

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

Updated January 7, 2022

On January 12, 2022, [Senator Harry M. Reid](#), who died on December 28, 2021, will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol. Senator Reid served in the House of Representatives between 1983 and 1987, before being elected to the Senate. In a [joint press release](#), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced that Senator Reid “will lie in state in the United States Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, and events will include formal arrival and departure ceremony.”

There have been 36 individuals (not including Senator Reid) who have [lain in state or honor](#) in the Capitol Rotunda or National Statuary Hall. The most recent individual to lie in state was [Senator Robert Dole](#) on December 9, 2021. The most recent individual to lie in honor was United States Capitol Police Officer William “Billy” F. Evans on April 13, 2021. Prior to Senator Reid lying in state, a total of 18 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

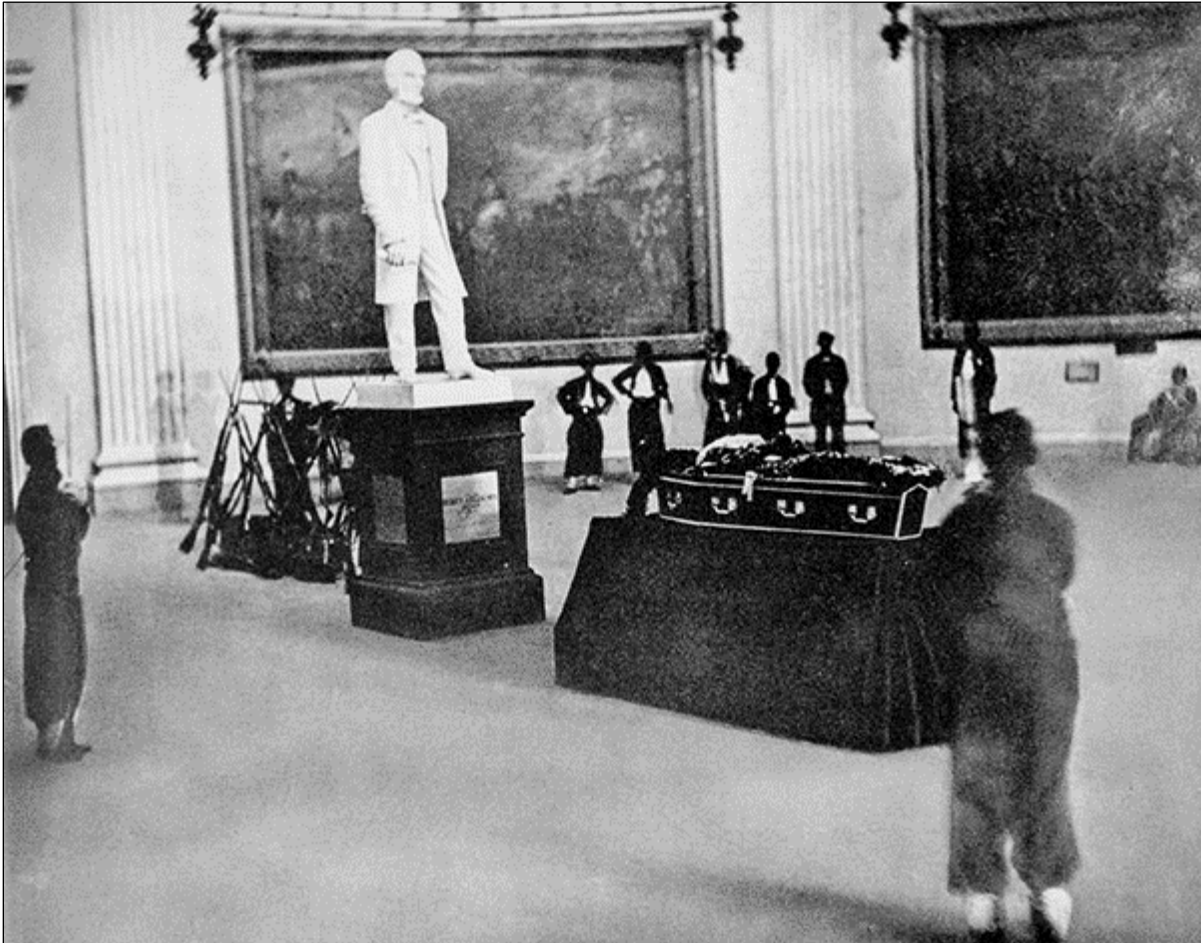
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### Figure 1. Lying in State of Representative Thaddeus Stevens

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 example, two concurrent resolutions to authorize Senate Reid lying in State have been introduced:

- S.Con.Res. 25 authorizes the use of the Capitol Rotunda for Senator Reid to lie in state; and
- S.Con.Res. 26 authorizes the use of the Lincoln catafalque for Senator Reid’s memorial service in the Capitol Rotunda.

In some cases, 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.

## Representatives Lying in State

To date, 17 former Members of the House of Representatives have lain in state in the U.S. Capitol, not including Senator Reid. Speaker of the House [Henry Clay](#), who also served as a Senator and Secretary of State, was the first Representative to lie in state (July 1, 1852). The most recent former Representative to lie in state, prior to Senator Reid was Senator Dole.

Three Members of the House who did not also serve in another governmental position have lain in state. They were Representative [Thaddeus Stevens](#) ([August 13-14, 1868](#)), Representative [Elijah Cummings](#) ([October 24, 2019](#)), and Representative [John Lewis](#) ([July 27 and July 28, 2020](#)). **Table 1** lists the Representatives who have lain in state.

**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	—

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John Lewis (Georgia)	July 17, 2020	July 27-28, 2020	—
Robert J. Dole (Kansas)	December 5, 2021	December 9, 2021	Senator
Harry M. Reid (Nevada)	December 28, 2021	January 12, 2022	Senator

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**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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