

The Public Opening
of the
Senator Jennings Randolph Collection




1:00 p.m.

June 20, 2018

West Virginia Archives and History Library
The Culture Center

Order of Events



Welcome and
Review of the Collection

Joe Geiger
*Director, West Virginia Archives and
History*

Memories of Jennings
Randolph

Dr. Phyllis Freedman
*Director of the Benedum Library, Salem
University*

Nicholas Hollis
*Director, Jennings Randolph Recognition
Project*

Letter from Senator Steve Symms
(Idaho)

Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates

Margaret Workman
*Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of
Appeals*

Letter from Senator Rudy Boschwitz
(Minnesota)

Kim Good
Representing Senator Joe Manchin

Mary Elisabeth Eckerson
*Representing Senator Shelley Moore
Capito*

Nick Rahall
Former United States Congressman



Mac Warner
Secretary of State

Letter from Senator Nancy Kassebaum
Baker (Kansas)

Rod Rogers
*Representing Congressman David
McKinley*

Pat Griffith
*Former Press Secretary for Senator
Jennings Randolph*

Suzy Azevedo
Representing Congressman Alex Mooney

Michael Chirico
Representing Congressman Evan Jenkins

Letter from Vice President Walter
Mondale (Minnesota)

Frank Randolph
Son of Senator Jennings Randolph

Closing Remarks

Joe Geiger

Following the event, please join us for a reception in the Great Hall. A special thanks to Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, Curator of the Department of Arts, Culture and History, and to Brian Randolph and Jo Boggess Phillips.

Jennings Randolph Biographical Sketch

Born in Salem, WV, on March 8, 1902, to Ernest and Idell Randolph, Jennings Randolph followed his father and grandfather into politics, winning election to Congress in 1932 as part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt landslide. Following his election, Jennings and Mary Babb were married in 1933 and soon welcomed two sons, Jennings (Jay) Jr. and Frank. Randolph served seven terms in the House of Representatives, losing a re-election bid in 1946. He returned to Congress in 1958 when he was elected to fill the unexpired term of Senator Matthew M. Neely and continued to serve in the Senate until his retirement in 1985.

Randolph's accomplishments were many. Among them are his work with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in developing Arthurdale, efforts to provide employment opportunities for the blind, resulting in the Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936, his support of the interstate highway program, sponsorship of the 1965 Appalachian Regional Development Act, legislation to aid those affected by black lung, improvement of the education of the state and nation's youth, and sponsorship of the National Academy of Peace. Perhaps his most enduring legacy was the passage of the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age from 21 years of age to 18 years of age. Randolph first introduced the legislation in 1942 and reintroduced it eleven times until it was ratified and became the Twenty-Sixth Amendment on July 5, 1971. Randolph decided to retire rather than run for re-election in 1984. He remained in the Washington DC area for a time, eventually settling in St. Louis to be near his family. He passed away at the age of 96 on May 8, 1998.

Senator Jennings Randolph Collection Finding Aid:

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/collections/randolph/ms2017-016.html>

Jennings Randolph: "Your 'New Dealer' for All the Years Online Exhibit:

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/exhibitsonline/randolph/jrnewdealertoc.html>

Jennings Randolph: Stars in His Eyes Photograph Exhibit:

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/gallery/jrandolph.html>

