

# NewsRelease

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 27, 2006

No. 06-02

MEDIA CONTACT: VERONICA METER 202.512.1957, 202.441.6226 cell vmeter@gpo.gov

## GPO RELEASES 21st CENTURY EDITION OF HISTORICAL REFERENCE DIRECTORY

WASHINGTON—It has been years in the making, but today two centuries worth of history can be found in one place. The 16th edition of the classic reference tool the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-2005* is now available online and in print from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Last published in 1989, the comprehensive 2,236 page directory provides the biographies of thousands of Members of the Senate and House who have served from the first through the 108th Congress. The most recent edition of the *Biographical Directory* details the changing face of Congress and lists Members by their full name, and for the first time nicknames or initials. Also listed are territorial delegates, resident commissioners, and vice presidents.

“This significant historical reference tool is an example of how the digital age of printing and information gathering works hand in hand to provide the American public essential access to government information,” said Bruce James, Public Printer of the United States. “With nearly all of the records from the Senate and House compiled electronically, this allows for the constant and timely updating of some of our nation’s most important information.”

The GPO is making the publication available at no cost online thru GPO Access <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/cdocuments/hd108-222/index.html>. For those wanting their very own copy, the publication can be purchased for \$99 at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/>.

First published in 1859, the new 10-pound hardbound volume was compiled and edited under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, the Senate Historical Office and the House Office of History and Preservation.

The GPO’s core mission is to ensure that the American public has access to government information. The GPO is the Federal Government’s primary centralized resource for gathering, cataloging, producing, providing, authenticating, and preserving published U.S. Government information in all its forms. GPO is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government. In addition to publication sales, GPO makes government information available at no cost to the public through GPO Access ([www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov)), and through partnerships with more than 1,250 libraries nationwide participating in the Federal Depository Library Program. For more information about the GPO, please visit [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov).

###