



The Honorable Thomas Petri (United States Congress, 1979-2015)

U.S. Representative Tom Petri represented Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District for 18 terms until his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of the 113th Congress in 2015. He was a senior member of both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Committee on Education and the Workforce. In the 113th Congress, Petri served as Chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee and previously served as chair of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Petri pursued legislative initiatives in several areas, including student loan reform, the federal highway program, cost-sharing for federal water projects, tax and welfare reform, and health care reform. He also sponsored bipartisan legislation, the Making Work and Marriage Pay Act, which would establish a commission to examine and report to Congress on the disincentives for low-income couples to work and marry created by uncoordinated state and federal social safety net programs.

In addition to his legislative work, Petri was an active participant in U.S. Congress-Japanese Diet discussions. In Nov. 2014, in appreciation of his efforts, Japanese Emperor Akihito conferred on Petri honorary membership in the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver level, and in early 2015, Queen Elizabeth II made Petri an honorary officer of the British Empire. Petri served as the Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives-British Parliament exchange, the House French Caucus and the House German Caucus. Petri currently serves as a Member of the Board of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

Petri was born in Marinette, Wisconsin, and attended Goodrich High School in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He received undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard College/Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was clerk to United States Judge James Doyle of the Western District of Wisconsin, 1955. Petri served in Somalia as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1965-1967, and then in the White House focusing on anti-drug efforts. A lawyer in private practice in Wisconsin, Petri also served in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1973-1979. He is married to Anne Neal Petri and has one daughter, Alexandra.



The Honorable Dennis Hertel (United States Congress, 1981-1993)

U.S. Representative Dennis Hertel represented Michigan's 14th Congressional District for six terms until his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives in 1993. Hertel served as Chairman of the Investigations and Oversight Committee and the Oceanography, Great Lakes and Outer Continental Shelf Subcommittee. Hertel also served as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, the Coast Guard and Fisheries and Wildlife Subcommittees, and the House Select Committee on Aging and its Subcommittee on Health. Hertel served as the Democratic Regional Whip, the Vice Chairman of the Democratic Study Group, and a Congressional NATO Assembly delegate. Prior to his service in Congress, Hertel served three terms in the Michigan House of Representatives and chaired the House Judiciary Committee.

Following his service in Congress, Hertel served as President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress from 2010 to 2011. Hertel founded and serves as Vice President of the Global Democracy Initiative, an organization focusing on election oversight and democracy building with former legislators from the U.S. Congress, Canada, and the European Union. Hertel is also founder and co-chair of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress Annual Charity Golf Classic, one of the Association's most popular charitable and social events, which raises funds to benefit the Disabled Sports USA's Warfighters Sports program.

Hertel is a Distinguished Professor at the United States National Defense University in the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, educating state and defense personnel from twenty-eight nations about the U.S. Congress. He has given presentations at Oxford University, King's College of London, London Metropolitan University, Northampton University, Eccles Centre for American Studies, Liverpool John Moores University, and over twenty-five U.S. colleges and universities with the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress.

Hertel has served on the boards of the Congressional Hunger Center and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. Hertel has also served as Vice President of the National Environmental Policy Institute. He has held leadership positions in national Democratic political organizations and remains active in Michigan and national Democratic politics. Since retirement, Hertel provides legislative advocacy on behalf of his clients. Hertel holds a J.D. from Wayne State University Law School and a B.A. from Eastern Michigan University.