



James Strom Thurmond

Party: Republican • **Chamber:** Senate

State: SC

Service: 1953–2003

Most recent Congress: 107

Biography

A Senator from South Carolina. Born in Edgefield, S. C. , December 5, 1902. Attended the public schools. Graduated, Clemson College 1923. Taught in South Carolina high schools 1923-1929. Edgefield County superintendent of education 1929-1933. Studied law and was admitted to the South Carolina bar in 1930. City and county attorney 1930-1938. Member, State senate 1933-1938. Circuit judge 1938-1946. Served in the United States Army 1942-1946, in Europe and in the Pacific, and participated in the Normandy invasion. Was awarded the Purple Heart. Major general, United States Army Reserve. Governor of South Carolina 1947-1951. Unsuccessful States Rights candidate for President of the United States in 1948. Unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator in 1950. Practiced law in Aiken, S. C. , 1951-1955. Appointed as a Democrat to the United States Senate to complete the term of Charles E. Daniel, who resigned, and served from December 24, 1954, to January 3, 1955. Had been previously elected as a write-in candidate in November 1954 for the term commencing January 3, 1955, and ending January 3, 1961, but due to a promise made to the voters in the 1954 election, he resigned as of April 4, 1956. Again elected as a Democrat on November 6, 1956 to fill the vacancy caused by his own resignation and took the oath of office on November 7, 1956. Re-elected in 1960, 1966, 1972, 1978, 1984, 1990 and 1996 and served from November 7, 1956, to January 3, 2003. Was not a candidate for reelection in 2002. Changed from the Democratic to the Republican Party on September 16, 1964. President pro tempore of the Senate (January 5, 1981-January 5, 1987, January 4, 1995 to January 3, 2001, January 20 to June 6, 2001). President pro tempore emeritus (June 6, 2001-January 3, 2003). Chair, Committee on the Judiciary (Ninety-seventh through Ninety-ninth Congresses). Committee on Armed Services (One Hundred Fourth Congresses). Turned 100 years old on December 5, 2002, while still in office, the oldest person ever to serve in the U. S. Senate. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on January 12, 1993. Died in Edgefield, South Carolina on June 26, 2003. Interment in Willowbrook Cemetery in Edgefield.

Legislative Activity (1953–2003)

Bills sponsored: 65

Bills cosponsored: 108

Most Recent Sponsored Bills

Bill	Title	Status / Last Action
107 S 14	A bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to extend the farm reconstitution provision to the 2003 and 2004 crops.	Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. Updated Nov 22, 2002
107 SRES 305	A resolution designating the week beginning September 15, 2002, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week".	Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. (text: C) Updated Sep 12, 2002
107 S 2898	A bill for the relief of Jaya Gulab Tolani and Hitesh Gulab Tolani.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S8096) Updated Sep 3, 2002
107 S 2865	Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park Act of 2002	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introd Updated Aug 1, 2002
107 SRES 242	A resolution designating August 16, 2002, as "National Airborne Day".	Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR) Updated Jul 23, 2002

Most Recent Cosponsored Bills

Bill	Title	Status / Last Action
107 S 1010	A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of North Carolina.	Became Public Law No: 107-322. Updated Dec 4, 2002
107 S 3156	Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building Act	Became Public Law No: 107-316. Updated Dec 2, 2002
107 S 2734	Small Business Drought Relief Act	Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S11546-11547) Updated Nov 20, 2002
107 S 2480	Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2002	By Senator Leahy from Committee on the Judiciary filed written report. Report No. 107-345. Minority Updated Nov 19, 2002
107 SCONRES 155	A concurrent resolution affirming the importance of a national day of prayer and fasting, and expressing the sense of Congress that November 27, 2002, should be designated as a national day of prayer and fasting.	Message on Senate action sent to the House. Updated Nov 15, 2002