

OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY

United States Senator Alfonse D'Amato

of
New York

Alfonse M. D'Amato (R,C-NY) was elected to the United States Senate on November 4, 1980. He came to Washington as a member of the 97th Congress, the first in twenty-five years to have a two party balance. To the position, he brought the unique understanding and knowledge acquired from more than 16 years in local government.

Senator D'Amato serves as a member of four influential committees: Appropriations; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; the Select Committee on Small Business and the House-Senate Joint Economic Committee. He is chairman of the Banking Subcommittee on Securities. In addition, he chairs Small Businesses' Urban and Rural Economic Development Subcommittee and the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. He sits on the following subcommittees: Defense, Foreign Operations, HUD-Independent Agencies and Transportation, of Appropriations; Housing and Urban Affairs, Financial Institutions and Consumer Affairs, of Banking; Government Regulations and the Family Farm, of Small Business; and, Economic Goals and Intergovernmental Policy, and the Investment, Jobs and Prices Subcommittee, both of the Joint Economic Committee.

The Senator was also appointed by Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker to the International Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe -- the prestigious Helsinki Panel -- created in 1976 to monitor East-West relations, and humanitarian and economic concerns in eastern Europe.

Born in Brooklyn on August 1, 1937, Al D'Amato was raised in Island Park, Long Island, graduated from Chaminade High School and went on to work his way through Syracuse University, where he graduated with a degree in business administration. Subsequently, he acquired a degree in law from the Syracuse University School of Law. The Senator was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1962. He is the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Law degree from New York Law School and serves as a Distinguished Lecturer at C.W. Post College of Long Island University.

Prior to his election to the United States Senate, Mr. D'Amato served two terms as Presiding Supervisor of the Town of Hempstead and as Majority Leader of the Nassau County Board of Supervisors. He was formerly Town Supervisor of Hempstead, with a population of 800,000, one of the largest towns in the nation, and previously, Public Administrator for Nassau County.

Senator D'Amato is the first American of Italian descent to become United States Senator from New York. A resident of Island Park, he has four children: Lisa, Lorraine, Daniel and Christopher. The Senator is a sailing enthusiast and enjoys playing the piano.