

U.S. Representative Floyd D. Spence (1928-2001)

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Introduction



"Floyd Spence devoted his life to the simple proposition that there are certain principles worth defending. Freedom, democracy, and the promise of global stability achieved through a policy of peace through strength formed the core values that Floyd advanced during his long and distinguished career in the military and then in public service."

Those words were part of a statement by U.S. Representative Bob Stump (R-AZ) speaking on behalf of the House Armed Services Committee on the occasion of the death of fellow Representative Floyd Spence. In his press release of August 17, 2001, Rep. Stump referred to Rep. Spence as "a patriot, a gentleman, and one of the most ardent and tireless advocates for our men and women in uniform."

Floyd Spence was born in Columbia, South Carolina and attended Lexington High School, where he earned academic and athletic honors. Following graduation, Spence attended the University of South Carolina and again distinguished himself. As a student, he joined social, leadership, and service fraternities; served in student government; received a number of honors and awards; and was a member of the football, basketball, and track teams.

Spence enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve while still in high school, and as an undergraduate served as a Battalion Sub-Commander of the Navy ROTC unit at USC. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an Ensign and entered active duty during the Korean Conflict. He later became Commanding Officer of a Naval Reserve Surface Division and the Group Commander of all Naval Reserve Units in Columbia, S.C. Spence graduated from the Defense Strategy Seminar of the National War College and the National Security Seminar of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He retired from the Naval Reserve in 1988 with the rank of Captain.

In 1956, Spence graduated from the USC School of Law. While attending law school, he was elected editor of the South Carolina Law Quarterly, Chief Justice of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity, Vice President of the Law Federation, and was a member of the Law Federation cabinet. After earning his degree, he became a partner in the firm of Callison and Spence





in West Columbia, where he worked until he was selected to represent South Carolina's 2nd District in Congress in 1970.

This exhibit is intended to highlight aspects of Floyd Spence's life and career as a student, as one of the early pioneers of the South Carolina Republican Party, and as a member of the General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. His colleague, Lindsey Graham, said of Spence's passing:

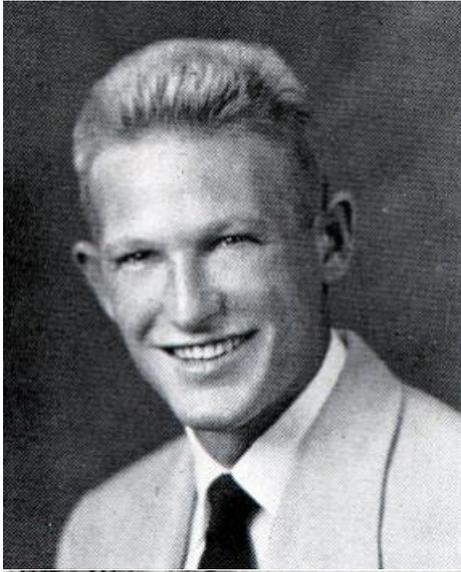
"Floyd was also one of the select few who was universally respected and admired by everyone in Congress... It's customary in Congress to refer to a colleague as the gentleman or gentlewoman from the state they represent. When the Speaker said 'the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Spence,' well, that truly captured the essence of the man."

Floyd Davidson Spence Timeline

- 1928** Born April 9, Columbia, S.C., to James Wilson and Addie Jane Lucas Spence.
- 1947** Graduated from Lexington High School, where he achieved "All-State" honors in football and played in the Shrine Bowl Game.
- 1952** Awarded A.B. degree in English from the University of South Carolina.
Commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve during the Korean Conflict. [He retired as a Captain in 1988.]
December 22, married Lula Hancock Drake [d. 1978].
- 1956** Earned Bachelor of Laws degree from the USC School of Law; replaced with the degree of Juris Doctor in 1970.
Began practicing law as a partner in the firm Callison and Spence, West Columbia.
Elected as a Democrat to represent Lexington County in the S.C. House of Representatives.
- 1962** Joined the Republican Party and campaigned for the 2nd District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 1966** Elected to the S.C. Senate as a Republican.
- 1970** Elected to serve the 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 1978** Awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor James B. Edwards.
- 1987** Inducted into the Lexington County High School Athletic Hall of Fame.
- 1988** July 3, married Deborah Ellen Williams of Columbia.
- 1991** Awarded honorary degree from USC.
- 1995-2000** Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services [renamed Committee on National Security, 1995-1998].
- 1996** Floyd Spence Wing of the Lexington Medical Center Extended Care Facility dedicated on September 3.
The Congressman Floyd D. Spence United States Army Reserve Center at Ft. Jackson (Columbia, S.C.) dedicated on November 4.
- 2000** Congressman Spence given Keeper of the Flame award by the Center for Security Policy.
- 2001** August 16, Congressman Spence died from complications following the removal of a subdural hematoma while being treated for Ramsay Hunt Syndrome.

The USC Student

During his academic career at the University of South Carolina, Floyd Spence was the quintessential "big man on campus."



As an undergraduate, he was consistently recognized by his peers as a leader. During his final two years alone, he was elected President of his Junior Class, President of the Student Body, and President of the South Carolina Association of Student Governments. He also served as an officer of various campus groups, including the Navy ROTC, the Omicron Delta Kappa honorary leadership fraternity, the Young Men's Christian Association, and Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Spence also achieved scholastic success, being named to the Dean's List, the Honor Council, and the Honor Board. To round off his campus qualities, he was a talented and versatile athlete. He was captain of the track team and a member of both the football and basketball teams. In light of his many accomplishments, Spence was selected "Outstanding Senior" of



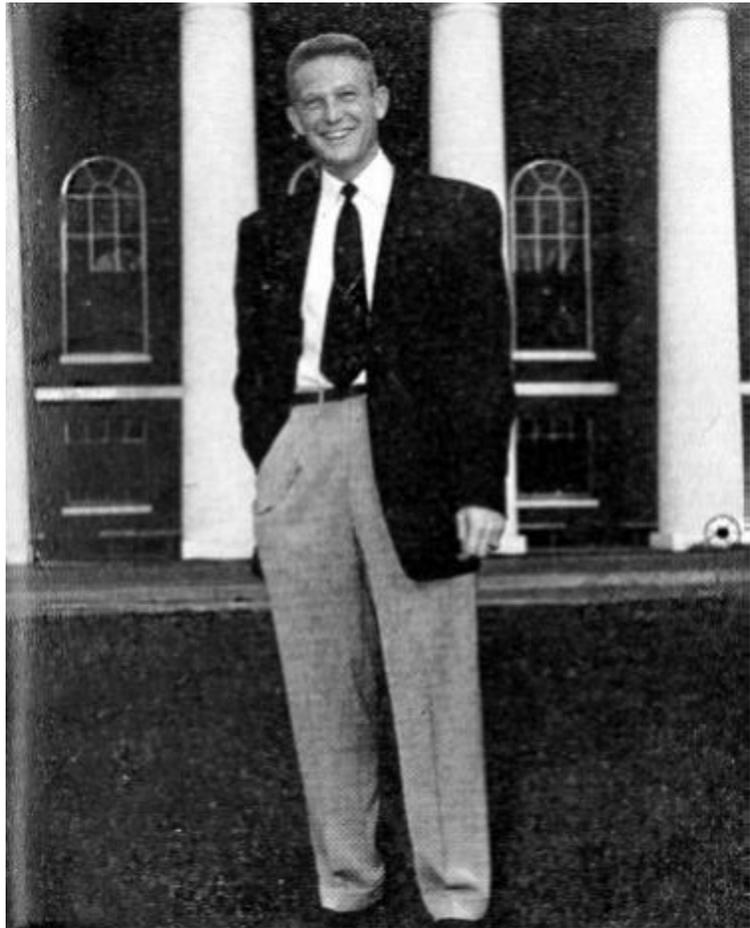
his class and was the recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award as the outstanding male student at USC for 1952.

After receiving his A.B. in 1952, Spence served two years active duty in the U.S. Naval Reserve, then returned to USC where he earned a law degree in 1956. While attending law school, he remained a stellar figure on campus. He was elected editor of the South Carolina Law Quarterly, chief justice of the Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity, and served as a member of the Law Federation Cabinet.

Spence in 1952

Big Man on Campus, 1952

Spence maintained close ties with USC throughout his life, including service as Councilor-at-Large of the Alumni Association and charter member of the Association of Lettermen. During the August 1991 commencement ceremony, USC officials awarded Floyd Spence an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree in recognition of his exemplary career in public service and his strong and constant support of the University.



On the Campaign Trail

In his nearly forty years of public service, Floyd Spence proved to be a skillful campaigner who only grew stronger and more effective as the years progressed.



In 1956, he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. Spence, like every other member of the General Assembly since the end of Reconstruction, was elected as a Democrat. In 1962, in a move that stunned many, Spence resigned from the Democratic Party and announced that he would forego almost certain re-election to the Assembly to run instead for the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican. Like many in South Carolina, Spence was bothered by aspects of the Democratic platform as well as the Party's loyalty oath requirement. Spence became the first elected official in the state to change his party affiliation. In his announcement, which was printed in its

entirety in The State newspaper, he stated: "I fully realize that the action I am taking puts my political future in jeopardy...I feel, however, that the welfare of my state and nation are more important than my political career."

The 1962 campaign is a landmark in contemporary history as it represents the first significant second party challenge to the Democratic domination of the state, dating to the end of Reconstruction. Spence campaigned with journalist William D. Workman, Jr., who opposed longtime incumbent Olin Johnston for the U.S. Senate. Although both Workman and Spence were defeated, the nascent Republican Party proved it was a force in the state. Since 1962, South Carolina has slowly trended toward the Republican Party.



Spence sworn in as U.S. Representative, 1971

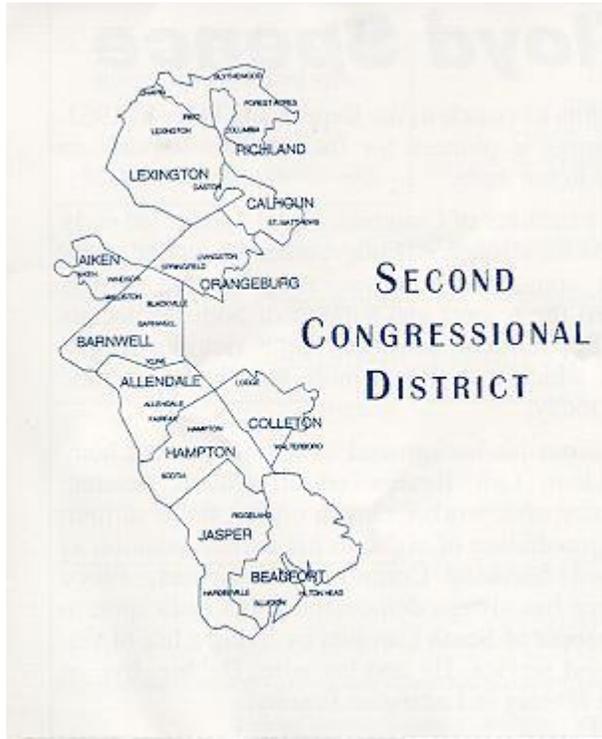
Spence is sworn in as U.S. Congressman by Speaker Carl Albert (D-OK) in January 1971.



Four years after his historic 1962 congressional campaign, Spence won election to the South Carolina Senate, becoming the lone Republican in that body. In 1970, he ran again for Congress. Campaigning as a "full-time conservative" on the themes of law and order, the Middle East crisis, the Vietnam War, and congressional spending, Spence defeated Heyward McDonald with 53% of the vote. Two years later, in just his first campaign for re-election, Spence was unopposed. In his subsequent campaigns, Spence was re-elected by comfortable margins.

South Carolina's Second Congressional District

Floyd Spence represented South Carolina's Second Congressional District for a quarter of a century. He earned a reputation, in the words of Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA), as "one of the most effective and respected lawmakers on Capitol Hill."

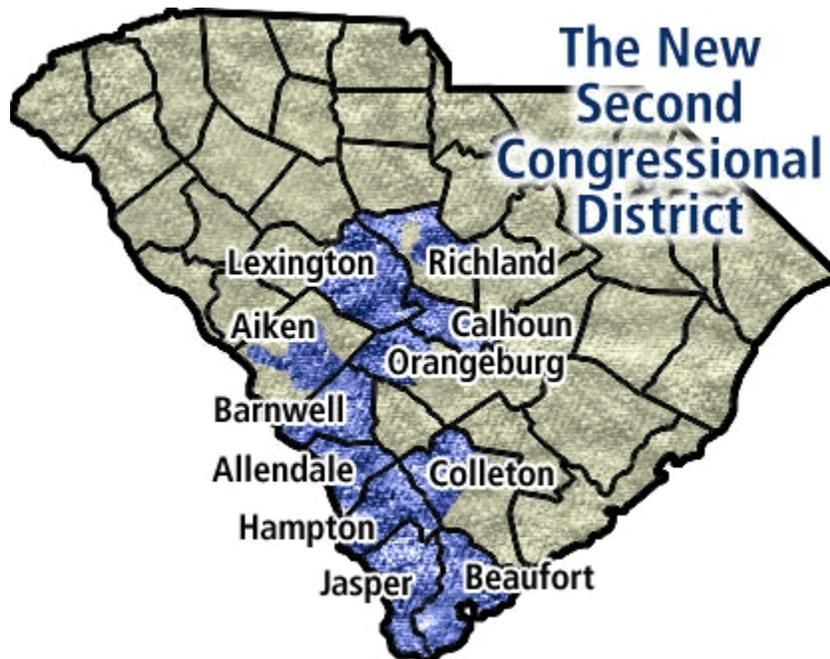


Spence's record includes a number of important firsts, among these the first House resolution for a balanced budget amendment, which he proposed in 1973. In 1995, he was named chairman of the House Committee on National Security.

Spence represented a complex and growing region. Composed of all or parts of eleven counties, the district extended from Richland County to Beaufort County and included some of South Carolina's richest and poorest counties as well as the state capital, Hilton Head Island, the University of South Carolina, and Fort Jackson.

The district evolved considerably during Spence's tenure. Economically, it attracted numerous industrial plants, including such national and international corporations as Michelin, DuPont, and Allied Chemical. In the district, Spence was recognized as a true representative of his constituents who knew what they wanted and

worked to deliver it.



Mr. Chairman

The House Committee on Armed Services is one of the most powerful and influential committees on Capitol Hill. Its official jurisdiction makes it responsible for "the common defense generally"; that is, for any and all military activities undertaken by the government. From 1995 to 2000, Spence was its chairman.



The committee's major responsibilities include investigations, military installations, personnel, procurement, readiness, research and development, sea power, and strategic materials. In its modern form, the committee dates from the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, which combined the committees of Military Affairs and Naval Affairs as the Committee on Armed Services. In 1995, the committee was renamed the Committee on National Security, and at the same time it received authority for some areas formerly overseen by the disbanded Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. The committee reverted to its original name in 1999.

The responsibilities of the committee's chairman are nearly as awesome as those of the committee itself. The position involves staffing, subcommittee assignments, assignments of legislation to subcommittees, scheduling of hearings and investigations, and even some measure of policy-making.

National defense was always one of Rep. Spence's key interests. Here, he and Senator Strom Thurmond tour Ft. Jackson with Secretary of the Army Clifford L. Alexander in 1977.



In addition to devoting time to each of the seven subcommittees' hearings, investigations,



and discussions, the committee chairman must strike a balance between foreign affairs and domestic politics like few of his colleagues. This chairmanship remains one of the most coveted posts in the House.

Spence succeeded as chairman one of the most liberal members of the House, Ronald Dellums of California. An outspoken proponent of a strong national defense throughout his career, Spence referred to readiness as "the best insurance we have both for peace and freedom." In his efforts, Spence was supported by the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, fellow South Carolinian Strom Thurmond. This was only the second time that the House and Senate armed services committees were chaired by representatives from the same state.