

Members of the House of Representatives Lying in State in the U.S. Capitol

Updated July 28, 2020

On July 27 and 28, 2020, [Representative John Lewis](#), who died on [July 17](#), will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol. In a [joint press release](#), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that Representative Lewis would lie in state both in the Capitol Rotunda—for a private viewing by Members of Congress—and at the top of the East Front Steps of the U.S. Capitol—for a public viewing. Because of COVID-19, social distancing and masks are required to enter the viewing line and the [Lewis family requests](#) that “members of the public do not travel to Washington, D.C. from across the country to pay their respects at the U.S. Capitol given the COVID-19 pandemic.” Members of Congress are [encouraged](#) to “use extreme care and deliberation when deciding to travel to Washington, D.C.” Members of the public and of Congress are encouraged to pay their respects virtually by posting tributes using specific hashtags.

There have been 33 individuals (not including Representative Lewis) who have [lain in state or honor](#) in the Capitol Rotunda or National Statuary Hall. The most recent individual to lie in state was [Representative Elijah Cummings](#) on October 24, 2019. The most recent individual to lie in honor was the [Reverend Billy Graham](#) on February 28 and March 1, 2018. Prior to Representative Lewis lying in state, a total of 15 individuals who had been a Member of the House of Representatives had received that honor (see [Table 1](#)).

Figure 1 shows Representative Thaddeus Stevens, the first Representative who did not also serve in another governmental position, lying in state from August 13 to 14, 1868.

Lying in State v. Honor

Lying in State

Current or former government officials (e.g., Member of Congress, President, Vice President); military leaders; unknown servicemembers from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam era.

Lying in Honor

Private Citizens

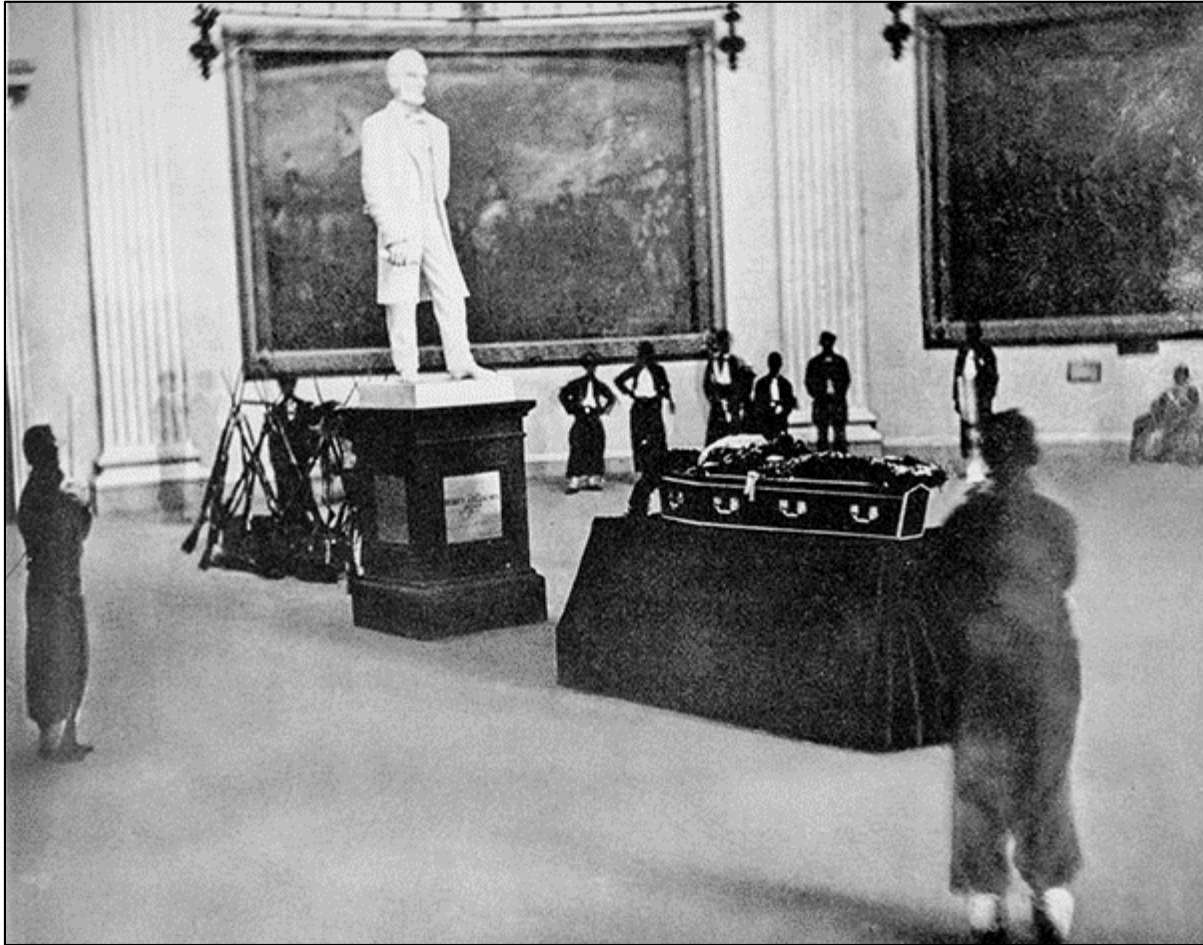
Congressional Research Service

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

IN11472

Figure 1. Lying in State of Representative Thaddeus Stevens

August 13-14, 1868



Source: U.S. Congress, Architect of the Capitol, “Funeral of Thaddeus Stevens in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda,” *Lying in State or Honor*, at <https://www.aoc.gov/nations-stage/lying-state-honor>.

Since President Abraham Lincoln’s death in 1865, the caskets of most individuals who have lain in state or honor have rested on the Lincoln catafalque. The [Lincoln catafalque](#) is a platform constructed in 1865 “to [support the casket of Abraham Lincoln](#) while the president’s body lay in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.”

Authorization Process

The House of Representatives and the Senate jointly control the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. As a shared space, [the use of the Rotunda](#) often involves a concurrent resolution, agreed to by both the House and Senate, to authorize an individual lying in state or honor. For Representative Lewis, two concurrent resolutions (H.Con.Res. 106—use of the Lincoln Catafalque; and [H.Con.Res. 105](#)—use of the Rotunda) were agreed to.

In some cases, however, the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate jointly agree to allow an individual to lie in state. In recent years, this has occurred in one instance when Congress was not in session: in December 2006, for [President Gerald Ford](#). In October 2019, [Representative Cummings](#)

lay in state in [National Statuary Hall](#), a space controlled by the House of Representatives that does not require a concurrent resolution for use.

When an individual lies in state or honor in the Rotunda or National Statuary Hall, the [Architect of the Capitol](#) and the [U.S. Capitol Police](#) may issue special instructions about public access to the Capitol, public viewing hours, and other protocols. The House Sergeant at Arms [issued instructions](#) for Representative Lewis's viewing on July 24, 2020.

Representatives Lying in State

To date, 15 former Members of the House of Representatives have lain in state in the U.S. Capitol, not including Representative Lewis. Henry Clay, who also served as a Senator and Secretary of State, was the first former Representative to lie in state (July 1, 1852). The most recent former Representative to lie in state, prior to Representative Lewis, was Representative Cummings.

Representative Lewis is the third former Member of the House to lie in state who did not also serve in another governmental position. Representative [Thaddeus Stevens](#) was the first when he laid in state [August 13-14, 1868](#), and Representative Cummings was the second when he laid in state on October 24, 2019. **Table 1** lists the Representatives who have lain in state, the date of their death, the date of lying in state, and any other positions they held in addition to being a Member of the House of Representatives.

Table 1. Representatives Who Have Lain in State
(not all individuals were sitting Representatives at the time of their death)

| Representative | Date of Death | Date of Lying in State | Other Positions |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Henry Clay (Kentucky) | June 29, 1852 | July 1, 1852 | Speaker of the House, Senator, Secretary of State |
| Abraham Lincoln (Illinois) | April 15, 1865 | April 19-21, 1865 | President |
| Thaddeus Stevens (Pennsylvania) | August 11, 1868 | August 13-14, 1868 | — |
| James Garfield (Ohio) | September 19, 1881 | September 21-23, 1881 | President |
| John Logan (Illinois) | December 26, 1886 | December 30-31, 1886 | Senator |
| William McKinley (Ohio) | September 14, 1901 | September 17, 1901 | President, Governor |
| John F. Kennedy (Massachusetts) | November 22, 1963 | November 24-25, 1963 | Senator, President |
| Everett Dirksen (Illinois) | September 7, 1969 | September 9-10, 1969 | Senator |
| Lyndon Baines Johnson (Texas) | January 22, 1973 | January 24-25, 1973 | Senator, Vice President, President |
| Claude Pepper (Florida) | May 30, 1989 | June 1-2, 1989 | Senator |
| Gerald Ford (Michigan) | December 26, 2006 | December 30, 2006-January 2, 2007 | Vice President, President |
| Daniel Inouye (Hawaii) | December 17, 2012 | December 20, 2012 | Senator |
| John McCain (Arizona) | August 25, 2018 | August 31, 2018 | Senator |
| George H. W. Bush (Texas) | November 30, 2018 | December 3-5, 2018 | Vice President, President |
| Elijah Cummings (Maryland) | October 17, 2019 | October 24, 2019 | — |

Source: Compiled by CRS from U.S. Congress, Architect of the Capitol, "Those Who Have Lain in State or in Honor in the Rotunda," October 2018, at

<https://www.aoc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/basic-page/us-capitol-lain-state-honor-2019-01.pdf>; and U.S. Congress, House, Office of the Historian, “Individuals Who Have Lain in State or in Honor,” at <https://history.house.gov/Institution/Lie-In-State/Lie-In-State-Honor/>.

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