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Biography

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BIOGRAPHY OF CONGRESSMAN MICKEY LELAND

Mickey Leland was elected to the United States House of Representatives in November 1978 and was re-elected to each succeeding Congress. Congressman Leland represents the 18th Congressional District located in Houston, Texas.

Congressman Leland is Chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger. The mandate of the House Select Committee on Hunger is to conduct a continuing comprehensive study and review of the problems of domestic and international hunger and malnutrition.

Congressman Leland is a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce where he serves on the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment and the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

He also serves on the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. He is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services and is a member of the Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits.

Congressman Leland was appointed as an At-Large Whip by the House leadership for the 100th Congress.

During 1985 and 1986, Congressman Leland served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for the 99th Congress. The CBC was created in 1971 with only thirteen members and has since grown to its present membership of twenty-three.

Long active in the Democratic Party, Congressman Leland was a member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 1976 - 1985. He served as chairman of the DNC's Black Caucus from 1981 - 1985 and, in that capacity, served on the DNC Executive Committee.

Prior to his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Leland represented the 88th district in the Texas Legislature from 1973 - 1978. He began his U.S. House term as freshman majority whip for the 96th Congress in 1979 - 1980 and served as majority whip at-large during the 97th Congress.

Congressman Leland was born on November 27, 1944. He graduated from Phyllis Wheatley High School in Houston in 1963 and from Texas Southern University in Houston in 1970 with a bachelor of science (pharmacy). He was an instructor of Clinical Pharmacy at his alma mater from 1970 - 1971. He married the former Alison Walton in 1983. The Lelands have a son, Jarrett David.