

Michael H. Michaud



Michael H. Michaud was sworn in to the United States Congress from Maine's Second Congressional District on November 5, 2002 after having won a six way primary for his party's nomination. Michaud is the first Franco-American to be elected to federal office from Maine. He currently resides in East Millinocket, Maine and is remodeling his late grandmother's home, which he recently purchased.

Prior to his service in Congress, Michaud was unanimously elected Maine's 107th Senate President on December 6, 2000 under the State Senate's unique power sharing arrangement resulting from a first-ever partisan tie. The Portland Press Herald wrote that Michaud is "described as being the first legislator to come to work in the morning and the last to leave at night."

Michaud, 48, grew up in Medway, Maine and worked at the same paper mill, Great Northern Paper Company, where his father and grandfather worked. He is a member of PACE Local #1-0037.

Citing a desire to help clean up the badly polluted Penobscot River near his home, Michaud first ran for and was elected to the Maine House of Representatives in 1980 where he went on to serve seven consecutive terms. In 1994, he defeated a millionaire incumbent in his first bid for the Maine Senate despite huge Republican victories across the country and went on to represent one of the most Republican districts in the state for four consecutive terms.

As a member of the minority party during his first Senate term, Michaud was appointed to Governor King's Productivity Realization Task Force where he brought reason, compassion, experience and vast knowledge to a process tasked with saving the state of Maine \$45 million. As a result of his efforts, countless jobs and critical state services were protected from senseless cuts.

When Democrats regained control of the State Senate in 1996, Michaud was appointed as Chair of the Appropriations Committee in recognition of his long experience with the state's fiscal matters. As Chair, Michaud crafted two biennial state budgets containing the largest funded tax cut in Maine history as well as the largest increase in education funding this decade. Michaud also won huge increases for higher education to help hold the line on tuition for working families as well as the first increase in family planning in almost 12 years.

Michaud's leadership on fiscal issues resulted in the healthiest Rainy Day Fund in Maine history, the removal of countless accounting gimmicks from previous budgets and a reduction of Maine's unfunded liability in the State Retirement System at a savings to Maine taxpayers of over \$4 billion. In addition to fiscal responsibility, Michaud has made economic development a top priority during his legislative career helping to guide new funding for research and development, the expansion at Bath Iron Works and numerous marketing and tourism initiatives through the budget and legislative process.

In 1997, Michaud's careful and thoughtful approach to policy making earned him a seat on the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care where he helped extend health insurance to more than 20,000 uninsured children from working poor families.

In 2001, Michaud was honored with the dedication of the Michael H. Michaud Technology Center in recognition of his critical leadership in securing state funding for the University of Maine at Presque Isle Houlton Higher Education Center. Michaud also received the College Board's Education Award at the National Council of State Legislatures Annual Meeting in Texas for his lifelong commitment to higher education.

Michaud's service is not limited to elected office. He is actively involved in the Eastern Maine Development Corporation, the Maine Partnership and a variety of local, regional and statewide civic and economic development organizations.

In 1989, he was awarded a Doctor of Public Service from Unity College and also attended the Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.