



TAMMY DUCKWORTH

United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth (Democrat) was elected to the U.S. Senate on Nov. 8, 2016. She is an Iraq War veteran, Purple Heart recipient and former assistant secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and was among the first Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring from military service in 2014 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. Prior to becoming a U.S. Senator, Duckworth represented Illinois' 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms.

Duckworth attended college at the University of Hawaii and earned an M.A. in international affairs from the George Washington University. Following graduation, she moved to Illinois and began pursuing a Ph.D. in political science at Northern Illinois University.

In 2004, Duckworth was deployed to Iraq as a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the Illinois Army National Guard. On Nov. 12, 2004, her helicopter was hit by a rocket propelled grenade, and Duckworth lost her legs and partial use of her right arm.

Senator Duckworth spent the next year recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she became an advocate for her fellow soldiers and testified before Congress about caring for veterans and wounded warriors. Following her recovery, she became director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, working to create a tax credit for employers who hire veterans, establishing the first 24/7 veterans crisis hotline and developing innovative programs to improve veterans' access to housing and health care.

In 2009, President Obama appointed Duckworth to serve as assistant secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). At the VA, Duckworth coordinated the joint initiative with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to end veteran homelessness. She created the Office of Online Communications to improve the VA's accessibility, especially among young veterans.

In the U.S. House, Duckworth was an advocate for working families and job creation, introducing bills such as her bipartisan Friendly Airports for Mothers Act. She introduced the In the Red Act to help put the nation on the path toward debt-free college; the Get the Lead Out Act to keep America's drinking water safe; and bipartisan legislation to help close the skills gap while helping people find good-paying jobs. Duckworth also co-sponsored the No Budget, No Pay Act, which would ensure that members of Congress only get paid if they pass a budget.

In the U.S. Senate, Duckworth serves on several committees, including the Environment and Public Works Committee; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee; the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; and the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. As Senator, she advocates for practical, common-sense solutions needed to move the country and state forward.

Since her recovery, Duckworth has resumed flying as a civilian pilot and fulfilled a promise she made at Walter Reed by completing several marathons. In 2015, Duckworth completed her Ph.D. in human services at Capella University.

Senator Duckworth lives in Hoffman Estates with her husband Bryan, an Army cyber warrant officer, and their daughter, Abigail.

524 Hart Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; 202-224-2854; www.duckworth.senate.gov
230 S. Dearborn St., Ste. 3900, Chicago, IL 60604; 312-886-3506