



Albert Gore, Sr.

Albert A. Gore Sr. (December 26, 1907- December 6, 1998) was a former U.S. Senator and the father of Vice President Al Gore. Gore, a Democrat, served as a U.S. representative for Tennessee from 1939 through 1952 and senator from 1953 until 1970, when his opposition to the Vietnam War led to his defeat.

In 1956, he was suggested as a presidential possibility. At the 1956 convention he was, instead, nominated for vice president but withdrew and fellow Tennessee Sen. Estes Kefauver became the running mate of Adlai Stevenson.

His son followed in his political footsteps, serving in the House and Senate before unsuccessfully seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988. Bill Clinton chose him as his vice presidential running mate four years later.

Gore was the chief Senate architect of the 1956 Federal Highway Aid Act and the Highway Revenue Act. They authorized \$31.5 billion in federal and state aid to build 42,500 miles of interstate highways. He fought against the GOP plan to finance the highways with bonds and got pay-as-you-go taxes on fuel, tires, and trucks.

Some called him a moderate on civil rights. He refused to sign the 1956 Southern Manifesto, which advocated resistance to school desegregation; in 1964, he voted against a civil rights bill, but urged Tennessee to obey it after it passed.

President John F. Kennedy in 1962 named Gore, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as a U.S. delegate to a session of the United Nations.

He helped negotiate a limited nuclear test ban ratified in 1963.

Gore opposed Kennedy's 1963 \$11 billion tax cut. He argued that it would stir up a conservative movement to cut spending as well. He backed Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society social welfare programs, but opposed the Vietnam War.

Gore was born in Jackson County on Dec. 26, 1907. He attended Gordonsville High School, Murfreesboro Teachers College, and the University of Tennessee. He served as superintendent of schools for Smith County from 1932 to 1936.

He received a law degree by attending the Nashville YMCA Night Law School and began law practice in 1936 at Carthage. Carthage was the hometown of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, and Gore in Congress often was called a protege of Hull.

He raised black angus cattle on his farm about 50 miles east of Nashville, and was a partner in a seed mill and hardware store in Carthage.

In 1947, Gore opposed a constitutional amendment to limit a president to two terms. He called it "a definite restricting on the freedom of choice of our children and our children's children."

After a 1951 trip to Turkey, Gore warned that the United States can't solve all the problems of the world. "We cannot feed them all, neither can we guarantee their liberties," he said.

In his 1952 Senate campaign, reacting to a charge he was a soldier who never had been shot at, Gore said he was proud of his service record.

He said he waived any congressional draft deferment and was drafted Dec. 29, 1943. He reported to Camp Shelby, Miss., on Jan. 19, 1944, but at the request of President Franklin D. Roosevelt he transferred to the inactive reserve and returned to Congress.

Gore resigned from Congress and went on active duty Dec. 4, 1944. He was assigned to a military government detachment and took part in the battle to cross the Ruhr River. He filed a report with the Pentagon on restoration of civil government in occupied towns, got an honorable discharge, and returned to Congress.

Republican Bill Brock defeated him in 1970. Under fire for his dovish stand on Vietnam and his votes against two Southern nominees for the U.S. Supreme Court, he did well in middle Tennessee, but Brock got the west Tennessee conservative vote.

Gore taught law at Vanderbilt University from 1970 to 1972. His book, "The Eye of the Storm: A People's Policies for the Seventies," was published in 1970.

Gore met his wife, Pauline LaFon Gore, while she was working as a waitress in Nashville to pay her way through Vanderbilt University law school. She was one of the school's first women graduates. They were married in 1937 and for a time operated a joint practice at Carthage. She also ran his Washington office when he was serving in the war.

\*Jackson County Tennessee by Moldon Jenkins Tayse 1989. Pg. 130  
Senator Albert Gore, Sr. was born on December 26, 1907 near Granville, in Jackson County. He had a cousin, John J. Gore, who was a federal judge for the Middle Tennessee District. Albert Gore, Jr. presently serves as Senator for Tennessee.

<http://janus.mtsu.edu/>

Born 26 December 1907 near Granville, Tennessee, to Allen and Margie Gore...

At age two, relocated with family to Carthage, Tennessee...

Attended one-room school house at Possum Hollow...

1932 graduate of Middle Tennessee State College...

Served as school superintendent for Smith County...

Attended YMCA Law School in Nashville...

Married Pauline LaFon in 1937...

Opened law office with his wife in Carthage...



In 1937, served as Tennessee Commissioner of Labor under Governor Gordon Browning...

Elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1938...

In 1943-1944, became the first congressman to serve in the Army during World War II...

In 1952, defeated incumbent Kenneth McKellar for U. S. Senate seat...

Refused to sign the Southern Manifesto in 1956...

Introduced the Interstate Highway Act in the Senate in 1956...

In 1956, briefly considered for Democratic vice-presidential slot on Adlai Stevenson ticket...

Re-elected to the Senate in 1958 and 1964...

Criticized the Johnson administration's policy of escalation in Vietnam...

Targeted as first priority for Richard Nixon's "Southern Strategy"...

Defeated by Republican Bill Brock in 1970 campaign...

Practiced law in Carthage and taught at Vanderbilt University Law School, 1970-1972...

Chairman of Island Creek Coal Company, 1972-1983...

Died at 90 years old, December 1998.

**Congressman Albert Gore (Sr.)** was swimming with his daughter on his back in Bloomington Springs Lake Sunday afternoon when he spotted an 11-year-old boy floundering in the middle of the lake. He quickly swam to shore, deposited his daughter,

and then went to the youth's rescue, witnesses say. Aug. 24, 1941: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN.