

# SPEAKERS

*pro tempore*



*of the*  
FLORIDA HOUSE

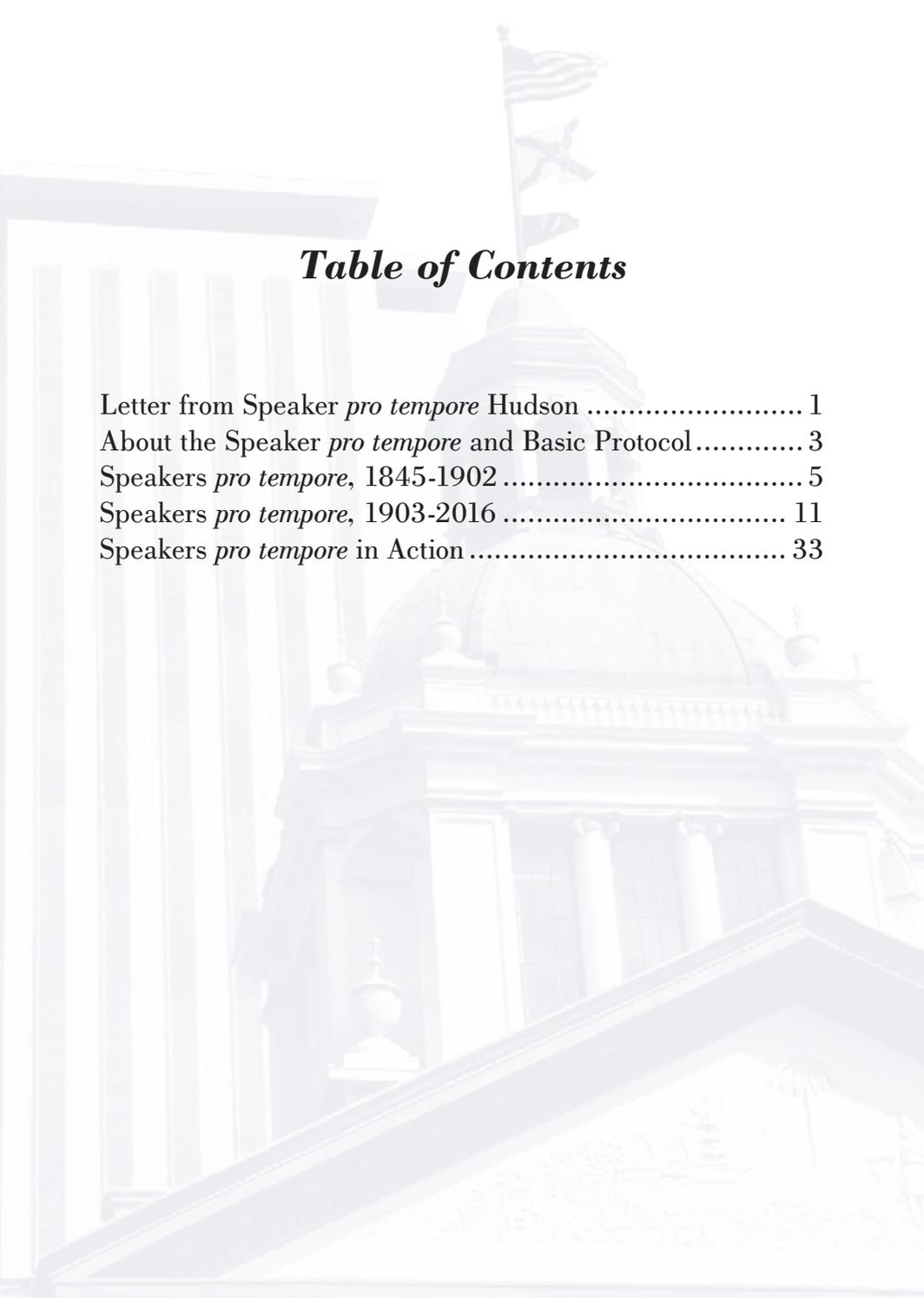




THE SPEAKERS  
*pro tempore*  
*of the*  
FLORIDA HOUSE







## *Table of Contents*

Letter from Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> Hudson .....	1
About the Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> and Basic Protocol.....	3
Speakers <i>pro tempore</i> , 1845-1902 .....	5
Speakers <i>pro tempore</i> , 1903-2016 .....	11
Speakers <i>pro tempore</i> in Action .....	33





**Matt Hudson**  
**Speaker *pro tempore***  
**Florida House of Representatives**

Dear Floridian:

This booklet is meant to provide you a background on the Office of Speaker *pro tempore* in the Florida House of Representatives. Every known Speaker *pro tempore* is referenced, dating back to statehood in 1845.

The use of the title Speaker *pro tempore* in the Florida House of Representatives has had several different meanings. Prior to 1903, it was common to appoint a temporary presiding officer only during the absence of the Speaker. This was not unprecedented among legislative bodies and is similar to the pre-1890 use of the same position by the United States Senate. These appointments could range from an afternoon to several weeks awaiting the return of the Speaker to assume his duties. Once the presiding officer returned, the position of Speaker *pro tempore* dissolved.

Additionally, there have been times during that same period of the House's history when the appointment of a Speaker *pro tempore* was made honorary to perform a task such as to preside over the election of the Speaker and the adoption of the term's Rules during the beginning of the session.

The election of a Speaker *pro tempore* as a regular order of business and for a more permanent role commenced in 1903 with the election of Representative Raymond Bramhall Bullock of Marion County to represent the body for the term. Since that time, the Speaker *pro tempore* has become a permanent part of the House leadership structure, but the duties have often varied dependent on the needs of the House and the unique talents of each *pro tempore*. These duties are assigned by the Speaker.

This booklet contains a listing of all Speakers *pro tempore* since statehood in 1845 and then additional information on each Speaker *pro tempore* beginning in 1903 when the position became a permanently elected role within the legislative body.

It is an honor to serve the Florida House of Representatives as Speaker *pro tempore*. I hope that you find this publication informative and useful.

Sincerely,



Matt Hudson  
Speaker *pro tempore*  
Florida House of Representatives





## Speaker *pro tempore*

tem-pour-ray / tem-paw-ray

(While legislative bodies may have a uniform pronunciation of *pro tempore* that they prefer, two different pronunciations are in common usage and either are correct.)

The title Speaker *pro tempore*, as used by the Florida House, denotes a temporary speaker and is a leadership office with specified duties and responsibilities. *Pro tempore* is a Latin phrase that translates "for the time being." In the Florida House, the Speaker *pro tempore* is elected by his or her fellow Representatives at the Organization Session occurring 14 days after the General Election in even-numbered years.

The duties of this office are primarily to fill the role of presiding officer of the House in the absence of the Speaker of the House. In the event of an interim vacancy through death, resignation, or disability, the Speaker *pro tempore* may exercise the authority of the Speaker. The Speaker *pro tempore* often presides in the Chamber when the Speaker leaves the Chair. Speakers *pro tempore* are often assigned additional duties as determined by the Speaker of the House.

### Basic Protocol

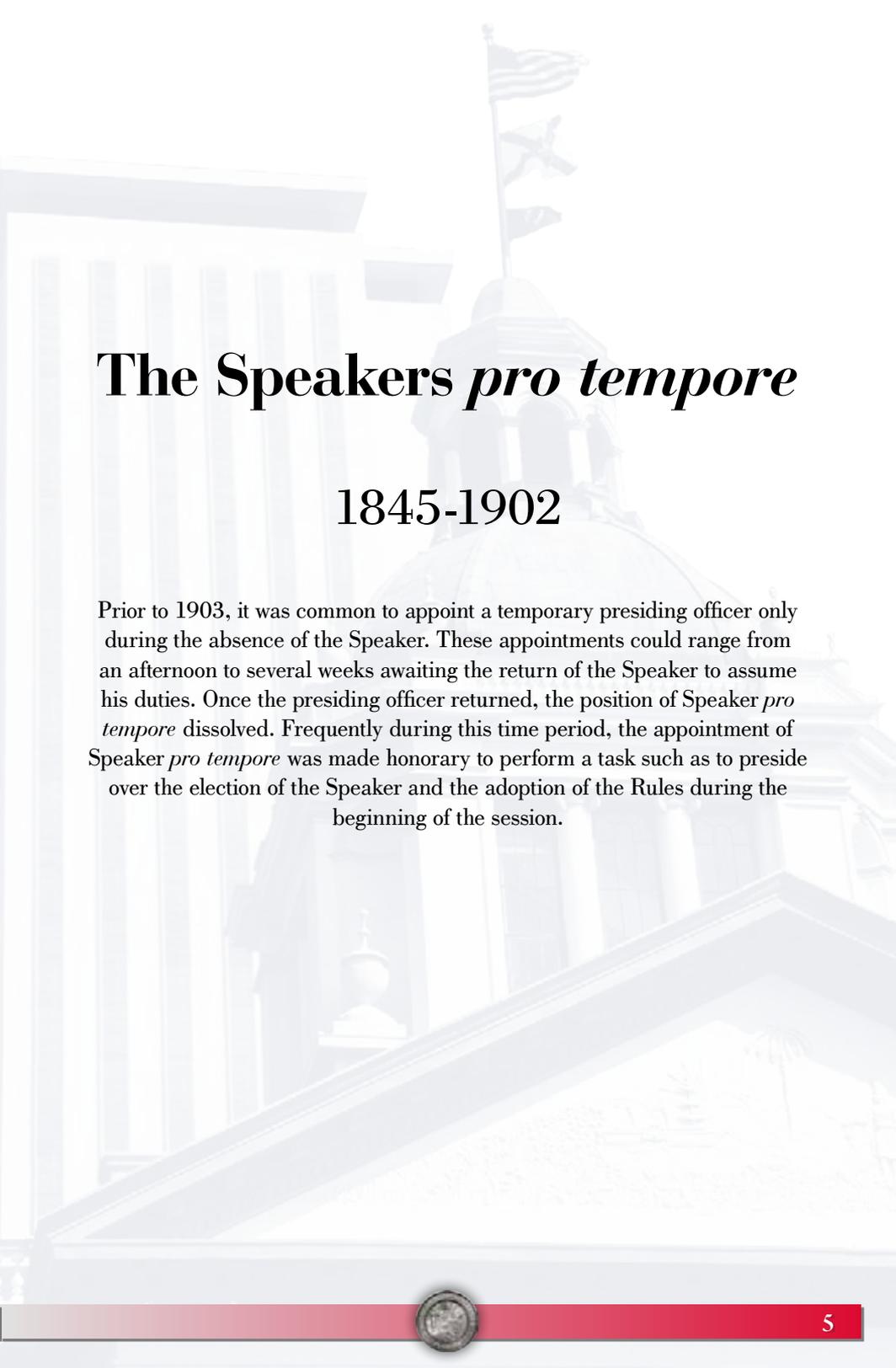
In the Florida House, *pro tempore* is not capitalized and is italicized to reflect the use of a Latin phrase. In the Florida Senate, Pro Tempore (to indicate President Pro Tempore) is capitalized and not italicized to reflect that chamber's practice with the rationale that this is a position title.

In conversation, it has been the practice of the House to address the Speakers *pro tempore* using the full title, abbreviating it by using the shortened term "pro tem."

The plural of the position is Speakers *pro tempore* and not Speaker *pro tempores*.







# The Speakers *pro tempore*

## 1845-1902

Prior to 1903, it was common to appoint a temporary presiding officer only during the absence of the Speaker. These appointments could range from an afternoon to several weeks awaiting the return of the Speaker to assume his duties. Once the presiding officer returned, the position of Speaker *pro tempore* dissolved. Frequently during this time period, the appointment of Speaker *pro tempore* was made honorary to perform a task such as to preside over the election of the Speaker and the adoption of the Rules during the beginning of the session.



Session(s)

Speakers *pro tempore*

1845	Isaac Ferguson, Jr. – Gadsden County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 7/19/1845, due to Speaker's absence by indisposition) (Speaker 1845 Adjourned Session)
1847	John Tanner – Jackson County (appointed Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> by the Speaker 12/22/1847)
1852	J. Carraway [Caraway] Smith – Jefferson County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 12/16/1852, due to Speaker's absence)
1852	Mariano D. Papy – Leon County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 12/27/1852, due to Speaker's illness)
1854	Jesse Carter – Hillsborough County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 12/4/1854, due to Speaker's absence by indisposition)
1861	Antonio A. Canova – Duval County (by motion filled chair as Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 11/22/1861, due to Speaker's absence)
1863	Joseph John Williams – Leon County (by motion acted as Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 11/19/1863 during the Speaker's absence) (Speaker 1865, 1866)
1866	Frederick C. Barrett – Alachua County (by motion declared Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 11/23/1866, due to Speaker not being present)
1868	Oscar E. Austin – Putnam County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 6/19/1868, 7/17/1868, due to Speaker's absence)
1879	Robert Bullock – Marion County (by motion requested to act as Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 1/22/1879, due to Speaker's absence)
1879	James F. McClellan – Jackson County (by motion acted as Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 1/24/1879, due to Speaker's absence)



City of Residence	Party	Speaker(s)
Quincy	Democrat	Hugh Archer (D)
Marianna	Democrat	Joseph B. Lancaster (Whig) John Chain (u/a) <sup>1</sup>
Monticello	Democrat	Abraham Kurkindolle Allison (D)
Tallahassee	Democrat	Abraham Kurkindolle Allison (D)
Tampa	Democrat	W. F. Russell (u/a)
St. Augustine	Democrat	Samuel B. Love (u/a)
Tallahassee	Democrat	Thomas Jefferson Eppes (D)
Gainesville	Democrat	Joseph John Williams (u/a)
Palatka	Democrat	William Wyatt Moore (u/a)
Ocala	Democrat	Charles Dougherty (D)
Marianna	Democrat	Charles Dougherty (D)

<sup>1</sup>Party affiliation is unavailable.

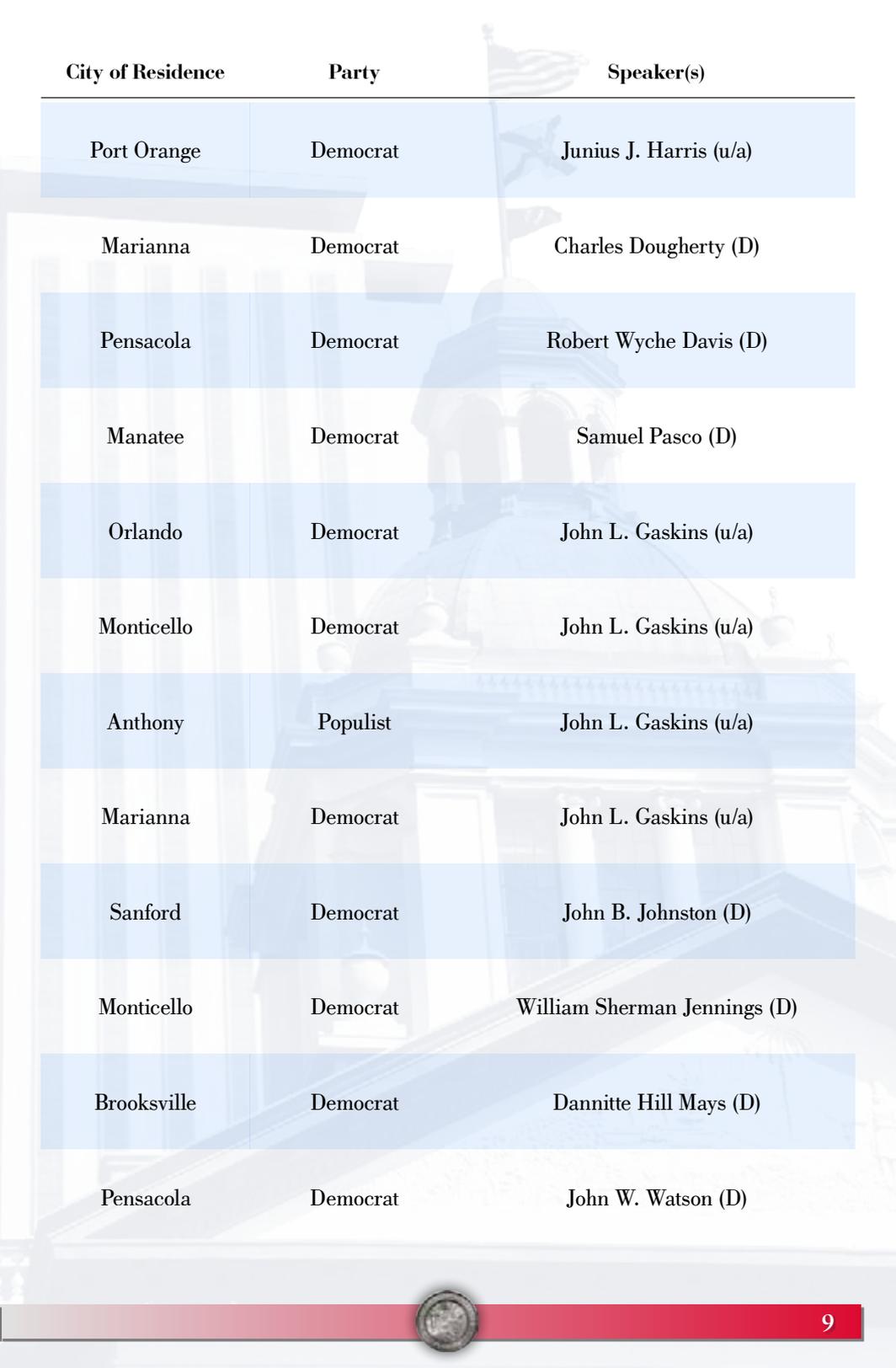


## Session(s)

Speakers *pro tempore*

1881	Charles Dougherty – Volusia County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 1/4/1881 and by motion elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 2/5/1881, due to Speaker's absence) (Speaker 1879, 1883)
1883	James F. McClellan – Jackson County (by motion elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 1/2/1883)
1885	James E. Yonge – Escambia County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 1/6/1885 and on motion selected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 1/22/1885, due to Speaker's absence)
1887	John C. Pelot – Manatee County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 4/5/1887)
1889 Extraordinary Session	Thomas William Shine – Orange County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 2/5/1889)
1889	Samuel J. Turnbull – Jefferson County (on motion made Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 4/2/1889)
1889	Alonzo P. Baskin – Marion County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 4/3/1889, on motion chosen Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 4/26/1889, due to Speaker's absence)
1889	William Hall Milton, Jr. – Jackson County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 5/13/1889, due to Speaker's absence)
1893	George M. Nolan – Orange County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 4/6/1893)
1895	Dannitte Hill Mays – Jefferson County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 4/5/1895) (Speaker 1897)
1897	William A. Fulton – Hernando County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 4/9/1897)
1901	J. Emmett Wolfe – Escambia County (elected Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> 4/10/1901)

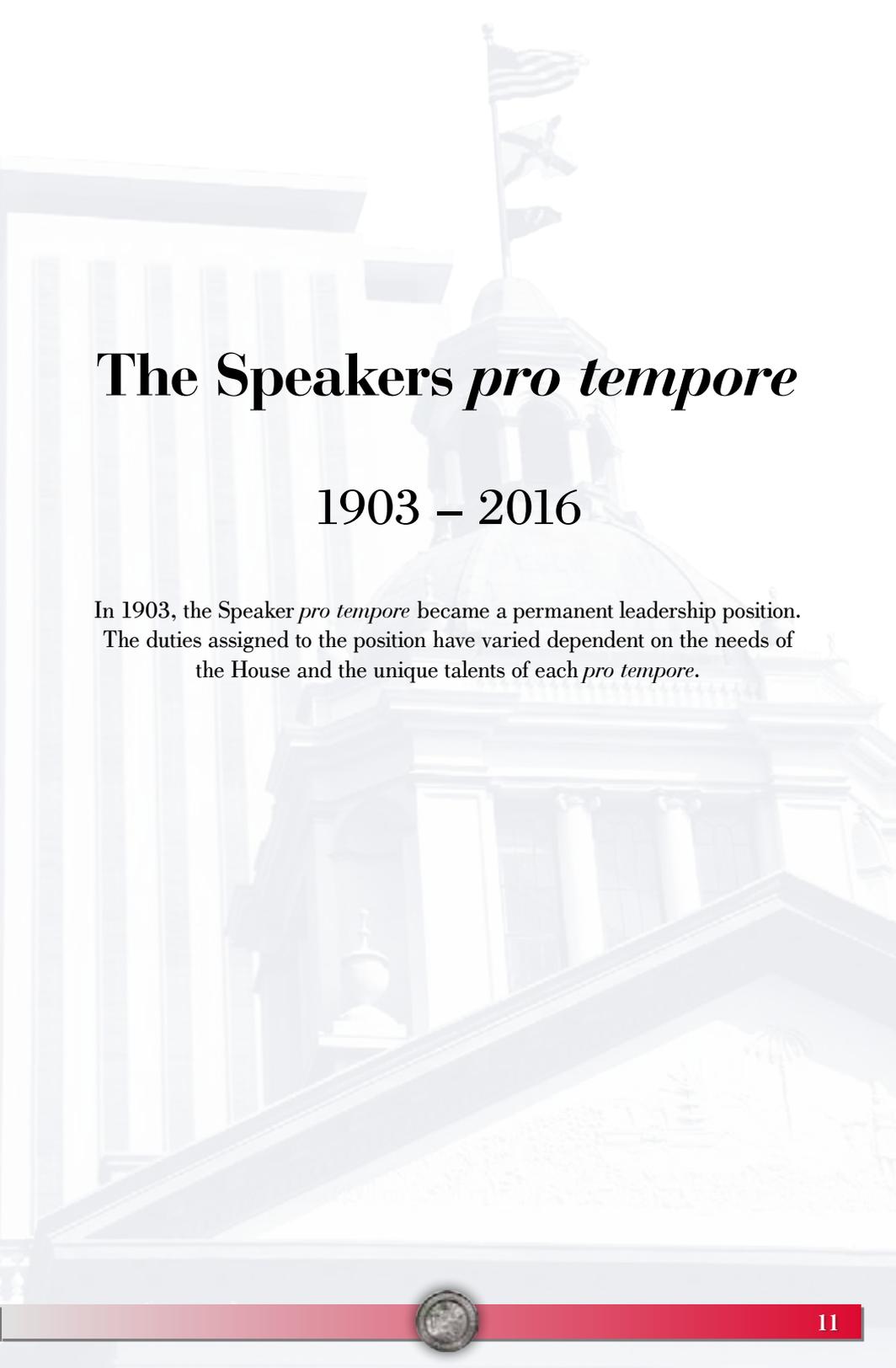




<b>City of Residence</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>
Port Orange	Democrat	Junius J. Harris (u/a)
Marianna	Democrat	Charles Dougherty (D)
Pensacola	Democrat	Robert Wyche Davis (D)
Manatee	Democrat	Samuel Pasco (D)
Orlando	Democrat	John L. Gaskins (u/a)
Monticello	Democrat	John L. Gaskins (u/a)
Anthony	Populist	John L. Gaskins (u/a)
Marianna	Democrat	John L. Gaskins (u/a)
Sanford	Democrat	John B. Johnston (D)
Monticello	Democrat	William Sherman Jennings (D)
Brooksville	Democrat	Dannitte Hill Mays (D)
Pensacola	Democrat	John W. Watson (D)







# The Speakers *pro tempore*

1903 – 2016

In 1903, the Speaker *pro tempore* became a permanent leadership position. The duties assigned to the position have varied dependent on the needs of the House and the unique talents of each *pro tempore*.





31<sup>st</sup> House since Statehood

## Raymond Bramhall Bullock

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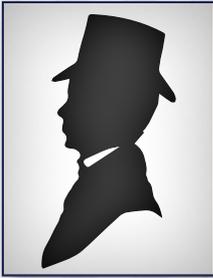
1<sup>st</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1903

Democrat, Marion County<sup>1</sup>

City of Residence: Ocala

Speaker: Harry Cromwell Gibbons (D)



32<sup>nd</sup> House since Statehood

## Chauncey S. Wilson

---

2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1905

Democrat, Hernando County

City of Residence: Brooksville

Speaker: Albert Waller Gilchrist (D)



33<sup>rd</sup> House since Statehood

## Charles L. Knowles

---

3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1907

Democrat, Monroe County

City of Residence: Key West

Speaker: Eugene S. Matthews (D)

<sup>1</sup> District numbers (Ex: District 1) were assigned to the geographic areas represented (counties or parts of counties) beginning in 1967 with a court-mandated special election. Prior to that, members served geographic areas, often overlapping, and without district numbers. Single-member Districts began with Reapportionment in 1982.





34<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## John Patrick Stokes

---

4<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1909

Democrat, Escambia County

City of Residence: Pensacola

(Senate President Pro Tempore 1911)

Speaker: Ion L. Farris (D)



35<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## William Glenn Terrell

---

5<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1911

Democrat, Sumter County

City of Residence: Webster

(Florida Supreme Court Justice 1923-1964,  
including service as Chief Justice)

Speaker: T. Albert Jennings (D)



36<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Edwin Spencer, Jr.

---

6<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1913

Democrat, Marion County

City of Residence: Ocala

Speaker: Ion L. Farris (D)





37<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Theodore Tiffany Turnbull

---

7<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1915

Democrat, Jefferson County

City of Residence: Monticello

(Senate President 1923)

Speaker: Cary Augustus Hardee (D)



38<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## William M. Taylor

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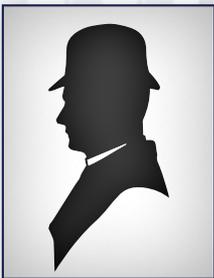
8<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1917

Democrat, Manatee County

City of Residence: Sarasota

Speaker: Cary Augustus Hardee (D)



38<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Robert Alexis "Lex" Green

---

9<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1918 Extraordinary Session

Democrat, Bradford County

City of Residence: Starke

(Chief Clerk of the House 1917)

(U.S. House of Representatives 1925-1944,  
resigned 11/25/1944)

Speaker: George H. Wilder (D)





39<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **E. P. Wilson**

---

10<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1919

Democrat, Pasco County

City of Residence: Dade City

Speaker: George H. Wilder (D)



40<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **Lacy Day Edge**

---

11<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1921

Democrat, Lake County

City of Residence: Groveland

(Speaker 1923)

Speaker: Frank E. Jennings (D)



41<sup>st</sup> House since Statehood

## **John Ed Stokes**

---

12<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1923

Democrat, Bay County

City of Residence: Panama City

Speaker: Lacy Day Edge (D)



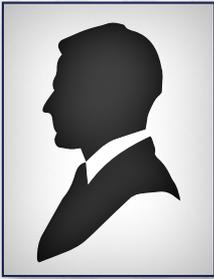


42<sup>nd</sup> House since Statehood

## Jesse Jackson Parrish

---

13<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1925, 1925 Extraordinary Sessions  
Democrat, Brevard County  
City of Residence: Titusville  
(Senate President 1929)  
Speaker: Arthur Y. Milam (D)



43<sup>rd</sup> House since Statehood

## Samuel Wyche Getzen

---

14<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1927  
Democrat, Sumter County  
City of Residence: Bushnell  
(Speaker 1929)  
Speaker: Fred Henry Davis (D)



44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Houses  
since Statehood

## Henry S. McKenzie

---

15<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1929, 1929 Extraordinary Session,  
1931, 1931 Extraordinary Sessions  
Democrat, Putnam County  
City of Residence: Palatka  
Speaker: Samuel Wyche Getzen (D) 1929  
Speaker: E. Clay Lewis, Jr. (D) 1931





46<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Dwight Laing Rogers

---

16<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1933

Democrat, Broward County

City of Residence: Fort Lauderdale

(U.S. House of Representatives

1945-1954)(Deceased 12/1/1954)

Speaker: Peter Tomasello, Jr. (D)



47<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Harry N. Sandler

---

17<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1935

Democrat, Hillsborough County

City of Residence: Tampa

Speaker: W. B. Bishop (D)



48<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Noah Brown Butt

---

18<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1937

Democrat, Brevard County

City of Residence: Cocoa

Speaker: William McLean Christie (D)





49<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **John S. Burks**

---

19<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1939

Democrat, Pasco County

City of Residence: Dade City

Speaker: George Pierce Wood (D)



50<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **Raymond Sheldon**

---

20<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1941

Democrat, Hillsborough County

City of Residence: Tampa

Speaker: Daniel Thomas "Dan" McCarty, Jr. (D)



51<sup>st</sup> House since Statehood

## **Archie Clement**

---

21<sup>st</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1943

Democrat, Pinellas County

City of Residence: Tarpon Springs

Speaker: Richard Henry Simpson (D)





52<sup>nd</sup> House since Statehood

## **John Min Ayers**

---

22<sup>nd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1945, 1945 Extraordinary Session  
Democrat, Gilchrist County  
City of Residence: Trenton  
Speaker: Evans Crary (D)



53<sup>rd</sup> House since Statehood

## **Elbert L. Stewart**

---

23<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1947, 1948 Extraordinary Session  
Democrat, Hendry County  
City of Residence: Clewiston  
Speaker: Thomas DeKalb "Tom" Beasley (D)



54<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **B. Robert Burnsed**

---

24<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1949  
Democrat, Baker County  
City of Residence: Macclenny  
Speaker: Perry Earl Murray (D)





55<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **Joseph W. McAlpin**

---

25<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1951

Democrat, Hamilton County

City of Residence: White Springs

Speaker: Elmer B. Elliott (D)



56<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **Davis H. Atkinson**

---

26<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1953

Democrat, Leon County

City of Residence: Tallahassee

Speaker: C. (Cecil) Farris Bryant (D)



57<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **S. D. "Sam" Saunders**

---

27<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1955, 1955-1956 Extraordinary Session,

1956 Extraordinary Session

Democrat, Clay County

City of Residence: Middleburg

Speaker: Thomas Edward "Ted" David (D)





58<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **Mack N. Cleveland, Jr.**

---

28<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1957, 1957 Extraordinary Session

Democrat, Seminole County

City of Residence: Sanford

Speaker: Doyle E. Conner (D)



59<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **James N. "Gator" Beck**

---

29<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1959

Democrat, Putnam County

City of Residence: Palatka

Speaker: Thomas DeKalb "Tom" Beasley (D)



60<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **George G. Stone**

---

30<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1961, 1962 Extraordinary Session

Democrat, Escambia County

City of Residence: Walnut Hill

Speaker: William V. Chappell, Jr. (D)





61<sup>st</sup> House since Statehood

## Robert L. "Bobby" Russ

---

31<sup>st</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1962 Extraordinary Session,  
1963 Extraordinary Session, 1963  
Democrat, Wakulla County  
City of Residence: Crawfordville  
Speaker: Mallory E. Horne (D)



62<sup>nd</sup> House since Statehood

## Allison R. "Baldy" Strickland

---

32<sup>nd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1965, 1965 Extraordinary Sessions, 1966  
Extraordinary Session  
Democrat, Citrus County  
City of Residence: Inverness  
Speaker E. C. Rowell (D)



63<sup>rd</sup> House since Statehood

## James Lorenzo Walker

---

33<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
1966-1968  
1966 *Organization Session* and 1967  
*Extraordinary Session:*  
Democrat, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and  
Lee Counties  
1967 *Regular Session:*  
Democrat, District 113<sup>1</sup>  
(Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Monroe  
Counties)  
City of Residence: Naples  
Speaker: Ralph D. Turlington (D)

<sup>1</sup> District numbers (Ex: District 1) were assigned to the geographic areas represented (counties or parts of counties) beginning in 1967 with a court-mandated special election. Prior to that, members served geographic areas, often overlapping, and without district numbers. Single-member Districts began with Reapportionment in 1982.





64<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **T. Terrell Sessums**

---

34<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1968-1970

Democrat, District 65

(Hillsborough, Citrus, Pasco, and Hernando Counties)

City of Residence: Tampa

(Speaker 1972-1974)

Speaker: Frederick H. Schultz (D)



65<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **Eugene F. Shaw**

---

35<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1970-1972

Democrat, District 16

(Nassau, Baker, Columbia, Bradford, Union, and Clay Counties)

City of Residence: Starke

Speaker: Richard A. Pettigrew (D)



66<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **A. H. "Gus" Craig**

---

36<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1972-1974

Democrat, District 28

(Parts of Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties)

City of Residence: St. Augustine

Speaker: T. Terrell Sessums (D)





67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Houses  
since Statehood

## John L. Ryals

---

37<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1974-1976

1976-1978

Democrat, District 63

(Parts of Hillsborough and Polk Counties)

City of Residence: Brandon

Speaker: Donald L. Tucker (D)



69<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Richard S. "Dick" Hodes

---

38<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1978-1980

Democrat, District 68

(Part of Hillsborough County)

City of Residence: Tampa

Speaker: J. Hyatt Brown (D)



70<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Barry Kutun

---

39<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1980-1982

Democrat, District 99

(Part of Dade County)

City of Residence: Miami Beach

Speaker: Ralph H. Haben, Jr. (D)





71<sup>st</sup> House since Statehood

## Steve Pajcic

---

40<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1982-1984

Democrat, District 15<sup>1</sup>

(Part of Duval County)

City of Residence: Jacksonville

Speaker: H. Lee Moffitt (D)



72<sup>nd</sup> House since Statehood

## Elaine Gordon

---

41<sup>st</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

(First woman elected Speaker *pro tempore*)

1984-1986

Democrat, District 102

(Part of Dade County)

City of Residence: North Miami

Speaker: James Harold Thompson (D)



73<sup>rd</sup> House since Statehood

## James C. "Jim" Burke

---

42<sup>nd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

(First black member elected Speaker *pro tempore* since Reconstruction)

1986-1988

Democrat, District 107

(Part of Dade County)

City of Residence: Miami

Speaker: Jon L. Mills (D)

<sup>1</sup> District numbers (Ex: District 1) were assigned to the geographic areas represented (counties or parts of counties) beginning in 1967 with a court-mandated special election. Prior to that, members served geographic areas, often overlapping, and without district numbers. Single-member Districts began with Reapportionment in 1982.





74<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Sam Mitchell

---

43<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1988-1990

Democrat, District 7

(Holmes and Washington Counties and parts of Bay, Jackson, and Walton Counties)

City of Residence: Vernon

Speaker: Tom Gustafson (D)



75<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Everett A. Kelly

---

44<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1990-1992

Democrat, District 46

(Parts of Lake and Sumter Counties)

City of Residence: Tavares

Speaker: T. K. Wetherell (D)



76<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Elaine Bloom

---

45<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1992-1994

Democrat, District 106

(Part of Dade County)

City of Residence: Miami Beach

Speaker: Bolley L. "Bo" Johnson (D)





77<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Jack Ascherl

---

46<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1994-1996

Democrat, District 28

(Part of Volusia County)

City of Residence: New Smyrna Beach

Speaker: Peter Rudy Wallace (D)



78<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Luis C. Morse

---

47<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

(First Republican elected Speaker *pro tempore*  
since Reconstruction)

(First Cuban American elected Speaker *pro*  
*tempore*)

1996-1998

Republican, District 113

(Part of Dade County)

City of Residence: Miami

Speaker: Daniel Webster (R)



79<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Dennis L. Jones

---

48<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

1998-2000

Republican, District 54

(Part of Pinellas County)

City of Residence: Treasure Island

Speaker: John Thrasher (R)





80<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **Sandra L. "Sandy" Murman**

---

49<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

(First Republican woman elected Speaker *pro tempore*)

2000-2002

Republican, District 56

(Part of Hillsborough County)

City of Residence: Tampa

Speaker: Tom Feeney (R)



81<sup>st</sup> House since Statehood

## **Lindsay M. Harrington**

---

50<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

2002-2004

Republican, District 72

(DeSoto County and parts of Charlotte and Lee Counties)

City of Residence: Punta Gorda

Speaker: Johnnie B. Byrd, Jr. (R)



82<sup>nd</sup> House since Statehood

## **Leslie Waters**

---

51<sup>st</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

2004-2006

Republican, District 51

(Part of Pinellas County)

City of Residence: Seminole

Speaker: Allan George Bense (R)





83<sup>rd</sup> House since Statehood

## Dennis K. Baxley

---

52<sup>nd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

2006-2007

Republican, District 24

(Part of Marion County)

City of Residence: Ocala

(Resigned as Speaker *pro tempore* 6/12/2007)

Speaker: Marco Rubio (R)



83<sup>rd</sup> House since Statehood

## Marsha L. "Marty" Bowen

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53<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

(Served as Majority Leader prior to election  
as Speaker *pro tempore* on 6/12/2007)

2007-2008

Republican, District 65

(Part of Polk County)

City of Residence: Haines City

Speaker: Marco Rubio (R)



84<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Larry Cretul

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54<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

2008-2009

Republican, District 22

(Parts of Alachua, Levy, and Marion Counties)

City of Residence: Ocala

(11/18/2008-3/2/2009, elected Speaker  
3/3/2009)

Speaker: Ray Sansom (R)





84<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Ron Reagan

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55<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
(Elected Speaker *pro tempore* 3/3/2009)  
2009-2010

Republican, District 67  
(Parts of Hillsborough, Manatee, and  
Sarasota Counties)

City of Residence: Bradenton

Speaker: Larry Cretul (R)



85<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## John Legg

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56<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
2010-2012

Republican, District 46  
(Part of Pasco County)

City of Residence: Port Richey

Speaker: Dean Cannon (R)



86<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## Marti Coley

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57<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*  
2012-2014

Republican, District 5  
(Holmes, Jackson, Walton, and Washington  
Counties and part of Bay County)

City of Residence: Marianna

Speaker: Will Weatherford (R)





87<sup>th</sup> House since Statehood

## **Matt Hudson**

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58<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*

2014-2016

Republican, District 80

(Hendry and part of Collier County)

City of Residence: Naples

Speaker: Steve Crisafulli (R)







**Speakers *pro tempore*  
in Action**





LEFT: Supreme Court Justice Alto Adams swears in Elbert L. Stewart (1947) as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* of the Florida House.

BELOW: Representative Davis H. Atkinson (1953) is sworn in as the 26<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*.





ABOVE: 27<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* S. D. "Sam" Saunders (1955) with his family on Opening Day of the Session.

BELOW: 28<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Mack N. Cleveland, Jr. (1957) (*seated*) and colleagues review the daily *Journal* of the House.





LEFT: 29<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* James N. "Gator" Beck (1959) (*seated*) discusses legislation with a colleague.

BELOW: Representative George G. Stone (1961) is sworn in as the 30<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore*.





ABOVE: 32<sup>nd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Allison R. "Baldy" Strickland (1965-1966) points to a key issue with colleagues as Speaker E. C. Rowell with cigar looks on.

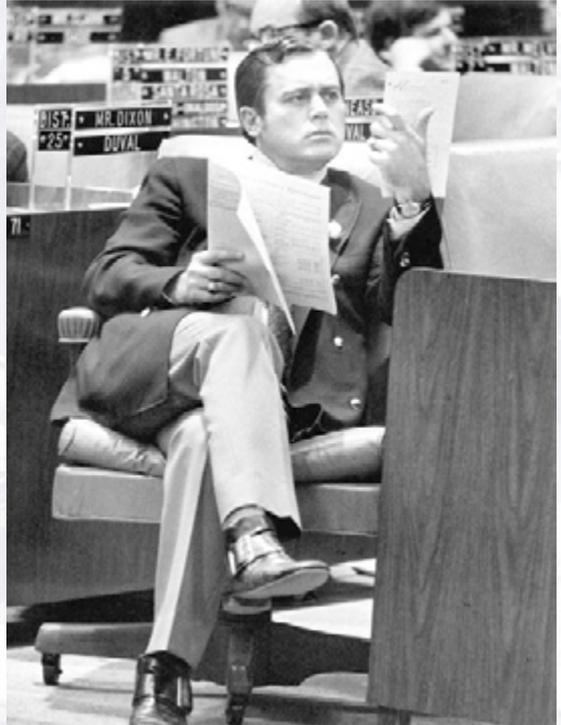
RIGHT: 33<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* James Lorenzo Walker (1966-1968) gives the "thumbs down" on a proposal.





LEFT: AP photographer Mark Foley captures 34<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* T. Terrell Sessums (1968-1970) in debate. Speaker *pro tempore* Sessums will later become the 69<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the House.

RIGHT: In 1970, 35<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Eugene F. Shaw (1970-1972) reads "the bill," then produced on 5" x 8" sheets of paper.





ABOVE: 36<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* A. H. "Gus" Craig (1972-1974) (*right*) shows then Clerk of the House Allen Morris a hand-written amendment.

BELOW: 37<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* John L. Ryals (1974-1978) makes his point in debate.



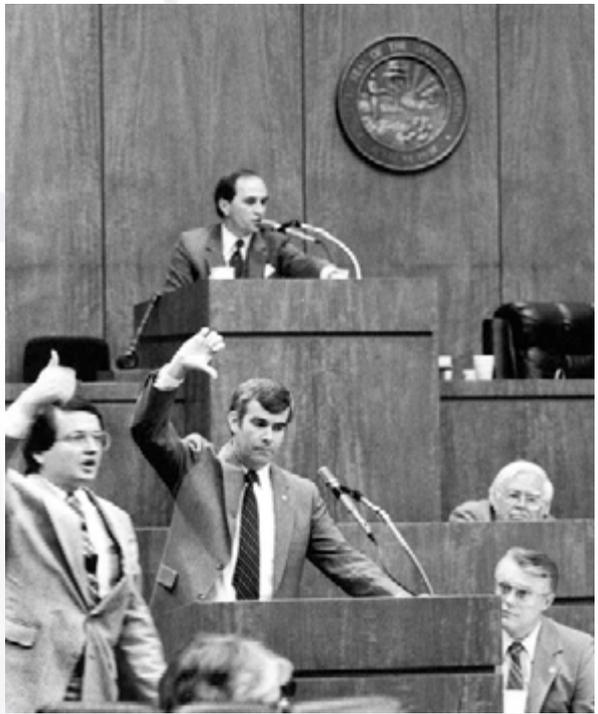


LEFT: 38<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Richard S. "Dick" Hodes (1978-1980) discusses legislative business.

BELOW: 39<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Barry Kutun (1980-1982) (*center*) with Vice President Walter Mondale in 1982.



RIGHT: 40<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Steve Pajcic (1982-1984) gives the signal for an up-vote on the bill.



BELOW: The first woman elected to the position, 41<sup>st</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Elaine Gordon (1984-1986) addresses the House.





ABOVE: 42<sup>nd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* James C. "Jim" Burke (1986-1988), the first black member to serve in this role in recent history, confers with future Speaker T. K. Wetherell.

BELOW: 43<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Sam Mitchell (1988-1990) (*left*) in discussion with Representative John Cosgrove and Representative George Crady.





ABOVE: 44<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Everett A. Kelly (1990-1992) in debate.

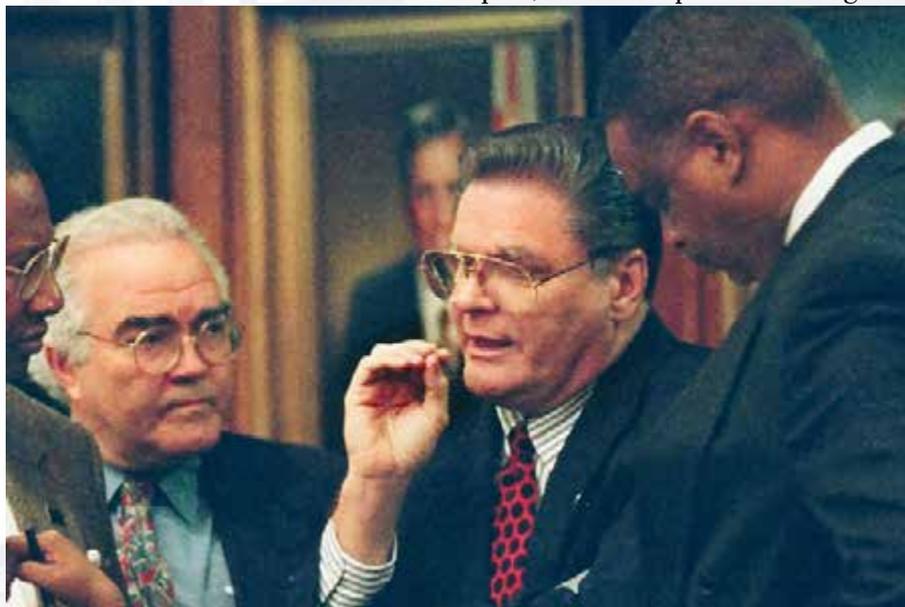
BELOW: 45<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Elaine Bloom (1992-1994) presides over a daily session.





ABOVE: 46<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Jack Ascherl (1994-1996) is congratulated by Speaker Peter Rudy Wallace.

BELOW: 47<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Luis C. Morse (1996-1998), the first Cuban American elected to the post, makes his point to colleagues.





ABOVE: 48<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Dennis L. Jones (1998-2000), one of the longest-serving legislators in modern history, waves thanks as future Senate Presidents King and Pruitt applaud.

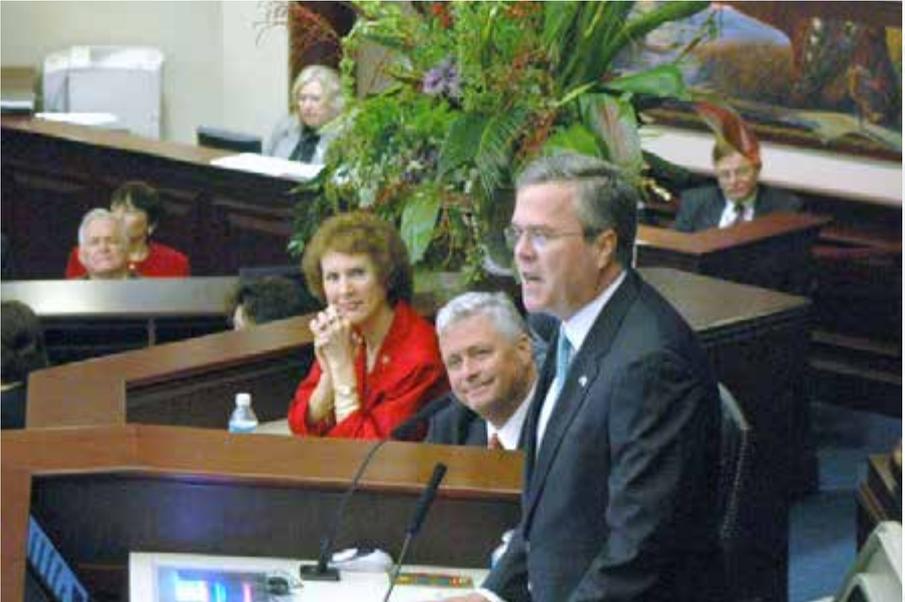
BELOW: The first Republican woman to serve as Speaker *pro tempore*, 49<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Sandra L. "Sandy" Murman (2000-2002) is congratulated by Speaker Tom Feeney.



LEFT: 50<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Lindsay M. Harrington (2002-2004) presides in 2003.



BELOW: 51<sup>st</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Leslie Waters (2004-2006) and Speaker Allan Bense listen to Governor Jeb Bush deliver a State of the State Address.





ABOVE: 52<sup>nd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Dennis K. Baxley (2006-2007) delivers remarks after being sworn in as Speaker Marco Rubio looks on.

BELOW: 53<sup>rd</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Marsha L. "Marty" Bowen (2007-2008) presides over the House session. Minority Leader Dan Gelber is to her left.





ABOVE: 54<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Larry Cretul (2008-2009) is sworn in by Judge Stargel as his family looks on. He remained Speaker *pro tempore* for 104 days prior to being sworn in as Speaker.

BELOW: 55<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Ron Reagan (2009-2010) presides with the portrait of former Speaker Marco Rubio in the background.





ABOVE: 56<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* John Legg (2010-2012) with Speaker Dean Cannon prior to the start of the Joint Session.

BELOW: Alongside Speaker Weatherford, 57<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* Marti Coley (2012-2014) discusses an issue with the Clerk of the House.





ABOVE: Representative Matt Hudson (2014-2016), surrounded by family, is sworn in as the 58<sup>th</sup> Speaker *pro tempore* of the Florida House since 1903 by Justice Charles Canady.





