



National Black Republican Association

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Newsletter **Blacks in Congress Edition**

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The First Blacks In Congress Were All Republicans



The seven African Americans elected to the 41st and 42nd U.S. Congress. Currier and Ives original 1872 Image.

Hiram Rhodes Revels of Mississippi was the first black elected as a United States senator, serving from 1870-1871 as a Republican. Revels completed the unfinished term of Jefferson Davis who was the former president of the confederacy. He was followed in the Senate by Republican Blanche K. Bruce, also of Mississippi.

Republican Joseph Rainey of South Carolina was the first black to enter the House of Representatives.

Below is a list of the black Republicans elected to Congress during the Reconstruction era. Their lifespan is shown in parenthesis.

United States Senate

Hiram Rhodes Revels (1822-1901); Republican – Mississippi; 1870-1871
Blanche Bruce (1841-1898); Republican – Mississippi; 1875-1881

House of Representatives

John Willis Menard (1838-1893); Republican - Louisiana; 1868
Joseph Rainey (1832-1887); Republican - South Carolina; 1870-1879
Jefferson F. Long (1836-1901); Republican – Georgia; 1870-1871
Robert C. De Large (1842-1874); Republican - South Carolina; 1871-1873
Robert B. Elliott (1842-1884); Republican - South Carolina; 1871-1874
Benjamin S. Turner (1825-1894); Republican – Alabama; 1871-1873
Josiah T. Walls (1842-1905); Republican – Florida; 1871-1873, 1873-1875, 1875-1876
Richard H. Cain (1825-1887); Republican - South Carolina; 1873-1875, 1877-1879
John R. Lynch (1847-1939); Republican – Mississippi; 1873-1877, 1882-1883
James T. Rapier (1837-1883); Republican – Alabama; 1873-1875
Alonzo J. Ransier (1834-1882); Republican - South Carolina; 1873-1875
Jeremiah Haralson (1846-1916); Republican - Alabama; 1875-1877
John Adams Hyman (1840-1891); Republican - North Carolina; 1875-1877
Charles E. Nash (1844-1913); Republican – Louisiana; 1875-1877
Robert Smalls (1839-1915); Republican - South Carolina; 1875-1879, 1882-1883, 1884-1887
James E. O'Hara (1844-1905); Republican - North Carolina; 1883-1887
Henry P. Cheatham (1857-1935); Republican - North Carolina; 1889-1893
John Mercer Langston (1829-1897); Republican – Virginia; 1890-1891
Thomas E. Miller (1849-193); Republican - South Carolina; 1890-1891
George W. Murray (1853-1926); Republican - South Carolina; 1893-1895, 1896-1897
George Henry White (1852-1918); Republican - North Carolina; 1897-1901



To learn about the lives of the first six Congressmen and the first Senator (all Republicans) to serve in the federal congress, you may purchase this poster from WallBuilders.

WallBuilders provides other products about black history, including “American History in Black & White – Setting the Civil Rights Record Straight”

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