

U.S. SENATE RECORDS OF SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

U.S. Senate Institutional Records

- Longest-serving member of Congress, with 20,996 days (57 years, 5 months, 26 days). (On November 18, 2009, Senator Byrd surpassed the service record of Carl T. Hayden to become the longest-serving member of Congress, with 20,774 days of service.)
- Longest serving U.S. Senator in history, at 18,805 days (51 years, 5 months, 26 days). (Senator Byrd had served 17,327 days in the U.S. Senate on June 12, 2006—making him the longest serving U.S. Senator in history.)
- Only person elected to nine full terms in the U.S. Senate.
- Since January 3, 1959, Senator Byrd has served with a total of 424 senators.
- Presided over the shortest session of the U.S. Senate in history. (6/10ths of a second, February 27, 1989)
- Presided over the Senate for the longest continuous period in history. (21 hour, 8 minutes, March 7-8, 1960)
- Has served on a U.S. Senate committee longer than any other senator in history. (U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, January 14, 1959-June 28, 2010)
- Only U.S. senator to preside over more than one Senate impeachment trial. (Judge Alcee Hastings, October 20, 1989; Judge Walter Nixon, November 3, 1989)

U.S. Senate Voting Records

- Has cast more roll-call votes than any other U.S. senator, at 18,689. (Cast record-breaking vote number 12,134 on April 27, 1990)
- Cast 4,705 consecutive votes—the third highest consecutive vote total in U.S. Senate history. (Behind Senator William Proxmire [D-WI], with 10,252 consecutive votes, and Senator Charles Grassley [R-IA], who cast his 5,400th consecutive roll call vote on Feb. 9, 2009.)

U.S. Senate Leadership

- Has held the most leadership positions in the U.S. Senate. (secretary of the majority conference, majority whip, minority leader, majority leader, and president pro tempore)

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN SENATE CAREER OF SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

April 18, 1958, filed for Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate.

November 4, 1958, elected to the Senate. January 3, 1959, arrived in the Senate.

January 7, 1959, cast first Senate vote.

January 14, 1959, took a seat on Senate Appropriations Committee. January 23, 1959, delivered maiden speech in the Senate.

March 7-8, 1960, presided over the Senate for 21 hour, 8 minutes, the longest continuous period in history.

June 10, 1963, received law degree.

June 9/10, 1964, filibustered the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for 14 hours and 13 minutes.

August 7, 1964, voted for the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

January 21, 1971, elected Senate Democratic whip.

March 22, 1973, became "unsung hero of Watergate." During Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearings on President Nixon's nominee for FBI Director, L. Patrick Gray, Byrd's intense grilling resulted in Gray admitting that Nixon's legal counsel, John Dean III, "probably lied" to the FBI.

January 9, 1976, announced candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

October 1, 1976, as majority whip, made a successful motion to issue warrants of arrest.

January 4, 1977, elected Democratic majority leader (served as majority leader from 1977 to 1981 and from 1987 to 1989; minority leader from 1981 to 1987).

July 27, 1995, cast his 14,000 roll-call vote.

December 20, 1995, lectured the Senate on "civility in the Senate."

September 16, 1997, missed a vote due to illness, breaking a string of 4,705 consecutive votes cast since July 25, 1984.

May 5, 1998, cast roll-call vote number 15,000.

May 22, 2001, cast his 16,000th roll-call vote.

October 10, 2002, voted against S.J. Res. 46, authorizing war with Iraq.

April 1, 2004, cast his 17,000th roll-call vote.

June 12, 2006, became longest serving senator in U.S. history. (He had served 17,327 days in the Senate).

November 7, 2006, became the only person to be elected to nine full-terms in the Senate.

June 21, 2007, cast his 18,000th roll-call vote.

November 18, 2009, became the longest serving member of Congress, beating Carl Hayden's record, serving a total of 20,774 days.

U.S. Senate Historical Office
June 28, 2010