



## Claude Denson Pepper

**Party:** Democratic • **Chamber:** House

**State:** FL • **District:** 18

**Service:** 1935–1991

**Most recent Congress:** 101

### Biography

A Senator and a Representative from Florida. Born on a farm near Dudleyville, Chambers County, Ala. , September 8, 1900. Attended the public schools of Camp Hill, Ala. Taught school in Dothan, Ala. , and worked in a steel mill in Ensley, Ala. , before attending college. Served in Students Army Training Corps, University of Alabama, in 1918. Graduated from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in 1921 and from the law department of Harvard University in 1924. Taught law in the University of Arkansas in 1924 and 1925. Admitted to the bar in 1925 and commenced practice in Perry, Fla. Member of the State house of representatives in 1929 and 1930. Moved to Tallahassee, Fla. , in 1930 and continued the practice of law. Served on the State board of public welfare in 1931 and 1932. Member of the State board of law examiners in 1933. Elected on November 3, 1936, as a Democrat to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Duncan U. Fletcher. Reelected in 1938 and 1944 and served from November 4, 1936, to January 3, 1951. Chairman, Committee on Patents (Seventy-eighth and Seventy-ninth Congresses). Unsuccessful candidate for renomination in 1950 and for nomination in 1958. Engaged in the practice of law at Miami Beach, Coral Gables, and Tallahassee, Fla. , and in Washington, D. C. Elected as a Democrat to the Eighty-eighth and to the thirteen succeeding Congresses, and served from January 3, 1963, until his death. Chairman, Select Committee on Crime (Ninety-first through Ninety-sixth Congresses), Select Committee on Aging (Ninety-fifth through Ninety-seventh Congress), Committee on Rules (Ninety-eighth through One Hundred First Congresses). Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on May 26, 1989. Died in Washington, D. C. , on May 30, 1989. Lay in state in the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol, June 1-2, 1989. Interment in Oakland Cemetery, Tallahassee, Fla.

### Legislative Activity (1935–1991)

**Bills sponsored:** 0

**Bills cosponsored:** 0