Overview of Collection

Creator: Elmer Greinert “Bud” Shuster (1932- )
Title: Bud Shuster Congressional Records Collection
Inclusive Dates: 1946-2001
Bulk Dates: 1973-2001
Quantity: 277.25 linear ft in 197 boxes plus oversized artifacts and books
Language: Material is in English.
Acquisition: Donated by Elmer Greinert “Bud” Shuster.
Accruals: No additions to the collection are expected.
Access: Boxes 29B through 33B are restricted from public access.
Visual Materials: Located in boxes 1D-4D
Sound Recordings: Located in boxes 1D-4D
Copyright: Copyright is held by Elmer Greinert “Bud” Shuster and family.
Processed by: Andrew Baraniak, Project Archivist
Biographical Sketch of Bud Shuster (1932- )

Elmer Greinert “Bud” Shuster served in the United States House of Representatives from Pennsylvania’s 9th Congressional District from 1973 to 2001. Born in Glassport, PA, January 23, 1932 Congressman Shuster attended the University of Pittsburgh where he became a member of Sigma Chi and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1954 as the outstanding senior of his class. He later earned an M.B.A. from Duquesne University in 1960 and a Ph.D. from American University in 1967. Shuster served in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956 as a U.S. army officer and counter intelligence agent.

After leaving behind college and military life, Shuster entered the business world where he was involved in the installation of some of the first large-scale Univac computers in America. He became a vice-president of RCA’s computer division at thirty-three and president of a computer terminal company and founder of a computer software company at thirty-six. Never having run for public office, Shuster entered politics in 1972 and defeated a state senator in the Republican primary for Congress and was elected the following November.

Shuster was elected to fifteen terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, winning both the Republican and Democratic nominations nine times, a feat never accomplished in Pennsylvania history. He served as chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the largest committee in the history of Congress from the 104th through the 106th Congress from 1995 to 2001. He was the principal author of much of American’s transportation and economic development legislation during his tenure, including TEA-21 and AIR-21, historic legislation which unlocked the federal transportation trust funds to improve America’s transportation systems. He also authored The Everglades Restoration Project, the largest environmental restoration project in history.

Shuster’s transportation efforts resulted in improved highways, transit, and aviation systems across America. In Pennsylvania, he was directly responsible for creating Interstate 99, a major transportation link in Central Pennsylvania, named “The Bud Shuster Highway” by Democratic Governor Bob Casey. He sponsored the Route 30 “Bud Shuster By-Way” demonstration project around Everett PA, to promote faster, more efficient highway construction, as well as numerous highway and transit projects throughout Pennsylvania and the nation. Shuster was a strong proponent of infrastructure development. He also worked closely with local and state official to fund economic development and water and sewer infrastructure projects throughout the 9th Congressional District. These initiatives helped create and retain jobs, provide clean water resources, and mitigate environmental hazards left over from the region’s coal and steel industries, such as acid mine, drainage, and abandoned brown field sites. In 2003, Juniata College named its new environmental education center “Shuster Hall” in recognition of the congressman’s “steadfast support and contribution toward the establishment of an unparalleled environmental field station on Raystown Lake.”
Although his support for projects throughout Pennsylvania and across America sparked criticism by some, the so-called “Pork-Barrel” label was mitigated by his requirement as chairman that all project requests by members include a letter from their state’s secretary of transportation supporting the projects.

As the ranking member of the Select Intelligence Committee he authored legislation to strengthen U.S. intelligence capabilities, including “Robert Quart”, a then classified operation, which was instrumental in bringing down Columbian drug lords and knocking out Iraq’s command and control systems during the first gulf war, for which he was presented a captured Iraqi battle flag by the soldiers of “Robin Quart.”

He also served in leadership as Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, as a member of the Budget and Education & Labor Committees, Delegate to NATO’s North Atlantic Assembly, Trustee of the Kennedy Center, and a Delegate and Platform Committee co-chair to Republican National Conventions from 1976 through 1996. Although he supported and campaigned for republican candidates, including presidential candidates Nixon, Ford, Connally, and Reagan, he still developed a strong bipartisan reputation within Congress.  Shuster lost a close race for house minority whip in 1981, and ran without serious opposition during most of his own campaigns for reelection.  The most serious potential threat came in 1984 when he faced Democratic candidate Nancy Kulp, the actress who played Miss Jane Hathaway in the television series The Beverly Hillbillies; however, he was easily reelected with two-thirds of the vote.

During his tenure as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, a political group with ties to Ralph Nader (who had clashed with Shuster over the federal regulation of automobile airbags in the 1970’s as well as several environmental issues) filed a complaint with the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. The complaint accused Shuster and his staff of campaign violations and fundraising violations involving his former chief-of-staff Ann Eppard. The committee, after performing a lengthy investigation that produced no conclusive evidence, disposed of the matter with a letter of reproval.

After completing his six year term as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Shuster retired from public service in February, 2001. His son, Bill, was elected to the seat in a special election, and holds the office as of 2008.

Shuster has received over 130 awards for his Congressional service, an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Saint Francis University, the Bicentennial Medallion of Distinction from the University of Pittsburgh, and a special award from the Central Intelligence Agency for his contribution to national security.

Upon retiring from Congress, he became President of Strategic Advisors, serving as a consultant to several companies and associations, ranging from California to London. He also is a Trustee Emeritus at the Kennedy Center, and a visiting Professor of Political Science and a Trustee at Saint Francis University, where his congressional papers and memorabilia are being archived and displayed.
He is the author of over 50 articles on transportation, economic development and national security, and five books, including the award winning *Believing in America*, four novels: *Double Buckeyes, Secret Harvest* and *Chances*, and *Making the Most of Your Life - A Love Letter to My Grandchildren*.

Bud Shuster and his wife, Patricia, reside on a farm in Bedford County which they recently deeded to their five children, and on which an acre is set aside for each of their twelve grandchildren.

**Scope and Content Notes**

The Bud Shuster Congressional Records are housed in 197 archival boxes or in an archival environment and are arranged in seven series. The collection consists of the manuscripts, video and audio recordings, photographs, newspaper clippings, and artifacts and memorabilia created or obtained during his term in office from 1973 to 2001. Series have been designated for Congressional Papers, Conferences, Video and Audio, Photographs, Books, Newspaper Scrapbooks, and Artifacts that are arranged in this order.

Series for Shuster Collection

I. Congressional Papers
   A. United States - 1946-2001
   B. 9th District - 1972-2000

II. Conferences - 1969-2000

III. Video/Audio - 1973-2000

IV. Photographs

V. Books

VI. Newspaper

VII. Artifacts/Memorabilia

While there are some materials that predate Shuster’s election, they are by far not the majority of materials in the collection, and have been kept within the collection because of some connection to his service as a Congressman. The collection as a whole provides information as to the Congressman’s actions and accomplishments during his time in office. Materials reference one another with frequency and indicate the legislative matters he was most focused on. The majority of the collection is focused on transportation issues and legislation that Shuster had a part in creating or passing. Other issues include personal records and accomplishments, party involvement and policies during his tenure, defense and military base realignments, budget
committee dealings, and district projects and constituent concerns. Manuscripts have been
designated into Congressional Papers and Conferences series. Congressional Papers have been
further divided into sub-series. These sub-series consist of United States and 9th District and
relate to materials that pertain to each title.

The United States sub-series consists of correspondences, letters, legislation, and other
manuscripts that relate to issues and projects that Shuster partook in relation to national issues.
This includes various legislation, highway transportation, personal records and party affiliation,
work with the National Transportation Policy Study Commission, railroad development, national
defense matters and base realignment, and airport and airline development. Shuster’s actions in
national transportation development are reflected in the highway, railroad, and airport sections.
Defense matters deal primarily with the restructuring of the military after the end of the Cold
War. The legislative section is an amalgam of actions of the budget committee and
miscellaneous legislative actions. Personal and Party matters deal with his individual voting
records and his relationship to other Republican Party members and the National Republican
Party. It was arranged according to these types and placed chronologically within each group.

The 9th District sub-series consist of correspondences, letters, reports, and other manuscripts
dealing with projects and development within the district specifically. This includes projects,
economic development and other issues, various transportation projects, constituent
 correspondences, and his work towards keeping the Letterkenny Army Depot open within his
district. The sub-series reflect the efforts and actions of the Congressman in the development of
his district. The first section pertains to matters of a miscellaneous concern as far as economic
development projects, housing, water and sewage projects, recreation development, and other
issues within the 9th District. Transportation projects pertain to Shuster’s efforts to update the
transportation infrastructure within the district. Constituent correspondences pertain to letters
written to his office, and Letterkenny deals with efforts to keep the facility open during the first
part of the 1990s. It was arranged as sub-series A. Dates range from 1972-2000, with bulk dates

The Conferences series consists of correspondences, itinerary, notes, and speeches given while at
events, tours, presentations, and other speaking events. They are arranged in chronological
order. Dates range from 1969-2000, with bulk dates from 1980-2000. Other series have been
separated and are described in further sections.

All series contain material that cross references to other folders in other series. The materials
within the sub-series contains cross referencing over highway transportation development, grants
for projects, defense restructuring after the Cold War, budget legislation, and 9th district projects
that had connection to larger national projects. While the majority of the manuscripts in the
series only pertain to their designated sub-series, cross examination of both series should be
evaluated in cases dealing with those described above. The conferences series also contains
speeches and events from projects and legislation contained in Series I. Photographs are also
referenced within the manuscripts listings and are indicated as to whether there is a photograph
linked to the material. Photographs also exist of his office and various awards he received which
exist within the Artifacts/Manuscripts series. The Video/Audio section contains materials that
reference his participation in the impeachment of President Nixon, which are recorded in document form in Series I. The newspaper collection reflects the press and editorial thoughts on Shuster’s tenure in office, from both a local standpoint and national standpoint. This corresponds with folders within Series I by what project he happened to be working on or what legislation was up for debate.

Provenance and Accession Information

Record Group 1 was brought to Saint Francis University in one accession by Deposit Agreement and Deed of Gift of Bud Shuster, (Collection) 2001.

Restrictions

Boxes 29B through 33B are currently restricted from public access as per section 8 of the deed of gift/deposit agreement with the donor. Restriction will remain in place until further notice.

Separations and Related Materials

73 books have been removed from the collection and transferred to the library catalog system. They have been individually cataloged and are stored separate from the collection. They consist primarily of books from the Congressman’s personal library, memorial tribute books, and congressional reports on actions in Congress. Books have been inventoried separately and can be accessed via the library server.

4.25 linear feet of video and audio materials have been separated and inventoried. They consist of mainly VHS videotapes of press releases, speeches, presentations, events, and other publicity. Some 8mm film and early video cassette forms exist of the impeachment of President Nixon. 5 1/4” and 3 1/2” floppy disks are also part of the collection and consist primarily of Letterkenny Army Depot information. Dates: 1973-2001, Bulk Dates: 1973-1977, 1993-2001

2.25 linear feet of photographs have been separated and organized. The collection consists of self-portraits, events such as bill signings and award presentations, former staff members, meetings with constituent tour groups at the Capitol, and events and tours within the 9th District. There are also photographs of Shuster with prominent Republicans during his tenure in office. Photographs range from small 3x5 to larger portraits. Some material is oversized and mounted. Photographs have been organized alphabetically. Dates: 1973-2001

Processor

May 21, 2008: Collection accessioned, arranged and processed, and finding aid written by Andrew Baraniak, Project Archivist, and Todd Harp, Zach Doll, and Kristi Gongloff, Student Assistants.