

**Alan K. Simpson – Member**  
*U.S. Senator from Wyoming, Retired*

Following in the footsteps of his father, Milward – who served in the Wyoming legislature and later became the state’s governor and U.S. senator – Alan K. Simpson was elected in 1964 to the Wyoming House of Representatives, where he served for thirteen years. A popular and effective legislator, he became majority whip, majority floor leader and speaker pro tempore before running successfully for the U. S. Senate in 1978.

Simpson made his mark quickly in Washington by accepting difficult assignments and sponsoring legislation that dealt with the establishment of federal standards for clean air and water, toxic waste cleanup, and nuclear regulation. He was active on issues regarding veterans, aging, the environment, and the nation’s immigration laws. Following his reelection by a wide margin in 1984, he was elected by his Republican peers to the position of the assistant majority leader (“whip”). He served as assistant leader for ten years, four years into his third Senate term.

Simpson retired at the end of his third term, in 1996, and for four academic years taught as a visiting lecturer at the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics, and Public Policy at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and for two years he served as the Director of the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School.

In late 2000, he and his wife, Ann, returned to their Cody, Wyoming home. Al became, and remains, a partner in the law firm Simpson, Kepler and Edwards, the Cody division of the Denver firm of Burg Simpson Eldredge, Hersh and Jardine. He also taught and remains active in various capacities at his beloved alma mater, the University of Wyoming. He has served on numerous corporate and non-profit boards, and is in heavy demand throughout the country as a speaker on current events, the nation’s economic future, and the role of Congress in society. (See attached list of activities, honors and offices).

In 2006, Simpson was named as one of ten members of the Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan panel chaired by former Congressman Lee Hamilton and former Secretary of State and Chief of Staff to the President, Jim Baker, appointed by the United States Congress and charged with assessing the then current situation in Iraq and the US-led Iraq War, and offering specific policy recommendations.

In early 2010 President Barack Obama asked Al Simpson to co-chair with Erskine Bowles (former President of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform—commonly known as the Deficit Commission, or Debt Panel. Eleven (five Republicans, five Democrats and one Independent) of the 18 members of the Commission voted to support the final draft report, “The Moment of Truth” (see on [www.fiscalcommission.gov](http://www.fiscalcommission.gov)). Simpson saw the Commission’s work as a valuable opportunity to educate the public.

Simpson’s 1997 book, *Right in the Old Gazoo: A Lifetime of Scrapping with the Press* chronicles his personal experiences and views of the Fourth Estate.

### **Current Federal Involvement:**

- \* Co-chair of the Continuity in Government Commission
- \* Member of the Commission on Presidential Debates
- \* Co-chair of the Commission on Writing with former Senator Bob Kerry
- \* Former Member of the Iraq Study Group
- \* Former Co-chair of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform

### **CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS:**

- \* Chairman, Board of Trustees, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming (Operating the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, The Buffalo Bill Museum, The North American Plains Indian Museum, the Draper Natural History Museum and The Cody Firearms Museum).
- \* Co-chairs with former Senators Bill Bradley, Warren Rudman and Bob Kerry with Americans for Campaign Finance Reform
- \* Honorary Co-Chair with former Attorney General Griffin Bell of The Common Good, an organization dedicated to legal reforms.
- \* Former Member of BP America External Advisory Council
- \* Former Member of the Board of Directors of American Express Funds now Ameriprise, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- \* Former Member of the Board of Directors, Biogen Corporation, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- \* Former Member of the Board of Directors of Pacific Corp.
- \* Former member of the Folger Library Visitors Committee (Folger Shakespeare Library), Washington, D.C.
- \* Former Member, Board of Trustees of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.
- \* Former Member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- \* Former Commissioner on the American Battle Monuments Commission
- \* Trustee Emeritus of the Grand Teton Music Festival, Jackson Hole, Wyoming.
- \* Special Advisory Board, Fort Phil Kearny, Bozeman Trail Association.

- \* Board of Directors, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Kansas City, Missouri
- \* Member, Screen Actors Guild
- \* Lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 2673, Cody, Wyoming; member of the American Legion, Fred Coe Post No. 20, Cody; member of AMVETS, Cheyenne Post.
- \* Lifetime member of the Episcopal Church. Former vestryman of Christ Church in Cody, Wyoming, and twice served as a lay deputy to two General Triennial Conventions of the Episcopal Church.
- \* Member and past president of Cody Rotary Club. Member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), the Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE).
- \* Member of various Masonic bodies (Scottish Rite, Shrine, Royal Order of Jesters). 33rd Degree Mason and presented the highest award to be conferred by the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite – The Grand Cross of Honour.
- \* Member of the Advisory Committee of the Panetta Institute (The Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy)
- \* Member of the Advisory Board of the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation (Commemorating the Japanese War Relocation Center at Heart Mountain)

**AWARDS:**

- \* Distinguished Alumnus, University of Wyoming, 1985
- \* Awarded the Silver Helmet Award from AMVETS of WWII, 1985
- \* Awarded the Citizen of the West (National Western Stock Show) in the year 1990, presented in Denver, Colorado
- \* Designated as the Centennial Alumnus of the University of Wyoming, 1987, awarded by the National Association of Land Grant Colleges.
- \* Distinguished Alumnus, Cranbrook School, Detroit, Michigan, 1987
- \* Citizen of the Century in the field of Government at the University of Wyoming

**HONORARY DEGREES:**

- \* Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming
- \* Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana

- \* Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, American University, Washington, D.C.
- \* Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, The Colorado College, Colorado Springs
- \* Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, California Western School of Law, San Diego
- \* Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana
- \* Thomas Jefferson Award in Law at University of Virginia, Charlottesville. (The U. Va. equivalent of an Honorary Degree)