



# 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, a Purple Heart recipient and a former assistant secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Duckworth was among the first Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom and 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 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 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 work to help 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 (FAM) Act, which is now law. 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.

In the U.S. Senate, Duckworth serves on several committees, including as chair of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Airland; as chair of the Environment and Public Works' Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife; the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; and the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. In 2019, she co-founded the Environmental Justice Caucus. As Senator, Duckworth advocates for practical, common-sense and equitable solutions needed to move our country and our 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.

In 2018, after Duckworth became the first Senator to give birth while serving in office, she sent a message to working families across the country about the value of family friendly policies after securing a historic rules change allowing Senators to bring their infant children onto the floor. Senator Duckworth and her husband, Bryan, are the proud parents of two daughters, Abigail and Maile.

---

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