Codebook for Veterans in Congress Data

This data set is a manual edit and expansion of the Roster data made available by ICPSR and Carrol McKibbin. We ask that users cite both the original Roster data and our associated article, listed below.

Kenwick, M., Lee, S., & Kolcak, B., 2025. "Military Experience and Casualty Sensitivity in Elite Discourse: Evidence from the U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan." *Journal of Conflict Resolution.*

ICPSR and Carroll McKibbin. 1984. *Roster of United States Congressional officeholders and biographical characteristics of members of the United States Congress, 1789-1996: Merged data.* Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

Variable Description (column names)

ID (personid)
A unique ID indicator of each congress member.

Congressional Sessions Served (cong)
The list of congressional sessions served by the member. This can be both the House and the Senate.

Speaker ID (speakerid)
A unique speaker ID provided by Gentzkow, Shapiro, and Taddy (2018).

Last Name and First Name (lastname, firstname)
Last and first name of the member.

Gender (gender)
Gender of the member: Female (F), Male (M).

Chamber (chamber)
The chamber served by the member: House of Representatives (H), Senate (S).

State (state)
The state represented by the member. A two-character postal abbreviation is used.

Party (party)

The member's party: Democrat (D), Republican (R), Independent (I).

Collapsed version of the military service (military_collapse)

Military experience of the member.

- 0: No military service is mentioned.
- 1: Served as an enlisted rank, non-officer, or rank unspecified. i.e., code 1 if coded 1 in the variable, *military*.
- 2: Served as an officer. i.e., code 2 if coded 2 or greater in the variable, *military*.

Military Service (military)

The highest rank the member served during the military service.

- 0: No military service is mentioned.
- 1: The highest rank served was enlisted rank, non-commissioned officer, or rank unspecified.
- 2: the highest rank served was Lieutenant (Army, Marine Corps, Air Force)/Ensign (Navy, Coast Guard), or officer with rank unspecified[1].
- 3: The highest rank served was Captain (Army, Marine Corps, Air Force) /Lieutenant (Navy, Coast Guard).
- 4: The highest rank served was Major (Army, Marine Corps, Air Force)/Lieutenant Commander (Navy, Coast Guard).
- 5: The highest rank served was Lieutenant Colonel (Army, Marine Corps, Air Force)/Commander (Navy, Coast Guard).
- 6: The highest rank served was Colonel (Army, Marine Corps, Air Force)/Captain (Navy, Coast Guard).
- 7: The highest rank served was General (Army, Marine Corps, Air Force)/Admiral (Navy, Coast Guard).

Branch of Service (branch)

The branch of service that the member served within.

- 1: Served in the Army.
- 2: Served in the Marine Corps.
- 3: Served in the Navy.
- 4: Served in the Air Force.
- 5: Served in the Coast Guard.
- 6: Served in the National Guard.

Combat Experience (combat)

The combat experience of the member.

- 0: no combat experience.
- 1: Served in a combat zone.