

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY



(Office of Representative Bentley)

*United States Representative
Republican of Maryland
Ninety-ninth–One Hundred First Congresses
January 3, 1985–present*

As a Member of Congress, Helen Bentley has focused on the same economic issues that were at the center of her career as a journalist and federal appointee. Born in Ruth, Nevada, on November 28, 1923, she attended the University of Nevada and George Washington University before receiving her B.A. from the University of Missouri in 1944. Be-

ginning in 1945, she was a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*, covering the maritime industry of that port city and later covering labor and transportation issues as well. In addition to her newspaper work, Bentley produced a weekly television show focusing on Baltimore shipping and served as a consultant.

Bentley entered public service in 1969 when President Richard Nixon appointed her chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission where she served until 1975. She subsequently returned to work as a columnist for *World Port Magazine* and as an executive with a shipping company.

In 1984, as a Republican candidate for the House of Representatives, Bentley defeated long-time incumbent Clarence Long in Maryland's Second District. As she had in unsuccessful challenges to Long in 1980 and 1982, Bentley emphasized the need to improve Baltimore harbor in order to secure the economic health of the district. As a new representa-

tive, Bentley gained seats on the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and the Committee on Public Works and Transportation. Beginning in the One Hundred First Congress, she took leave from Public Works and Transportation to serve on the Budget Committee. Bentley also serves on the Select Committee on Aging.

One of Bentley's central legislative achievements has been obtaining federal support for the dredging and improvement of Baltimore harbor. She also is particularly interested in legislation that protects American jobs and industry against foreign competition.