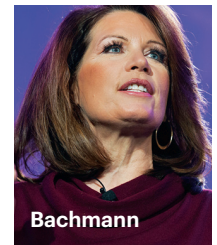


Influencers



LIFE AFTER CONGRESS

Where Are They Now?

By **SAM SCHWARZ**

The road out of Congress may feel different for every member, but as former Rep. Tom Petri candidly put it, there aren't too many ways to make an exit.

"One is die, another is being defeated and then a third is retiring, and I thought that seemed like the best of the alternatives," the Wisconsin Republican says.

On Jan. 3, 2015, 64 lawmakers found themselves out of a job, whether or not it was their choice. Since then, they've struck out toward an array of futures. Of those, 24 chose a

familiar route, joining a law, lobbying or consulting firm. Fourteen chose a different type of job in the private sector and five are still mulling their options. At least seven are remaining active in politics, including two already running for their old seats. And 13 have embraced retirement or at least semi-retirement. Former Sen. John Walsh, a Montana Democrat, could not be reached.

One member from the 113th Congress who walked through the revolving door to K Street is former Sen. Mark Pryor. The Arkansas Democrat joined Venable LLP, an international law firm with a renowned

lobbying shop, after he lost a re-election bid in November. Although he had a number of offers, Pryor says he joined Venable because of the positive experiences he had with the firm while in office.

"In my 12 years in the Senate, we had a lot of great people come in the office and talk to me about a number of things, but any time Venable came in, they knew their stuff," Pryor says. "They were extremely professional, and I just liked that culture and I liked what they stand for."

As a former senator, Pryor must observe a two-year "cooling off" period before he is

allowed to lobby members of Congress; former House members must take one year off. However, critics say the restrictions are too weak to truly prevent such activities.

Pryor says he is proud of the work he is doing at Venable, advising clients on a host of issues, and he says he currently has no plans to engage in direct lobbying when he is eligible. Pryor was recently tapped to lead a new state attorney general practice at Venable, where he will work to advise attorneys general across the country.

Pryor says he doesn't miss "all the partisan wrangling and gridlock," though he frequently is frustrated with Congress.

"I still, just like when I was there, have these moments when I shake my head and think 'Come on guys, y'all can do this,'" Pryor says. He doesn't rule out running for office

again in the future. “Never say never,” he says. “You don’t know what the future holds.”

Other ex-lawmakers who have joined high-powered law and lobby shops include Saxby Chambliss, Jim Matheson and Jack Kingston.

Chambliss, a Republican who represented Georgia in the House and Senate for 20 years, joined the global law firm DLA Piper. Matheson, a Utah Democrat and Kingston, a Georgia Republican, both had long House tenures and became principals in Squire Patton Boggs’ public policy practice.

Other former lawmakers have chosen gigs that follow up on work they did in Congress.

After New Jersey Democrat Rush D. Holt chose not to run for re-election to the House, he became chief executive of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an

international nonprofit that, as Holt puts it, strives to be “the voice for science and the force for science.”

A former rocket scientist who promoted research and science education in the House, Holt has long ties to the organization. He took part in an AAAS fellowship more than 30 years ago and had AAAS fellows working in his office throughout his time in Congress.

Allyson Schwartz, a Pennsylvania Democrat who fell short in her bid for her party’s 2014 gubernatorial nomination, became chief executive of the Better Medicare Alliance. The group, which was started by health insurance companies, bills itself as the leading advocacy organization for the private Medicare Advantage program.

Schwartz has worked on health care policy for much of

for a single term, announced in April that he planned to challenge GOP Rep. Will Hurd, who narrowly defeated him last November.

Gallego originally returned to practicing law after leaving office, and he says he cherished the ability to see his family every day. However, after discussion with his wife and his 10-year-old son, Gallego reconsidered.

So far, Gallego and former Rep. Brad Schneider, an Illinois Democrat, are the only two announced candidates seeking to reclaim their old seats.

“We all complain about the fire in D.C. but we kept electing people that add more fuel,” Gallego says in a thinly veiled swipe at Hurd, adding that he has already refined his campaign speech.

Gallego believes that his close defeat in 2014 can be attributed to multiple factors including an unpopular president, a poor gubernatorial campaign by Democrat Wendy Davis and a rainstorm unlike any he has ever seen on an election day. He feels confident this cycle will be different, with a higher and more diverse turnout likely in a presidential election year. He’s also hoping for an assist from Mother Nature.

“I’m praying that it won’t rain on Election Day,” he says.

Other former lawmakers are still mulling their options on what to do next. California Republican John Campbell says he’s now focused on things he’d neglected during his 14 years in the House. A multimillionaire from owning car dealerships and making savvy real estate investments, the 59-year-old says, “I have a feeling there will be something next. I’m just not sure it has germinated.”

Meanwhile, some former members are more than happy

to enjoy retirement.

Howard Coble, 84, decided to call it a career after concluding that his skin cancer and chronic back pain would make it too difficult to run a full-fledged re-election campaign.

Coble has no qualms over his decision to retire, but says he does miss the relationships he forged with colleagues and constituents over his 30 years in the House as a North Carolina Republican.

He says he doesn’t regret a vow he took in his first year in Congress to not participate in the congressional pension plan. Coble would be in line for a hefty payout at this point, although he maintains, “Taxpayers shouldn’t have to pay my congressional pension.”

Others are lingering in semi-retirement, unable to pull themselves entirely away from public life.

Former Sen. Jay Rockefeller, a West Virginia Democrat, joined the Council on Foreign Relations as a distinguished fellow. Former Sen. Tom Harkin, an Iowa Democrat, will stop in every once in a while at the Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Civic Engagement at Drake University.

Petri, meanwhile, has embarked on a bipartisan roadshow with former Rep. David R. Obey, giving a series of talks across Wisconsin. “[We] emphasize the importance of the political process and giving people a little idea as to why, as frustrating as it may be sometimes, it’s certainly better than the alternatives,” he says.

Now that he’s had six months to reflect on his new life, Petri is yet another member who has no regrets about leaving Congress.

“I’ve certainly been enjoying my life as an ex-con,” he says.



her life, starting as assistant director of the Philadelphia Health Services Department, where she worked from 1972 to 1975. In her five terms in the House, she gained a reputation as a leading voice on health issues and played an influential role in passage of the 2010 health care law.

Some ex-lawmakers still yearn to return to elected office. Pete Gallego, a Democrat who represented Texas’ 23rd District

INFLUENCERS



Mark Begich,
D-Alaska, Northern
Compass Group,
founder

Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

Bill Owens, D-N.Y. – Mckenna Long & Aldridge, senior strategic adviser

Allyson Schwartz, D-Pa. – Chief executive of Better Medicare Alliance, a Medicare Advantage advocacy group



Steve Southerland II, R-Fla. – Capitol Hill Consulting Group, senior vice president

Lee Terry, R-Neb. – Kelley Drye & Warren, senior adviser on government relations

Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif. – Waxman Strategies, chairman

Colleen Hanabusa, D-Hawaii – attorney representing the Hawaii State Teachers Association

LAW FIRMS, ADVOCACY AND CONSULTING

SENATORS



Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. – DLA Piper, Atlanta, partner



Mark Pryor, D-Ark. – Venable, partner



Mary L. Landrieu, D-La. – Van Ness Feldman, senior policy adviser

MISCELLANEOUS



SENATORS

Kay Hagan, D-N.C. – Harvard Institute of Politics, resident fellow

Mike Johanns, R-Neb. – Deere & Company, member of board of directors

Mark Udall, D-Colo. – University of Chicago Institute of Politics, resident fellow

REPRESENTATIVES

Bill Enyart, D-Ill. – Representing farmers across the country in lawsuits against Syngenta over its sale of genetically modified corn

Dan Maffei, D-N.Y. – Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, senior fellow

Vance McAllister, R-La. – owner of several Louisiana small businesses, including restaurants and construction firms

REPRESENTATIVES

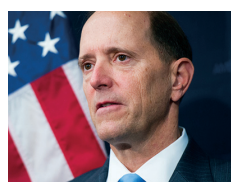


Spencer Bachus, R-Ala. – Bachus, Brom & Taylor, Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala., partner

Timothy H. Bishop, D-N.Y. – Envision Strategy, principal

Bruce Braley, D-Iowa – Leventhal & Puga, Denver, associate

Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images



Dave Camp, R-Mich. – PwC, senior policy adviser in tax services

Joe Garcia, D-Fla. – Queens-Fort Capital, Miami, senior vice president

Jim Gerlach, R-Pa. – Venable, senior legislative adviser

Phil Gingrey, R-Ga. – Drinker Biddle & Reath, senior adviser in government and regulatory affairs practice

Rush D. Holt, D-N.J. – American Association for the Advancement of Science, CEO

Jack Kingston, R-Ga. – Squire Patton Boggs, principal

Tom Latham, R-Iowa – Hecht, Latham, Spencer & Associates, partner

Jim Matheson, D-Utah – Squire Patton Boggs, principal

Howard “Buck” McKeon, R-Calif. – The McKeon Group, founder

Mike McIntyre, D-N.C. Poyner Spruill, Raleigh, senior advisor and director of government relations



James P. Moran, D-Va. – McDermott Will & Emery, senior legislative adviser



Ethan Miller/Getty Images

Steven Horsford, D-Nev. – R&R Partners, senior vice president

Gary G. Miller, R-Calif. – G. Miller Development home building company, owner

George Miller, D-Calif. – Cengage Learning, an education-technology services company, senior adviser

Ed Pastor, D-Ariz. – working group addressing Phoenix airport flight path concerns, member

Mike Rogers, R-Mich. – Cumulus radio, nationally syndicated host

Jon Runyan, R-N.J. – SoldierSocks nonprofit, advisory board member



Frank R. Wolf, R-Va. – 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, a religious freedom group, co-founder

Steve Stockman, R-Texas – Blockchain Apparatus, a technology company, special adviser and board member

RETIRED/SEMI-RETIRED



Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call

Tom Coburn, R-Okla. – Convention of States Project, senior adviser

Ralph M. Hall, R-Texas – retired

Doc Hastings, R-Wash. – retired

Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y. – compiling papers at Adelphi University

Nick J. Rahall II, D-W. Va. – organizing career archives at West Virginia University

SENATORS

Tom Harkin, D-Iowa – founded Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Civic Engagement at Drake University

Carl Levin, D-Mich. – Levin Center at Wayne State Law School, chairman; Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, senior counsel

Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va. – distinguished fellow at Council on Foreign Relations

Tim Johnson, D-S.D. – retired

REPRESENTATIVES

Howard Coble, R-N.C. – retired

John D. Dingell, D-Mich. – retired

Tom Petri, R-Wis. – speeches with former Rep. David Obey, D-Wis.



Ron Barber, D-Ariz. – Department of Homeland Security advisory council, member

MULLING NEXT STEPS

REPRESENTATIVES



John Barrow, D-Ga. – He says he plans to take a year to figure out his next move, which could involve resuming his law career or making another run at public office.



Kerry Bentivolio, R-Mich. – The former reindeer rancher is going through bankruptcy proceedings and having trouble finding employment. “Every time I apply for a job, someone from the [Rep. Dave] Trott camp ... calls ahead and says you shouldn’t hire me.”



John Campbell, R-Calif. – A multi-millionaire former car dealership owner, he says he has turned down positions on two public boards and full-time employment in Washington. “I have a feeling there will be something next, I’m just not sure it has germinated yet.”



Michael H. Michaud, D-Maine – He has had several job offers but has turned them down. So far, he’s been making speeches, receiving awards and working around the house.



John F. Tierney, D-Mass. – He has received a couple of job offers and will soon make a decision.

STAYING IN POLITICS

Michele Bachmann – R-Minn. – political activist



Paul Broun, R-Ga. – starting a group called “Upholding the Constitution,” practicing medicine



Pete Gallego, D-Texas – running for old seat

Tim Griffin, R-Ark. – lieutenant governor of Arkansas

Gloria Negrete McLeod, D-Calif. – running for Chaffey College board

Brad Schneider, D-Ill. – running for old seat

Carol Shea-Porter, D-N.H. – possibly running for old seat



UNDETERMINED

John Walsh, D-Mont.