



ROBERT C. BYRD
CENTER FOR
LEGISLATIVE STUDIES



**"YOU HAVE HEARD ME
SAY QUITE OFTEN,
NEVER STOP LEARNING.
NOW I SAY, FOR THE
SAKE OF OUR COUNTRY,
ARM YOURSELVES WITH
KNOWLEDGE."**

Senator Robert C. Byrd at the Dedication
of the Byrd Center in 2002.

Representative democracy depends on an informed and engaged citizens.

Senator Robert C. Byrd supported education for all generations so that every American knew their Constitution, their rights enshrined within, and their government which it informs.

The need for civic knowledge remains critical a decade after the Senator's passing. The Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education employs the power of history to empower citizen engagement and strengthen the public institutions that ensure the great American experiment in representative democracy endures.

We invite you to become a part of this vital mission!

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article 1.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, in each State shall have ^{the} Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Year, and the Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such Enumeration shall be made, the States then existing shall be entitled to choose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey seven, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When Vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for a Term of six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes; the Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Death, Resignation, or otherwise of any Senator, the Executive Authority of the State where such Vacancies shall have happened, may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature of that State, which Appointments shall in all Cases extend to the next Meeting of the Legislature of that State.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. The Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and Disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment according to Law.

What are we facing?

Public faith in our nation's public institutions is diminishing. A majority of voters believe their voices are not heard or respected by elected officials, and numerous studies have demonstrated consistently low levels of public knowledge about the Constitution and the basic framework of our government. Voter apathy is on the rise.

When the public's engagement with their elected representatives decreases, the government as a whole becomes less representative and less adept at serving the public's needs. This environment sews division and breeds the kind of hyper partisanship that currently threatens the foundations of our democracy.

As the inheritors of the world's oldest active Constitution, we all have a shared responsibility in ensuring that the principles of representative government endure for future generations.



How is the Byrd Center addressing these issues?

Preserving our Past...

Since our beginning, the Byrd Center has collected and preserved the documentary history of our nation's legislative branch. The Byrd Center now houses Senator Byrd's personal papers as well as the papers of five members of the U.S. House of Representatives from West Virginia. These collections chronicle more than sixty years of America's story from the end of WWII to the first decade of the twenty-first century.

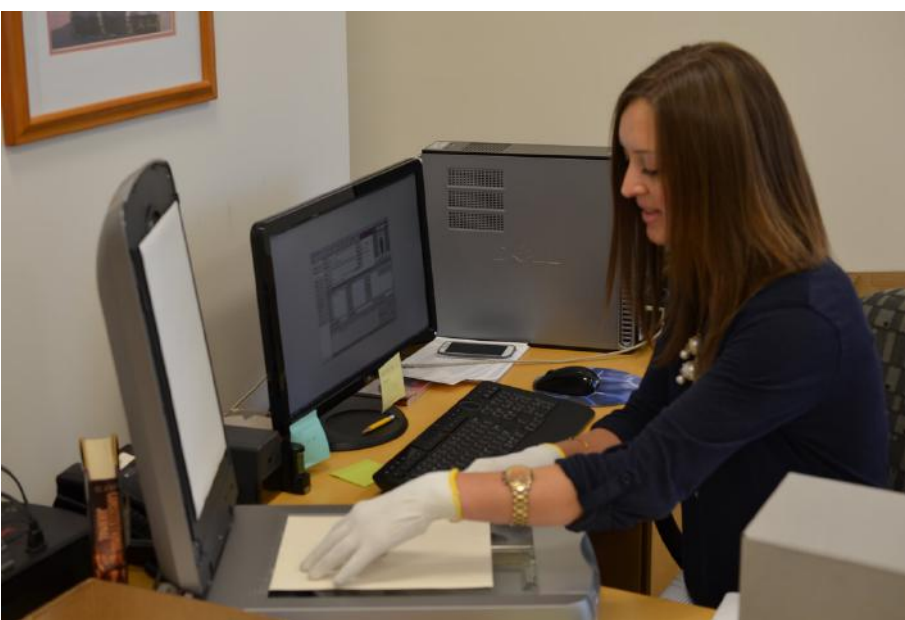


to Engage our Present...

Inspired by Senator Byrd's devotion to the history of the U.S. Congress and the Constitution, the Byrd Center conducts year-round educational programs that engage teachers, students, and the general public in learning about civics, citizenship, and our representative democracy. Public lectures and film screenings, Teachers Institutes, exhibits, and other programs serve all generations in an ever-increasing geographic reach.

and Prepare our Future.

The Byrd Center facilitates innovative approaches to civics education by partnering with nationally-recognized experts and developing unique primary source-based learning materials from our archival collections. The Byrd Center's educational initiatives prepare today's teachers and students to participate in the civic life of the nation and take leadership roles in their communities.





Preserving our Past...

The Byrd Center was established in 2002 as the institutional home of Senator Robert C. Byrd's personal papers. Today, the Center's archives contain the personal records of five members of Congress who have represented the Mountain State. These collections occupy over three quarters of a mile of shelves and span more than sixty years of history, beginning in the wake of WWII and continuing through the first decade of the twenty-first century. They contain letters, memoranda, bills, speeches, photographs, audio/visual recordings, and other artifacts documenting the daily work of a congressional office and the relationship between members and their constituents. While each collection is unique, they all contain similar types of papers: legislative files, constituent correspondence, press materials, and travel reports in addition to campaign documents and personal records.

Senator Byrd's papers, some 2,500 linear feet housed in over 3,000 boxes, preserves the legacy of the nation's longest-serving Senator and the only West Virginian to serve in both chambers of the state and federal legislature. The senator's long career provides countless research opportunities. Collection highlights include records detailing Senator Byrd's work on the contentious Panama Canal Treaties during the late-1970s, his more than \$10 billion appropriations work throughout West Virginia, and his outspoken opposition to the Iraq War.

The Byrd Center's collections document an extraordinary legacy of leadership on the part of West Virginia's elected representatives. The stories found within them provide the foundation on which the Center's educational programs and resources are built.

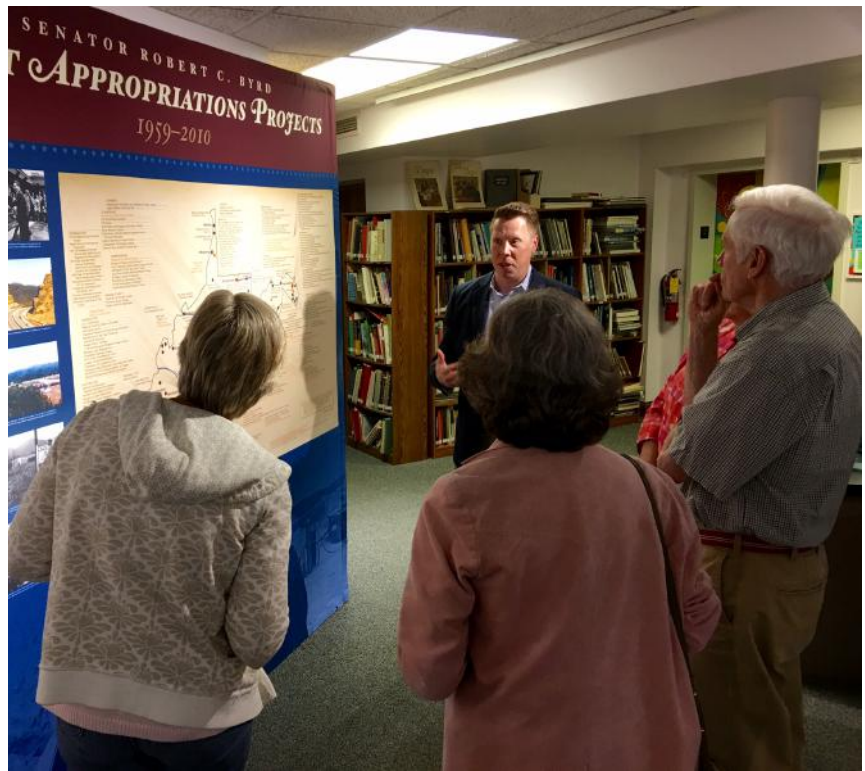
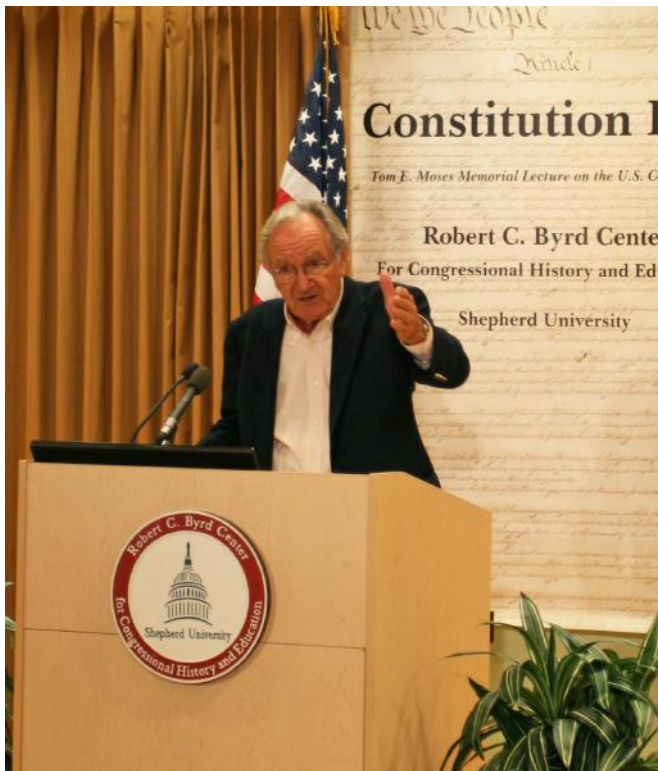
to Engage our Present...

The Byrd Center is a hub where local, regional, and national networks coalesce. Nearly one thousand classes, public events, and meetings take place at the Center every year, making it an intellectual nerve center of the Shepherd University campus. Public leaders such as Senator Tom Harkin, esteemed journalists like Cokie and Steve Roberts, and award-winning scholars have appeared at the Byrd Center to engage audiences on historical and contemporary matters. These offerings help fulfill the Byrd Center's mission to promote a better understanding of the United States Congress, the Constitution, and representative democracy. They also engender annual support for the Center through the "the Friends of the Byrd Center" giving society .

In recent years, the Byrd Center has dramatically expanded its reach in West Virginia and the Washington, DC metro area. In 2016 and 2017, the Center's exhibit "Robert C. Byrd: Senator, Statesman, West Virginian" appeared at twenty-two venues across the state and twice visited capitol hill in Washington, D.C. Thousands viewed the exhibit and learned about Senator Byrd's tremendous legacy.

The Byrd Center's public programming generates partnership opportunities with organizations at the local, regional, and national levels. These collaborations have helped us reach new and ever-growing audiences in recent years. The Byrd Center is a founding member of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, a national consortium of legislative archives and research centers established to facilitate greater study of the legislative branch. Byrd Center staff play leading roles in this organization and also represent the Center in the National Council of Public History, the Society of American Archivists, the Appalachian Studies Associations, and Society for History in the Federal Government.

Whether through programs at our Shepherd University home or our participation in regional and national projects, the Byrd Center is a recognized leader in the development and execution of innovative programming that deepens public understanding of Congress and the Constitution.





and Prepare the Future.

The Byrd Center has taken up the torch Senator Byrd carried throughout his career to strengthen educational opportunities and broaden access to innovative resources.

The Byrd Center Teacher Institute was established in 2016 to provide grades 6-12 educators with professional development opportunities focused on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, Congress, and the legislative process. The Institute is facilitated by the Byrd Center and presented through a partnership with Shepherd University and the National Archives and Records Administration's Center for Legislative Archives (CLA). The institutes train educators to use new techniques and resources developed by the Byrd Center and the CLA in their classrooms while teaching about the United States government and the core tenets of American representative democracy.

In addition to working with educators, the Byrd Center also works directly with students. Each year, the Center collaborates with local schools in support of the Government and Deliberation Project, wherein high school students learn about Congress and the legislative process and apply those skills by participating in a year-long mock Congress. The program kicks off with a day of hands-on workshops at the Byrd Center each fall and concludes each spring when students return and attempt to shepherd their own legislative proposals through committees, floor votes, and finally through conference as members of a Senate and House of Representatives.

The Byrd Center actively partners with educational resources developers in an effort to scale these programs for a national audience so that the records documenting Senator Byrd's extraordinary public service career can inspire America's youth to become engaged citizens and informed voters.



"I have long believed that an education is one's passport to progress. It leads to new opportunities, not only for an individual but also for our state and nation."

Senator Robert C. Byrd, 2004

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