



Shelby Scholars Lecture Series

DOUG JONES

U.S. Senator

ABOUT OUR GUEST

Senator Doug Jones represented Alabama in the United States Senate from 2018–2021. He was a member of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the Committee on Aging. He also served on the Homeland Security Committee for one year prior to joining the Armed Services Committee.

Born in Fairfield, Alabama to a U.S. Steel worker and a stay-at-home mom, he grew up in Alabama during a period of great change and played a critical part in helping the state and her people overcome some of their darkest days. His early years forged his values and a sense of responsibility to treat everyone with dignity and respect.

After graduating from Cumberland School of Law, he worked as staff counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee for Senator Howell Heflin. Following his stint in Washington, Senator Jones served as an Assistant United States Attorney from 1980–1984. He left government service in 1984 and was in the private practice of law in Birmingham until 1997 when President Bill Clinton nominated him to the position of United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama where he served until June 2001.

It was while serving as U.S. Attorney that Senator Jones successfully prosecuted two of the four men responsible for the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church—finally bringing full justice and closure nearly 40 years after the attack that killed four young girls.

As Senator, he fought to increase access to affordable health care for every American, including expanding Medicaid in Alabama, and to make sure that every child in every ZIP code has access to high-quality education. In just three years he had 25 of his bipartisan bills signed into law, including legislation to end the military widow’s tax, to help farmers, to provide permanent funding for HBCUs, to shed light on Civil Rights-era cold cases, to expand access to broadband in rural communities and to overhaul anti-money laundering laws.

Senator Jones was consistently recognized as one of the Senate’s most bipartisan members. Former president of the American Enterprise Institute and leading conservative thinker Arthur Brooks said once said of Senator Jones “Whether people agree or disagree with him on politics, he has shown an ability and a willingness to listen to people on the other side and refrain from treating people with contempt.”

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024
3:30 PM at Tuomey Hall*