

## Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-Louisiana)

Senator Landrieu has been referred to as "one of the Senate's foremost leaders on education" by her colleagues in the Senate. One Louisiana publication dubbed her "Military Mary" for her dedication to our armed services and her knowledge of defense issues. She has become a national voice on the importance of strengthening families through foster care and adoption.



Senator Landrieu's service in the Senate has been defined by powerful committee appointments and by her work championing legislation that opened the door of opportunity for Louisianans and all Americans. A moderate Democrat, she is known as an independent voice willing to cross party lines to support legislation that is right for Louisiana. She currently serves on the Senate Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources and Small Business Committees.

In 1999, Senator Landrieu became the first Democratic woman to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Louisiana is the home to three major military installations and one of the world's largest shipbuilders, Senator Landrieu recognizes that military issues are Louisiana issues. Even after leaving the panel in 2002, she continues to be an advocate on these issues for both the state and the nation.

Senator Landrieu was on the Armed Services Committee just a few months when she negotiated a major compromise that broke a five-year partisan deadlock, allowing the Senate to move forward with a policy for developing a National Missile Defense system. Her amendment made it clear the U.S. will pursue this strategy on two fronts: development and deployment of a national missile defense system to protect the nation's borders, and continued negotiations with Russia and other nations to reduce nuclear weapons arsenals.

As a member of the Small Business Committee, she helped pass legislation that has reduced federal regulations and created tax relief for small businesses. In fact, her pro-growth, pro-business voting record has earned her the U.S. Chambers of Commerce's Spirit of Enterprise Award, and in 2002, the National Federation of Independent Businesses awarded her the "Guardian of the Small Business Award."

Landrieu ran for a seat in the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1979, becoming the youngest woman ever elected to the state Legislature. Her work in the House earned her a reputation for fighting for children and families, while being thoughtful and fair-minded. Eight years later, she successfully ran for Louisiana State Treasurer, and spent two terms finding innovative solutions for the state's fiscal problems, including establishing responsible debt limitations and improving investments for educational initiatives.

In 1996, she was approached about running for an open Senate seat and realized the time was right to bring her Louisiana values to the U.S. Senate. With her swearing in on January 7, 1997, Mary Landrieu became the first woman from Louisiana elected to a full term in the Senate. She was re-elected in 2002.

Senator Landrieu is married to Frank Snellings, an attorney from Monroe. She is the oldest of nine siblings and the daughter of former New Orleans Mayor and U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Moon Landrieu and Verna Landrieu