

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE UNVEILS CHARLES CURTIS PORTRAIT IN SENATE MAJORITY LEADER OFFICE

WASHINGTON -On the 125th anniversary of his birth, historic Kansas Senator and Vice President Charles Curtis has returned to the United States Capitol by way of a distinguished portrait on loan from the Kansas State Historical Society. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas today unveiled the painting of Curtis, the first officially-elected U.S. Senate Majority Leader. The work of art will now hang in Dole's new office on the second floor of the U.S. Capitol.

"The Kansas tradition is very strong in the Senate Majority Leader's office," said Dole. "In fact, I was elected Majority Leader on the 60th anniversary of the day that Charles Curtis got the job."

"Believe me, it's an honor to follow in this great Kansan's footsteps. During the difficult times ahead in the Senate, it will be reassuring to look-up at this inspirational portrait," Dole said. "I am indebted to the Kansas State Historical Society for its help in bringing Vice President Curtis' picture to Washington."

Very little is known about the origin of the portrait. Painted in 1931 by artist Elie Cristo Loveman, the work was given to the Historical Society through the estate of Curtis' sister and long time secretary, Dolly Gann, in 1952 or 1953. The 48-inch by 36-inch painting hung in the Society's lobby from that time until this year, when Senator Dole requested its use.

Curtis made history by becoming the first Vice President who was part American Indian, serving under President Herbert Hoover, from 1929 1933.

Charles Curtis was born in Topeka, Kansas 125 years ago today. He began practicing law there in 1881, and became Shawnee County Prosecuting Attorney in 1885. He was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1893, where he served until his first election to the U.S. Senate in 1907. When Curtis ran for re-election in 1913, he received a plurality of popular votes, but because of a technicality in Kansas law, lost the election. He was returned to the Senate in 1915, and served there until becoming Vice President in 1929.

Known nationally for his leadership on agricultural issues, Curtis was a powerful and popular Senator. He was Republican whip from 1915-1924, and was Majority-Leader from November 28, 1924 until March 3, 1929.

Senator Curtis ran for Vice President with Herbert Hoover, and served in that position until 1933, when Franklin Roosevelt, took office after defeating Hoover in the 1932 campaign. Curtis practiced law in Washington until his death on February 8, 1936.