

DANIEL J. FLOOD CONGRESSMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

U.S. House of Representatives

WHEN?
1903-1994

WHERE? Wyoming
Valley and
Washington, D.C.



EVENTS
Flood initiated many
changes in our area

VOCABULARY
anthrasilicosis
Congressman
constituents

When John F. Kennedy entered the office of president in 1960, Daniel J. Flood, often referred to as Dapper Dan, had already served as a U.S. Congressman for 12 years. Elected in 1944, Flood lost only two elections (1946 and 1952) in his long tenure serving the people of Wyoming Valley. He was known as a man who got things done for his constituents no matter what their party affiliation was.

He was the president of his graduating class at Coughlin High School where he also played football. After graduation from Syracuse University and a brief entrance into Harvard Law School, Flood followed his true dream of becoming a professional actor. It was during this period when he grew his famous handlebar mustache.



Returning home in the 1930s the future congressman became active in local and state Democratic politics. When first elected to the U.S. House, Flood worked hard at reducing unemployment and attracting new business (Kashatus 43). He was particularly moved by the miners in his district who suffered debilitating health issues from anthrasilicosis, commonly called "black lung" disease. He worked diligently to convince Congress to provide the federal funds needed by the miners and their families to address their health concerns.

With the election of Kennedy he now had the chance. He co-sponsored a bill, the Area Redevelopment Act of 1961 that was signed into law by Kennedy. It had been passed twice by Congress but vetoed by President Eisenhower. Dr. Hanlon writes about the accomplishment: *"The law required that the federal government give preference to contractors in areas of high unemployment, send funds to sustain and improve public services, provide assistance to local businesses through a series of loans and encourage national businesses to locate in such regions"* (Hanlon 166).



Veterans
Administration Hospital

The valley became a testing ground for this new law. We also tried out other ideas such as food stamps, urban renewal, and low-cost housing before the rest of the nation thanks to Dan Flood's work. Valley Crest nursing home opened in 1961 as part of the application of federal

money. The state-of-the art Veteran's Hospital made its home here as did the Avoca International Airport and the positioning of U.S. route 81 bringing traffic and tourists to our area for the benefit of our residents. New high rise apartments for the elderly were also erected as well as new shopping areas in Edwardsville and Kingston.

When the Agnes Flood devastated the area in 1972, Dan Flood remarked "one Flood against another!" Many credit his influence and diligent work with then president Nixon, community leaders, and the military reserves to address the unprecedented need for help as 20,000 homes and 3,000 business were destroyed. It is estimated that sixty-eight thousand tons of debris had to be removed. Several hundred million dollars were provided by the federal government along with small business loans, unemployment compensation, temporary housing, and food stamps were provided as Dan Flood helped to lead an experienced team to aid the victims.



ONLINE RESOURCES

[Agnes Flood](#)

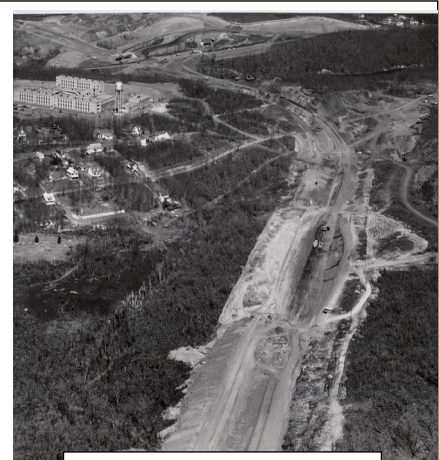
[Daniel J. Flood](#)

PRINT RESOURCES

Hanlon, Edward. *The Wyoming Valley An American Portrait*. California: Windsor Publications.1983.

Kashatus, William *Dapper Dan Flood: The Controversial Life of a Congressional Power Broker*.

The Pennsylvania State University Press: University Park. 2010.



Route 81
construction