

**SENATORS ABSENT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS
SINCE 1942**

[Table 6-12]

1942

STYLES BRIDGES (R-New Hampshire)

January 1942 to June 1942. Suffered a fractured hip in a December 31, 1941 fall.

1942-1946

CARTER GLASS (D-Virginia)

June 1942 until his death on May 28, 1946--Absent due to the infirmities of old age, despite holding the post of president pro tempore (1941-1945) and chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Reelected in November 1942.

1947-1949

ROBERT F. WAGNER (D-New York)

January 1947 until his resignation on June 28, 1949--Had a heart ailment that prevented him from attending any sessions in the Eightieth or Eighty-first congresses.

1949-1951

ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG (R-Michigan)

October 1949 until his death on April 18, 1951--After a major surgery to remove a tumor on his lung in October 1949, he returned to the Senate briefly in January and February 1950, then was absent for most of 1950, with a second surgery in April and another brief return to the Senate in May of that year.

1963-1964

CLAIR ENGLE (D-California)

Various periods from 1963 until his death on July 30, 1964--Underwent repeated operations for brain cancer which left him partially paralyzed. In June 1964 he was carried into the Senate chamber to cast a key vote on the Civil Rights Act. Unable to speak, he signaled in the affirmative.

1969-1973

KARL EARL MUNDT (R-South Dakota)

November 1969 to January 1973--Suffered a stroke and refused to resign. Served until the expiration of his term.

1988

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR. (D-Delaware)

Surgery for a **brain aneurysm, February 12, 1988**. Returned to the Senate on **September 7, 1988**.

1989

ALBERT GORE, Jr. (D-Tennessee)

On the opening day of the baseball season, **April 3, 1989**, Albert Gore, III, age 4, was struck by an automobile and seriously injured as he and his father were leaving the stadium in Baltimore. The senator and his wife alternately remained at Johns Hopkins Hospital with their son until his release; and Senator Gore **returned to the Senate on May 1, 1989**.

1991

DAVID PRYOR (D-Arkansas)

Suffered a heart attack in Washington, DC on **April 15, 1991**. Returned to Senate **September 10, 1991**.

**Senate Historical Office
April 2001**