



**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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