

# The News-Herald

## Legislator marks milestone Wednesday

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WASHINGTON, D.C.: U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-15th District) will become the longest-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday, not Saturday.

The House Historian's Office issued the correction Monday. Dingell will surpass another lawmaker, U.S. Rep. Jamie Whitten of Mississippi.

An earlier report from the Congressional Research Service had said Dingell would break the record Saturday.

But after the Historian's Office and the Congressional Research Service reviewed the numbers, they found the error in the number of days.

"I've made a couple of math mistakes in my day, so I can hardly blame the people that came up with the original number," Dingell said. "I'm just glad the House Historian's Office found the error and the Congressional Research Service worked with the historians to get it right. CRS also does tremendous work and we have great respect for their research."

According to officials, the House historians actually went through and counted day by day the time served by the members to determine the final number.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) will hold a reception Tuesday in the Capitol's Statuary Hall to celebrate Dingell's service.

"John Dingell is a giant of the Congress," Pelosi said in a news release. "Over his 53 years in the House, on issues from health care to the environment to protecting the rights of workers and consumers, Chairman Dingell has been a leader in fighting for the American values we cherish."

On Wednesday, Dingell will begin his 19,420th day in the House of Representatives. That occasion will mark almost a quarter of the entire history of Congress, said Fred Beuttler, deputy historian of the House. "John Dingell's exceptional service is a historic milestone that should be celebrated," Beuttler said.

Dingell poked humor at the milestone, saying he's not concerned about when he breaks the record but rather what to do with that day.

However, he plans to work on that day like any other day to serve his 15th District constituents. The district includes a portion of Downriver.

"This is why it is good to have a House Historians' Office and they have proven again why their work is so valuable," Dingell said.