

Women in the Lead



Mini Fact:

Speaker Pelosi invited her grandchildren and other children to join her as she was sworn in on Jan. 3.

March is Women's History Month. This year, The Mini Page celebrates with an issue about female lawmakers.

During the midterm elections in November, Americans elected a record number of women to the House of Representatives. There are now 102 women serving. In the Senate, 23 of the 100 senators are women.

Women in Congress

The women of Congress also represent many different heritages. In the U.S. House, these women of color include:

- African-Americans (22)
- Latinas (12)
- Middle Easterner (1)
- Asians (6)
- Native Americans (2)

In the U.S. Senate, there are:

- Asians (2)
- Latina (1)
- multiracial (1)

Speaker again



Nancy Pelosi

Twelve years ago, The Mini Page spoke with Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California when she became the first female speaker of the House. Rep. Pelosi has been elected speaker again for the 116th Congress.

The speaker of the House is the leader of that branch of Congress. He or she keeps

order in the House and enforces the rules. When representatives want to address other members, they must ask for the speaker's permission to speak.

Pelosi was elected to represent the people of San Francisco in the House in 1987. She is a member of the Democratic Party. As speaker, Pelosi is second in line to replace the president, after the vice president, in the event of an illness or emergency.

Background

Speaker Pelosi grew up in a political household. "From the time I was in first grade until I went away to college, my father was mayor of Baltimore," she said. "My parents always taught me that public service was a noble calling, and I saw that my father's work helped."

The speaker studied political science in college. In 1963, she married her husband, Paul Pelosi, and they eventually moved to San Francisco. They have five children and nine grandchildren.

In California, she worked for the Democratic Party before she became a U.S. representative. Her first speakership was between 2007 and 2011.



Nancy Pelosi at the swearing-in of her father, Thomas D'Alesandro (left), as the mayor of Baltimore in 1947.

Lawmakers in history

Jeannette Rankin, R-Montana, was the first female member of the House of Representatives. She served from 1917 to 1919 and from 1941 to 1943.



Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973)

Rankin was elected to Congress before most women were allowed to vote. Women across the United States did not gain the right to vote until 1920.

Jeannette Rankin voted against the United States fighting in both of the World Wars.

Margaret Chase Smith, R-Maine, was the first woman to serve in the House and the Senate. She replaced her husband, who died while serving in the House. She was then elected to four two-year terms.



Margaret Chase Smith (1897-1995)

Later she ran for the Senate and was elected for four six-year terms, from 1949 to 1973.

In 1964, she became the first woman to have her name placed before a national political convention for the office of president.

Resources



On the Web:

- kids-clerk.house.gov/grade-school

At the library:

- "A Woman in the House and Senate" by Ilene Cooper

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of women in Congress are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

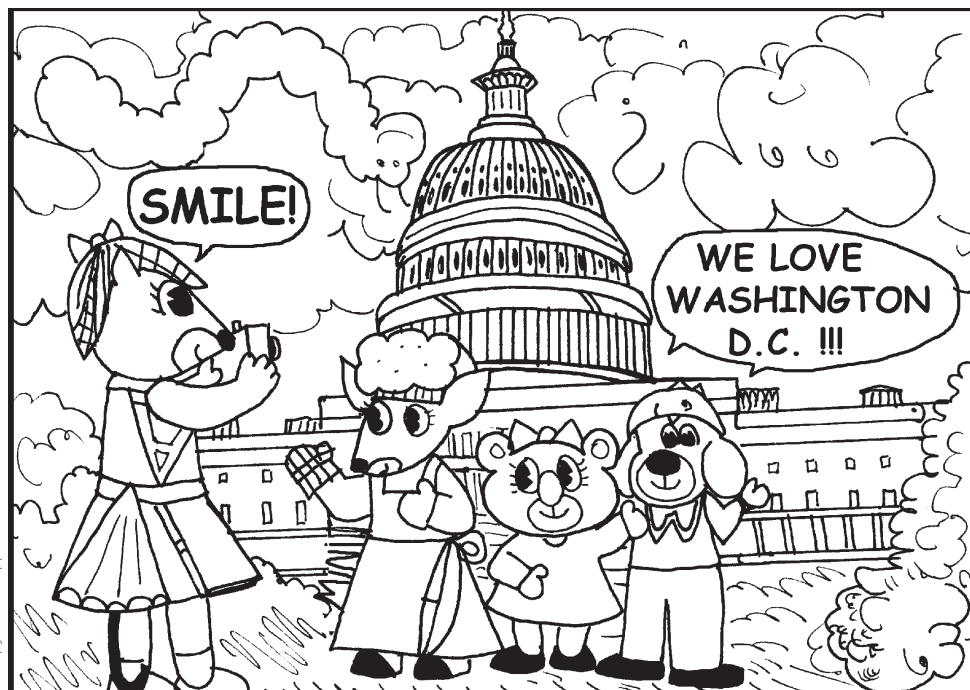


BRANCH, CONGRESS, ELECTION, FEMALE, FIRST, HERITAGE, HISTORY, HOUSE, LEADER, MIDTERM, NOBLE, ORDER, PELOSI, RANKIN, RECORD, RULES, SENATE, SERVICE, SMITH, SPEAKER.

O R D E R M R E T D I M J E Q
H C N A R B S Z E H R P L C P
D X H T I M S S L I E E E I E
E G A T I R E H E S K T A V L
E S U O H L R T C T A A D R O
R G W J U B G S T O E N E E S
B R A R C H N R I R P E R S I
N O B L E J O I O Y S S O E H
D R O C E R C F N N I K N A R
P Q R P G E L A M E F K O Y A

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting Washington, D.C. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



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- man in the moon
- question mark
- man's face
- canoe
- dog's head
- muffin
- sailboat
- book
- heart
- banana
- ladder
- toothbrush
- caterpillar
- number 3
- ear of corn
- umbrella
- word MINI
- letter A

Mini Jokes



Pat: Why did the police officer go to the baseball game?
Pam: She heard that someone had stolen third base!

Eco Note



About 2 billion birds cross the Gulf of Mexico during the spring migration season, according to a new study that combined data from 11 weather radar stations and observations from citizen scientists. Researcher Kyle Horton of Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology says that while climate change has caused the earliest seasonal migrations to begin 1.5 days earlier per decade, the peak has remained at the same period between April 19 and May 7.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about new female members of Congress.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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