

COMMANDING HEIGHTS

Dick Gephardt

(b. 1941)

An influential member of the U.S. Congress since 1976, Dick Gephardt stepped down from his position as House Democratic leader after the 2002 midterm elections, in which Republicans gained the majority in both houses of Congress. In late 2002, he announced his intention to make his second bid for the presidency; his first was in 1988.

From "Gephardt, Richard A." Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2001.

Richard Gephardt was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He received a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in 1962 and a law degree from the University of Michigan School of Law in 1965. After graduation, Gephardt returned to St. Louis to work as an attorney. He also served in the Air National Guard from 1965 to 1971. He won election in 1971 to the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. In 1976 Gephardt joined the race to become the representative from Missouri's Third Congressional District. Gephardt won the election handily and has been reelected by wide margins in each election since then. He has served as a Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives since 1977. He was a candidate in the Democratic presidential primaries in 1988.

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