

# Patsy Takemoto Mink: The First Woman of Color in Congress



**Fierce and Fearless: Patsy Takemoto Mink, First Woman of Color in Congress** by Judy Tzu-Chun Wu

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 11162 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 450 pages



Patsy Takemoto Mink was a trailblazing politician who served as the first woman of color in the United States Congress. She was a lifelong advocate for civil rights, women's rights, and educational opportunities for all Americans.

Mink was born in Hawaii in 1927 to Japanese immigrant parents. She attended the University of Hawaii and the University of Chicago Law School. After graduating from law school, she returned to Hawaii and worked as an attorney. In 1956, she was elected to the Hawaii Territorial Legislature. In 1964, she was elected to the United States Congress, becoming the first woman of color to serve in that body.

During her time in Congress, Mink was a vocal advocate for civil rights and women's rights. She was a co-sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. She also worked to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, which would have guaranteed equal rights for women under the law.

In addition to her work on civil rights and women's rights, Mink was also a strong advocate for educational opportunities for all Americans. She was a co-sponsor of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which

provided federal funding for public schools. She also worked to pass the Higher Education Act of 1965, which expanded access to college for low-income students.

Mink served in Congress for 24 years. She retired in 1990. After leaving Congress, she continued to work on civil rights and women's rights issues. She died in 2002 at the age of 74.

Patsy Takemoto Mink was a true pioneer. She broke down barriers and made history. She was a tireless advocate for civil rights, women's rights, and educational opportunities for all Americans. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

## **Legacy**

Patsy Takemoto Mink's legacy is one of public service and advocacy for civil rights, women's rights, and educational opportunities for all Americans. She was a trailblazing politician who broke down barriers and made history. Her work continues to inspire generations to come.

In 1998, the Patsy T. Mink Center for the Study of Democracy and Human Rights was established at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The center is dedicated to promoting the study of democracy and human rights, and to continuing the work of Patsy Mink.

In 2009, the United States Postal Service issued a postage stamp in honor of Patsy Mink. The stamp features a portrait of Mink and the words "Patsy Takemoto Mink, First Woman of Color in Congress."

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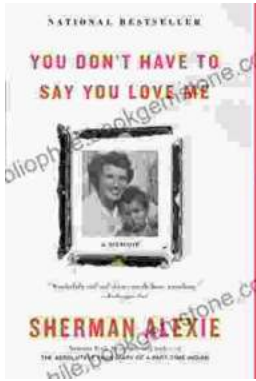
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