see below) and Elizabeth Hawley Gasque (D-SC), who was never sworn in or seated, since Congress was not in session between her special election and the expiration of her term.
- ³ Smith also served in the U.S. Senate 1949-73.
- ⁴ Leonor Sullivan did not succeed her husband directly, having lost the special election primary. She won the subsequent general election for the seat he had held.
- ⁵ Farrington was a non-voting delegate to U.S. House of Representatives because Hawaii was not yet a state.
- ⁶ Letlow won a special election to replace her husband who died days before officially swearing in.

Sources: *Women in the United States Congress*, Congressional Research Service and the Center for American Women and Politics fact sheet, *Women in the U.S. House of Representatives 2005*.