

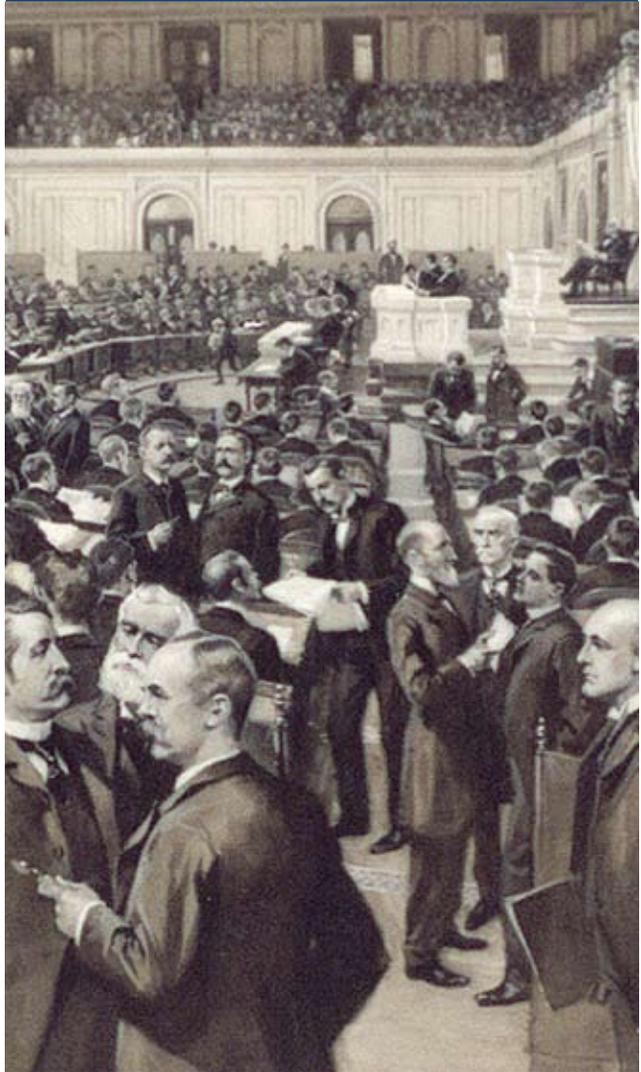


*House Chamber Debates, Century Magazine, 1902 (LoC)*



# Office of *the* Historian

*United States House of Representatives*



## Our Staff

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## Inquiries

The Office of the Historian is dedicated to responding to information requests from Members of Congress and their staff, the media, students, educators, scholars, and the general public. Inquiries can be directed to the Office of the Historian by calling 202-226-5525 or by sending an e-mail to [historian@mail.house.gov](mailto:historian@mail.house.gov).

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*Cover Photo: House Chamber, Collier's Weekly, 1900 (LoC)*

# Office of the Historian

*The mandate of the Office of the Historian is to promote, present, and interpret the history of the House of Representatives*

## Mission

According to the Constitution, Congress is the first branch of government, in which “all legislative power” is vested within its two houses. The Office of the Historian of the House of Representatives seeks to improve public knowledge and understanding of the “People’s House.”

The Office of the Historian provides information and interpretation on important precedents and events for the use of Members of Congress and their staff, the media, students, educators, scholars, and the general public. The Office conducts oral history interviews of current and former members of Congress and selected staff, as well as advises members on the disposition of their papers. It also works with the Office of Photography to archive the hundreds of thousands of photographs taken in the House.

The Office of the Historian was established in 2005 in Rule II of the House Rules, and reports to the Speaker of the House. Its mandate is to promote, present, and interpret the history of the House.

## Presentations

As part of its mission to improve public knowledge and understanding of the House of Representatives, the Office of the Historian conducts monthly presentations for House staff and interns, “History *In* the House.” Registration information and schedules can be found on HouseNet or by calling the House Learning Center at 202-225-6002, option 3.

## Oral History

The Office of the Historian conducts oral history interviews of current and former Members of the House as well as selected senior staff. These interviews help preserve the history of the institution and offer valuable insights into the history and practices of the House. Members and former Members who wish to schedule an interview are invited to call the Office of the Historian at 202-226-5525.

## Publications

Public Law 106-99, the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, directed that a narrative history of the House of Representatives be written. *The House: The History of the House of Representatives* was published in 2006. The Office of the Historian collaborates with House Committees in the preparation of committee histories. The Office is currently working on histories of the following committees: Ways and Means, Science and Technology, and Veterans’ Affairs.

## Photos and Records

The Office of the Historian maintains historic photographs of Members and the House in general, in association with the Office of Photography. Photos in the collection date from the early 1950’s to the mid 1990’s. The office is available to advise Members on the disposition of their papers.



*St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon in Speaker’s office with Speaker Tip O’Neill, President Ronald Reagan and Minority Leader Bob Michel, 1983 (Reagan Library)*

## House Fellows

The House Fellows Program, an initiative of the Office of the Historian, is an intensive week-long institute for secondary school teachers of history and/or government on the history and practices of the House of Representatives. Over the course of several years and in collaboration with Members and their staff, the program will welcome one teacher from every congressional district in the country.

## Internships

For periods of one to three months, the Office of the Historian welcomes college-level students of history and political science to work with the Historians and other professional staff in a temporary unpaid capacity. The internship opportunity gives the student excellent “on-the-job” training and experiences in a non-partisan office and it provides a service to the Office in pursuit of its mission to serve the House, its Members, Committees, and staff, the media, and the general public. Persons interested in an internship are invited to contact the Intern Coordinator of the Office of the Historian at 202-226-5525.



*Speaker Nancy Pelosi with Republican Leader John Boehner, January 4, 2007 (Office of House Photography)*