



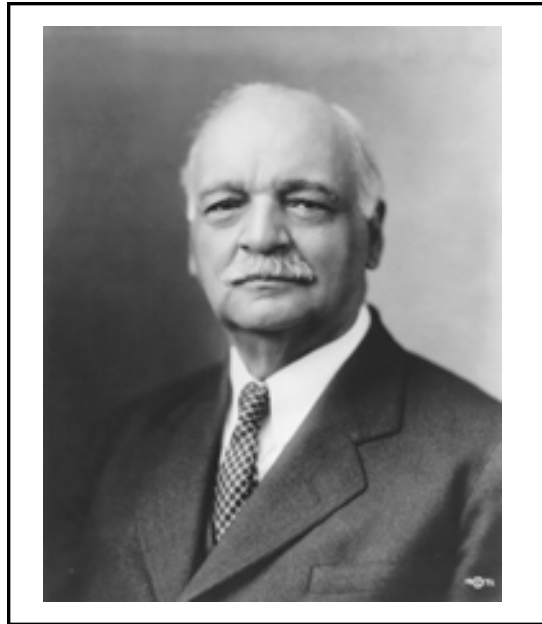
D.C. History Minute

November 2008

Charles Curtis

Inside the U.S. Capitol building, in the Senate wing, is a collection of art that includes a bust of a remarkable American, Charles Curtis, Congressman, Senator, and 31st Vice President of the United States elected with Herbert Hoover. Charles Curtis was also the highest ranking Native American political figure this nation has ever produced. He was directly descended from White Plume, a Kawa or Kansa chief and Pawhuska, an Osage chief. As a boy, Charles Curtis lived for three years on a reservation near Council Grove, Kansas. After high school, he became a lawyer and was elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1892. Curtis sponsored legislation favoring Native Americans and in support of women's suffrage. After leaving office, Charles Curtis practiced law in the District and lived in Cleveland Park. He died in 1936.

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