

= Charles Mathias =

Charles McCurdy " Mac " Mathias Jr . (July 24 , 1922 ? January 25 , 2010) was a Republican member of the United States Senate , representing Maryland from 1969 to 1987 . He was also a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1959 to 1960 , and of the United States House of Representatives , representing the 6th congressional district of Maryland from 1961 to 1969 .

After studying law and serving in the United States Navy during World War II , Mathias worked as a lawyer and was elected to the state legislature in 1958 . In 1960 , he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Western Maryland . He was re @-@ elected three times (1962 , 1964 , 1966) , serving in the House for eight years , where he aligned himself with the then @-@ influential liberal wing of the Republican Party .

Mathias was elected to the Senate in 1968 , unseating the incumbent Democrat , Daniel Brewster , who twenty years earlier had been his roommate while attending the University of Maryland School of Law . He continued his record as a liberal Republican in the Senate , and frequently clashed with the conservative wing of his party . For a few months in late 1975 and early 1976 , Mathias considered running an insurgent presidential campaign in an attempt to stave off the increasing influence of conservative Republicans led by Ronald Reagan .

His confrontations with conservatives cost him several leadership positions in the Senate , including chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee . Despite isolation from his conservative colleagues , Mathias played an influential role in fostering African American civil rights , ending the Vietnam War , preserving the Chesapeake Bay , and constructing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial . He retired from the Senate in 1987 , having served in Congress for twenty @-@ six years (eight years in the U.S. House of Representatives and eighteen years in the U.S. Senate) .

= = Early life and career = =

Mathias was born in Frederick , Maryland , the son of Theresa (née Trail) and Charles Mathias , Sr. His father was politically active , and he was a descendant of several Maryland legislators . After graduating from Frederick High School , Mathias graduated from Haverford College in Pennsylvania in 1944 . He went on to attend Yale University and received a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1949 . Around this time , Mathias met his future wife , Ann Bradford , at a birthday party for his law school roommate Daniel Brewster . Ann Bradford is the daughter of former Massachusetts governor Robert F. Bradford .

In 1942 , during World War II , Mathias enlisted in the United States Navy and served at the rank of seaman apprentice . He was promoted to ensign in 1944 and served sea duty in the Pacific Ocean , including the recently devastated Hiroshima , from 1944 until he was released from active duty in 1946 . Following the war , Mathias rose to the rank of captain in the United States Naval Reserve .

Mathias briefly served as assistant Attorney General of Maryland from 1953 to 1954 . From 1954 to 1959 , he worked as the City Attorney of Frederick , where he supported civil rights for African Americans . He played a role in desegregating the local Opera House movie theater , which restricted African American seating to the back of the theater . Mathias also worked to relocate the Frederick post office and helped protect a park in the city . In 1958 , he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates , serving from 1959 to 1960 . As a delegate , he voted in favor of Maryland ratifying the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution , which secured African American rights following the American Civil War . With his support , the legislature ratified the amendment in 1959 , nearly 100 years after it was first introduced .

= = In the House of Representatives = =

On January 4 , 1960 , Mathias declared his candidacy for the House seat of Maryland 's 6th congressional district . He officially began his campaign in March , establishing public education and controls on government spending as two of his priorities should he be elected . In the primary elections of May 1960 , Mathias handily defeated his two rivals , garnering a 3 ? 1 margin of victory .

Mathias ' opponent in the general election was John R. Foley , a former judge who had unseated DeWitt Hyde in a Democratic landslide in the state two years prior . Both candidates attacked each other 's voting records , with Foley accusing Mathias of skipping more than 500 votes in the House of Delegates and having the " worst Republican record in Annapolis " . Mathias previously accused Foley of voting " present " (a de facto abstention) in the House too often , and argued Foley 's inaction led to inflation and higher taxes . Mathias prevailed over Foley on election day in November 1960 , unseating the one @-@ term incumbent and becoming the first representative from Frederick County since Milton Urner in 1883 .

During his eight @-@ year career in the House , Mathias established himself as a member of the liberal wing of the Republican Party , which was the most influential at the time . He was the author of the " Mathias Amendment " to the unsuccessful 1966 civil rights bill on open housing . Concerning environmental issues , Mathias sponsored legislation to make the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal a national park , and supported other conservation initiatives along the Potomac River . He also served on the Judiciary Committee and the Committee on the District of Columbia . As a member of the D.C. Committee , Mathias was a proponent of establishing home rule in the District of Columbia .

= = United States Senate career = =

= = = Election of 1968 : unseating Brewster = = =

Leading up to the United States Senate elections of 1968 , Mathias ' name was frequently mentioned as a potential challenger to Democratic incumbent Daniel Brewster , his college roommate . Representative Rogers Morton of Maryland 's 1st congressional district was also considering a run at Brewster 's seat , but was dissuaded by Republican party leaders in the state in favor of a Mathias candidacy . Their decision was largely due to the geography of Mathias ' seat . As representative of the 6th district , he already had established name recognition in both the Baltimore and Washington , D.C. , metropolitan areas , the more densely populated and liberal areas of the state . Mathias ' seat was also more likely to stay under Republican control , unlike Morton 's seat , which was located on the socially conservative but Democratic @-@ voting Eastern Shore of Maryland . Mathias had also established a more liberal voting record , which was argued to serve him better in the state with a 3 @-@ 1 Democratic advantage in registered voters .

Mathias officially declared his candidacy for the Senate on February 10 , 1968 , calling for troop reductions in the Vietnam War , and identifying urban blight , racial discrimination , welfare reform , and improving public schools as major issues . As the campaign drew on , the two primary issues became the war and crime . Mathias argued that the extensive bombing campaigns in North Vietnam should be reduced , while Brewster had argued for increasing bombardment . Brewster adopted a hard line stance on law and order , while Mathias advocated addressing the precipitating causes of poverty and the low standard of living in urban ghettos . Campaign finances were also an issue , with controversy erupting over Brewster 's receipt of \$ 15 @,@ 000 in campaign contributions from his Senate staff and their families . On November 5 , 1968 , Mathias was elected , garnering 48 % of the vote to Brewster 's 39 % and perennial candidate George P. Mahoney 's 13 % .

= = = First term (1969 ? 1975) : conflict with Nixon = = =

Mathias began his first term in the Senate in January 1969 and laid out his legislative agenda soon thereafter . He was appointed to the District of Columbia committee , where he argued in favor of home rule in the district and providing D.C. residents full representation in both chambers of Congress . Both were positions he carried over from his career in the House . In December 1970 he finally gained passage of legislation creating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical

Park . He also served as chair of the Special Committee on Termination of the National Emergency from 1971 to 1977 , which produced Senate Report 93 @-@ 549 .

Over the course of his first term , Mathias was frequently at odds with his conservative colleagues in the Senate and the Richard Nixon administration . In June 1969 , Mathias joined with fellow liberal Republican Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania in threatening a " rebellion " unless the Nixon administration worked harder to protect African American civil rights . He also warned against Republicans using the " Southern strategy " of attracting conservative George Wallace voters at the expense of moderate or liberal voters . Mathias voted against two controversial Nixon Supreme Court nominees , Clement Haynsworth and G. Harrold Carswell , neither of whom was confirmed . Mathias was also an early advocate for setting a timetable for withdrawal of troops from Vietnam , and was against the bombing campaigns Nixon launched into Laos . In October 1972 , Mathias became the first Republican on Ted Kennedy 's Judiciary subcommittee and one of only a few in the nation to support investigation of the Watergate Scandal , which was still in its early stages .

Mathias ' disagreements with the administration became well @-@ known , causing columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak to name him the " new supervillain ... in President Nixon 's doghouse " . Evans and Novak also commented that " not since [Charles Goodell] was defeated with White House connivance has any Republican so outraged Mr. Nixon and his senior staff as Mathias . The senator 's liberalism and tendency to bolt party lines have bred animosity in the inner sanctum " . Due to their differing ideologies , there was speculation that Mathias was going to be " purged " from the party by Nixon in a similar manner as Goodell in 1971 , but these threats disappeared after the Watergate scandal escalated . By the numbers , Mathias sided with the Nixon administration 47 % of the time , and voted with the majority of his Republican colleagues in the Senate 31 % of the time , during his first term .

In early 1974 , the group Americans for Democratic Action rated Mathias the most liberal member of the GOP in the Senate based on twenty key votes in the 1973 legislative session . At 90 percent , his score was higher than most Democrats in the Senate , and was fourth highest amongst all members . Issues considered when rating senators included their positions on civil rights , mass transit , D.C. home rule , tax reform , and reducing overseas troop levels . The League of Women Voters gave Mathias a 100 % on issues important to them , and the AFL @-@ CIO agreed with Mathias on 32 out of 45 key labor votes . Conversely , the conservative group Americans for Constitutional Action stated Mathias agreed with their positions only 16 % of the time .

= = = Election of 1974 : challenge from Mikulski = = =

As a Republican representing heavily @-@ Democratic Maryland , Mathias faced a potentially difficult re @-@ election bid for the 1974 election . State Democrats nominated Barbara Mikulski , then a Baltimore City Councilwoman who was well @-@ known to residents in her city as a social activist , but with limited name recognition in the rest of the state . Mathias was renominated by Republicans , fending off a primary election challenge from conservative doctor Ross Pierpont . Pierpont was never a substantial threat to Mathias , whose lack of competition was due in part to fallout from the Watergate scandal .

As an advocate for campaign finance reform , Mathias refused to accept any contribution over \$ 100 to " avoid the curse of big money that has led to so much trouble in the last year " . However , he still managed to raise over \$ 250 @,@ 000 , nearly five times Mikulski 's total . Ideologically , Mikulski and Mathias agreed on many issues , such as closing tax loopholes and easing taxes on the middle class . On two issues , however , Mathias argued to reform Congress and the U.S. tax system to address inflation and corporate price fixing , contrary to Mikulski . In retrospect , The Washington Post felt the election was " an intelligent discussion of state , national , and foreign affairs by two smart , well @-@ informed people " .

With Maryland voters , Mathias benefited from his frequent disagreements with the Nixon administration and his liberal voting record . On November 5 , 1974 , he was re @-@ elected by a 57 % to 43 % margin , though he lost badly in Baltimore City and Baltimore County , where Mikulski was popular .

= = = Second term (1975 ? 1981) : unease with the growth of conservatism = = =

In 1975 , Mathias co -sponsored introduced legislation with Illinois Senator Adlai Stevenson III that would prohibit foreign aid to South Vietnam after June 30 , 1975 .

Mathias expressed concerns with the state of his party leading up to the 1976 presidential election , specifically its shift further to the right . Referring to the nomination contest between Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan , Mathias remarked that the party leadership was placed " in further isolation , in an extreme ? almost fringe ? position " . On November 8 , 1975 , he hinted at entering some presidential primary elections to steer the party away from what he saw as a strong conservative trend . Over the next few months , Mathias continued to show signs of entering the election , but never campaigned aggressively and lacked any political organization . Columnist George Will commented that Mathias was " contemplating a race ? a stroll , really ? for the presidency " , in reference to his staid campaign .

After four months of consideration , Mathias decided in March 1976 to not seek the presidency , and asked for his name to be withdrawn from the Massachusetts primary ballot , where it had been added automatically . He had also been considering an independent bid , but said raising money would be too difficult under campaign finance laws . Upon his withdrawal , Mathias stated he would work with the Republican Party in the upcoming elections . However , despite his pledge to support the Republican candidate , Mathias ' criticism of the party did not wane , stating that " over and over again during the primaries , I have felt uncomfortably like a member of the chorus in a Greek tragedy " . In a further criticism of his party 's neglect of liberal voters , Mathias commented :

I 've had to deal with some hard truths ... People don 't like to hear we 've got only 18 percent of the electorate . They pretend it 's not important that our following among blacks , and young people , and urban communities is not what it should be ... But I feel it 's of the greatest importance that if there 's to be a Republican Party , we look these facts in the face .

Mathias ' short candidacy did not endear him to the conservative wing of the Maryland Republican Party organization . In June 1976 , he lost a vote by state Republicans to determine who would represent Maryland on the platform committee at the 1976 Republican National Convention . Instead , the group chose George Price , a conservative member of the Maryland House of Delegates from Baltimore County . At one point , Mathias was close to being denied attendance to the convention altogether as an at -large delegate , but a last minute compromise ensured all Republican congressional representatives seats as at -large delegates . Mathias maintained a low profile during the convention , and received harsh criticism from some of the conservative delegates from Maryland who attended .

At the beginning of the new Congress in 1977 , Mathias was in line for several potential committee promotions to ranking member . However , Mathias ' outspoken criticism of the party in the previous election cycle aroused enmity amongst his colleagues . On the Judiciary Committee , Mathias had the most seniority of any other member except Strom Thurmond of South Carolina , who already held another ranking membership on the Armed Services Committee . Only one ranking membership was allowed per senator , so Thurmond resigned his ranking membership on the Armed Services Committee to circumvent Mathias serving as ranking member of the Judiciary Committee . Mathias was also prevented from assuming leadership positions on the Government Operations Committee following a power struggle , and on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights . On the latter subcommittee , Mathias had more seniority than any other member . However , party leaders were uneasy with the idea of allowing Mathias to team up with liberal Democrat and subcommittee chairman Birch Bayh , and voted instead for William L. Scott as ranking member .

= = = Election of 1980 : uncertain party renomination = = =

After these slights , speculation was raised that Mathias would leave the Republican Party , especially as the 1980 elections were approaching . Several prominent conservatives in the state ,

such as U.S. Representatives Marjorie Holt and Robert Bauman , were considering challenging Mathias for his seat . In contrast , the Democratic side of the aisle had fewer challengers , suggesting Mathias would win renomination more easily if he were to switch parties . However , Mathias chose to remain as a Republican , and teamed up with eight other Republican senators to express their dissatisfaction with the hard @-@ line wing of the party . Mathias later stated that he had never seriously considered switching parties .

When it came time to nominate members to the 1980 Republican National Convention , Maryland Republicans voted for Mathias and Bauman as co @-@ chairmen of the delegation to represent the liberal and conservative wings of the party , respectively . The 1980 nomination contest lacked the " fierce ideological bickering that marked the 1976 state convention " , in which Mathias was nearly excluded as a delegate .

Despite initial concerns that a strong conservative would run in the 1980 Republican primary , Mathias did not face any major opposition for his seat . He easily won his party 's nomination , and was re @-@ elected by a substantial margin in November . His Democratic counterpart in the election , Edward T. Conroy , positioned himself as more conservative than Mathias . Conroy also made national defense the primary issue of his campaign , where he accused Mathias of being weak . Mathias countered , stating he had voted for over \$ 1 @.@ 1 trillion in defense spending during his career in the Senate . By winning easy re @-@ election , Mathias became the first Maryland Republican to win election to a third Senate term , and also the only Republican to win the city of Baltimore up to that point . He also secured support from several precincts of Baltimore 's Democratic political machine , and several labor unions .

= = = Final term (1981 ? 1987) = = =

After Republicans gained control of the Senate in 1981 , Mathias sought the chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee but was relegated to the relatively mundane chairmanship of the Rules Committee . He was also appointed chairman of the Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and the District of Columbia , and accepted a seat on the influential Foreign Relations Committee , though he had to sacrifice his seat on the Appropriations Committee to do so . In 1982 , Mathias chaired a bipartisan Senate inquiry into the methods used by the FBI in the Abscam corruption investigation , which found that dozens of officials had been named for accepting bribes without basis . He also served as co @-@ chair of the Joint Committee on Printing from 1981 to 1983 and 1985 to 1987 , and as a member of the Joint Committee on the Library from 1983 to 1987 .

Leading up to the 1986 elections , it was unclear whether Mathias would seek a fourth term . His support of President Reagan was lukewarm , which had further isolated him ideologically from his Republican colleagues . One delegate at the Maryland state party convention had even called Mathias " liberal swine " for his record . Additionally , his frequent difficulties in securing a committee chairmanship along with his low attendance rate were raising questions regarding his ability . However , Mathias was showing signs of seeking re @-@ election in 1985 , and dismissed any claims of ineffectiveness . Mathias claimed " within a matter of minutes , I can talk to any member of the Cabinet ; and I could go see them within 24 hours It was no accident that the Chesapeake Bay was mentioned in the President 's State of the Union address . That took a lot of hard work " .

Despite initial indications otherwise , Mathias announced on September 27 , 1985 , that he would not seek a fourth term . His announcement concerned Republican party officials in the state , who feared that local Republicans had poorer election chances without Mathias at the top of the ticket . At the national level , Mathias ' announcement came shortly after news that Republican Paul Laxalt of Nevada would be retiring as well . The departure of two Republican senators from swing or Democratic @-@ leaning states was treated by Republican party leaders as a poor sign of the party 's chances in the upcoming elections . Linda Chavez won the Republican primary for the Senate seat , and she lost to Democrat Barbara Mikulski .

Mathias remained active in his final days in the Senate , playing an important role in removing a death penalty provision in a 1986 Senate drug bill after threatening filibuster , and in preparing

impeachment proceedings against federal judge Harry E. Claiborne . Mathias ' last day in the Senate was January 3 , 1987 , at which point he was succeeded by Barbara Mikulski .

= = Legacy and post @-@ Senate life = =

Mathias held a retirement party at the Baltimore Convention Center on July 14 , 1986 , which had over 1 @, @ 200 attendees . The proceeds from the event , at \$ 150 per person , were used to establish a foreign studies program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in his name . Mathias planned to teach at Johns Hopkins following his departure from the Senate .

Donald P. Baker of The Washington Post commented that Mathias ' lasting reputation would be that of a maverick . Though he was elected to the House in 1960 as a moderate / conservative , his life in the Congress moved him to the center , and he frequently deviated from the party line and sided with Democrats . The fact that he " went out of his way to disassociate himself from [Ronald Reagan] " in the 1980 elections had hindered his chances at a chairmanship . Mathias also established a record on civil rights , having played an important role in passing a fair housing bill while he was in the House , and also in establishing a national holiday for Martin Luther King Jr . He held liberal views on abortion , defense spending , and the Equal Rights Amendment , and , along with Senator John Warner of Virginia , was one of the sponsors of a bill to authorize the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial . In discussing Mathias ' retirement , Tom Wicker of The New York Times commented that " he was fair , flexible , concerned , able to rise above partisanship but not above responsibility " . When Wicker asked him which senators he respected the most , Mathias listed J. William Fulbright (D) , Jacob Javits (R) , John Sherman Cooper (R) , Cliff Case (R) , Phil Hart (D) , Mike Mansfield (D) , and George Aiken (R) , because " each one of those people would take an issue on his own responsibility ... They 'd simply come to the conclusion that this was the right thing for the country " .

On environmental issues , Mathias established a record as a strong advocate of the Chesapeake Bay . After touring the bay shoreline in 1973 , he sponsored legislation that led to a study by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) two years later , which was one of the first reports that made the public aware of harmful levels of nutrients and toxins in the waters . As a result , the report was one of the catalysts for cleanup efforts , and evolved into the Chesapeake Bay Program . In recognition , the Charles Mathias Laboratory , part of the Smithsonian Institution , was established in 1988 as a research facility to analyze human impact on the bay . In 1990 , the Mathias Medal was established by Maryland Sea Grant at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science as further acknowledgment of Mathias ' environmental record . In 2003 , thirty years after he launched a study of the Chesapeake , Mathias was recognized by the Army Corps of Engineers for the influential role he played initiating restoration efforts .

From 1987 to 1993 , Mathias was a partner at the law firm of Jones , Day , Reavis and Pogue . In 1991 , Mathias was chosen by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board to lead a committee to supervise the operations of First American Bankshares , Inc . Prior to his arrival , First American had been secretly acquired by Bank of Credit and Commerce International , which resulted in a major banking scandal . Mathias was appointed chairman of the board of First American in November 1992 , replacing former U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach . He continued as chairman of First American until 1999 .

After his retirement , Mathias served on numerous boards and committees . He was a member of the Governor 's Commission on State Taxes and Tax Structure (1989 ? 1990) , a member of the Maryland Civil War Heritage Commission (1992 ? 1995) , a member of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured , co @-@ chair of the Task Force on the Presidential Appointment and Senate Confirmation Process (1996) , a member of the board of the George C. Marshall International Center , a member of the board of the Center for Responsive Politics , a member of the board of WorldSpace Satellite Radio , and board member emeritus of Brown University 's Watson Institute for International Studies . Additionally , Mathias served on the Board of Trustees of Enterprise Foundation (now Enterprise Community Partners) from 1980 through 2001 .

As of 2008 , Mathias practiced law in Washington , D.C. , and was a resident of Chevy Chase , Maryland . On October 28 , 2008 , Mathias endorsed Sen. Barack Obama in the United States presidential election , 2008 .

Mathias died from complications of Parkinson 's disease at his home on January 25 , 2010 .