



Shelby Scholars Lecture Series

RICHARD SHELBY

U.S. Senator

ABOUT OUR GUEST

Richard Shelby has served the people of Alabama since 1971, spending the majority of his career representing the State of Alabama in the U.S. Senate. He was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986 and recently retired following his sixth term.

A fifth-generation Alabamian, Senator Shelby was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on May 6, 1934. He was educated by the local public school system, received his undergraduate and law degrees from The University of Alabama, and practiced law in Tuscaloosa for 15 years. During this period, he also worked as City Prosecutor for Tuscaloosa from 1963 to 1971, as the U.S. Magistrate for the Northern District of Alabama from 1966 to 1970, and as Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama from 1969 to 1971.

In 1970, Senator Shelby won a seat in the Alabama State Senate, which he held for eight years. He was then elected to the 96th Congress to represent Alabama's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and served four terms. In 1986, he was elected to the U.S.

Senate, defeating the incumbent, and was re-elected in 1992, 1998, 2004, 2010, and 2016. In March 2019, Senator Shelby became the longest-serving U.S. Senator from the State of Alabama.

Senator Shelby had the unique opportunity to serve as chairman of four committees in the U.S. Senate, namely: the Select Committee on Intelligence; the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Committee on Rules; and the most powerful, the Committee on Appropriations. He also chaired the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. His service on these committees enabled him to be at the forefront on the most important issues facing our country.

In January 2023, at the completion of his sixth term in the U.S. Senate, he retired from public office, bringing a total of forty-four years in the U.S. Congress to a close. Thanks to Senator Shelby's humble and steadfast leadership, the State of Alabama has experienced vast growth, increased prosperity, and economic advancement.

Senator Shelby was married to his wife, Dr. Annette Shelby, for 65 years before her passing in July 2025.

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025
5 PM at Tuomey Hall*