

LEGISLATOR

US Representative


MARCY KAPTUR (D-OH-09)**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016

17th Term

Re-elected in 2014


CONTACT

 **Email** [Contact Form](http://www.kaptur.house.gov/index.php/contact-marcy-73179)
<http://www.kaptur.house.gov/index.php/contact-marcy-73179>

 **Web** www.kaptur.house.gov/index.php
<http://www.kaptur.house.gov/index.php>

 **Twitter** [@RepMarcyKaptur](https://twitter.com/RepMarcyKaptur)
<https://twitter.com/RepMarcyKaptur>

 **Facebook** [View on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RepresentativeMarcyKaptur)
<https://www.facebook.com/RepresentativeMarcyKaptur>

 **DC Office** 2186 Rayburn House Office Building

BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Brian Nutting, Bloomberg News

Ohio's Marcy Kaptur, who came to Capitol Hill in 1983, is the most senior woman in the House and the second most-senior female House member in congressional history, known for outspoken, sometimes brash criticisms of corporations and Wall Street that reflect her blue-collar Toledo roots.

Her lengthy tenure hasn't translated into leadership posts within the Democratic Party.

When the House Democratic Caucus's steering committee met to choose the Appropriations Committee's ranking member for the 113th Congress, Kaptur lost to Nita Lowey of New York by a vote of 36-10, even though she had more seniority -- an outcome that was viewed as a victory for Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi.

Kaptur had gone up against Pelosi before: In 2002, she challenged the California lawmaker for the position of party leader. After making a speech to draw attention to her view that Democrats should pay more attention to the working class -- the party's "non-money wing" -- she withdrew before a vote was taken.

In 2008 she sought to become vice chairman of the Democratic Caucus, losing to Xavier Becerra of California, a Pelosi ally.

After Democrats were thrashed in the 2010 elections, losing their majority in the House, Kaptur was among those who called for a delay in choosing party leaders for the 112th Congress -- an action that some believe might have convinced Pelosi that she should step down as leader. The election wasn't delayed, and Pelosi was re-elected.

All three of Kaptur's failed efforts to attain a higher position in the House came against lawmakers from one of the coasts; one of her constant refrains is that she represents the "heartland" -- both of Ohio and of the nation. In 2008, Kaptur asked Democrats to "bring the heartland to leadership."

Committee Assignment

Bloomberg GOVERNMENT

A member of the Appropriations Committee since 1991, she is the ranking member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, one of the less prestigious subcommittees, and also sits on the Defense and Financial Services subcommittees.

In the 113th Congress, in addition to failing to win the Appropriations ranking member slot, she lost the seat on the Budget Committee that she had held for six years -- though that resulted from party-imposed term limits, and not any pique by leadership.

Despite those setbacks, her legislative enthusiasm was undeterred. In the first two days of the session, she introduced 17 measures, many of which focused on the nation's financial and housing system, foreign trade and campaign finance -- all longstanding priorities for Kaptur. She has been an outspoken critic of Wall Street and its role in the 2008 recession.

Among the bills were proposals to investigate the housing mortgage crisis, reorganize the Federal Reserve and renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement. She also offered a proposed constitutional amendment to limit campaign contributions by corporations.

Trade Agreements

Kaptur has made a name for herself as a staunch supporter of organized labor and a foe of international trade agreements, including NAFTA in 1993 and, more recently, trade agreements with Panama, South Korea and Colombia that Congress approved in 2012. She contends that because the U.S. hasn't insisted on worker protections for labor in other countries, companies are moving jobs overseas.

"Creating jobs should be our number one priority, not killing jobs," she says on her House website. "These unfair, unbalanced agreements will not have a demonstrable, positive impact on job creation. We have lost six million manufacturing jobs in the past decade. Enough is enough."

A member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, she typically scores 95 percent or higher in the AFL-CIO's annual ratings of key congressional votes.

One legislative highlight was the construction of the National World War II Memorial in Washington. After a constituent, Roger Durbin, asked her at an Ohio fish fry in 1987 why there was no World War II memorial in Washington to show his grandchildren, she began a long battle to win congressional authorization for a commemorative site. That finally came in 1993, and the memorial, on the National Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, was dedicated in 2004.

Early Years

Kaptur's grandparents were from Poland. Her father ran a grocery store in a town just south of Toledo; her mother served on a union organizing committee at a spark plug factory.

Kaptur began her career in politics at the age of 13, volunteering for the local Democratic Party. She was the first member of her family to go to college, studying urban planning at the University of Wisconsin and receiving a master's degree from the University of Michigan.

After six years as a planner for Lucas County, Ohio, and two years as director of planning for the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs, she served for two years on President Jimmy Carter's White House staff as a domestic policy adviser on urban affairs.

While pursuing a doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she was urged by party leaders in Ohio to run for Congress in 1982. Aided by an economic downturn that hurt Republicans, she upset GOP incumbent Ed Weber, who was seeking a second term, by almost 20 percentage points.

After her first two elections, she won nine consecutive general-election contests by more than 70 percent of the vote.

In 2012, when congressional reapportionment cost Ohio two seats in the House, redistricting put her and another incumbent, Dennis Kucinich, in the same district for the Democratic primary. She won that race handily, 56 percent to 30 percent, in a district that stretched along the shores of Lake Erie from her home in Toledo to his home in Cleveland.

In the November general election, Kaptur once again bested the 70 percent benchmark, defeating Republican Samuel Joseph Wurzelbacher, who during the 2008 presidential race had gained public attention as "Joe the Plumber" after he asked Democratic candidate Barack Obama about small-business tax policy during a campaign stop.

Updated May 7, 2013

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Representative's Website

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents Northern Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, is currently serving her sixteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

She is the senior-most woman in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Training & Education

Congresswoman Kaptur, of Polish-American heritage with humble, working class roots, mirrors the bootstrap nature of her district. Her family operated a small grocery where her mother worked after serving on the original organizing committee of an auto trade union at the Champion Spark Plug Company.

Congresswoman Kaptur became the first member of her family to attend college, receiving a scholarship for her undergraduate work. Trained as a city and regional planner, she practiced 15 years in Toledo and throughout the country. Appointed as an urban advisor to the Carter White House, she helped maneuver 17 housing and neighborhood revitalization bills through the Congress during those years.

Subsequently, while pursuing a doctorate in urban planning and development finance at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the local Democratic Party recruited her to run for the U.S. House seat in 1982. Kaptur had been a well-known party activist and volunteer since age 13. Although she was outspent by a 3-to-1 margin, she parlayed her deep roots in the blue-collar neighborhoods of Toledo and the rural areas of the district to pull the national upset of 1982.

Congress

Congresswoman Kaptur fought vigorously to win a seat on the House Appropriations Committee. She is the Ranking Member on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and also serves on the Defense and Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittees.

Kaptur is the first Democratic woman to serve on the Defense subcommittee. During her legislative career, she has also served on the Banking and Veterans Affairs Committees.

Congresswoman Kaptur has focused strong efforts on rebuilding the economic might of her district such as improvements in bridge, road, rail and port facilities, including the I-280 Veterans' Glass City Skyway - the largest bridge project in Ohio's history; expansion of Toledo's Farmers' Market; development of the Maumee River Heritage Corridor between Ohio and Indiana, which includes passage of legislation and funds to acquire the Fallen Timbers battlefield site as a national affiliate of the U.S. Park Service; clean-up of the waterways adjacent to Lake Erie; development of initiatives to enhance the earnings potential of Northwest Ohio crops; shipping of federal cargos on the Great Lakes; acquisition of wildlife refuges and shoreline recreation; and expansion of university-related research.

Kaptur also directed federal support to acquire Quarry Pond as the centerpiece for a new conservation and lands legacy endowment for northwest Ohio. Lucas County-based 180th Tactical Fighter Squadron underwent a F-16 modernization attributable to her efforts. Current and former Defense Department and other private-sector workers who were exposed to and suffer from beryllium were the beneficiaries of a major piece of legislation Kaptur guided to passage.

She was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Americanism Award, in part for introducing the legislation authorizing the National World War II Memorial in Washington in 1987, as well as for her longstanding commitment to America's veterans. She also received the Prisoner of War "Barbed Wire" Award for her commitment to veterans' affairs.

Dedication of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on May 29, 2004 culminated a 17-year legislative effort that started with an idea that sprang from the grassroots of her congressional district. In 1986, Roger Durbin, a rural letter carrier from Berkey, Ohio, asked Congresswoman Kaptur at a fish fry at a township hall to explain why there was no memorial to World War II in Washington.

Kaptur helped make Roger Durbin's dream a reality by introducing legislation in Congress to create the memorial. There were stops and starts, but nothing could stop this powerful idea. Today, the World War II Memorial is one of the most popular tourist attractions in our nation's capital and a timeless salute to the men and women of the "Greatest Generation."

Dedicated to the principle that fiscal responsibility begins in "one's own backyard," Congresswoman Kaptur has consistently returned money to the federal Treasury. She refuses to accept Congressional pay raises and donates them to offset the federal deficit and charitable causes in her home community.

Awards

Kaptur is a native of Toledo, Ohio, a member of Little Flower Roman Catholic Church, and a graduate of St. Ursula Academy. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Wisconsin (1968) and a master's in urban planning from the University of Michigan. In 1993, Congresswoman Kaptur was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Toledo in recognition of her "effective representation of the community." St. Ursula Academy

named Kaptur Alumna of the Year in 1995. She is recipient of the Taubman College Distinguished Alumna award from the University of Michigan, making her the first woman so recognized and the first graduate of the Urban and Regional Planning Program to be so honored.

Kaptur recently received the Director's Award from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University for her commitment to increased understanding and appreciation of the peoples and cultures of Eurasia, Russia and East Europe.

She was named the National Mental Health Association's "Legislator of the Year" for her championing mental health and received the 2002 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Kaptur is also the author of a book, Women in Congress- A Twentieth Century Odyssey, that was published by Congressional Quarterly in 1996.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[House Committee on Appropriations](#)

[Joint Congressional-Executive
Commission on China](#)

CAUCUSES

[Congressional Automotive Caucus](#)

[Congressional Hungarian-American
Caucus](#)

[House 4-H Caucus](#)

Birthdate 06/17/1946

Birthplace Toledo, OH

Political Party Democratic Party

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Education

University of Michigan

Master's Degree 1974

University of Wisconsin System

Bachelor's Degree 1968

1969 - 1975 Urban Planner:Plan
Commission, Toledo-Lucas County Public
Lib 01-03-1983 - Present
Representative:Ohio, (US)House of
Representatives