



Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives

Thomas Bailey Murphy

10 March 1924 – 17 December 2007

*"Tom Murphy is Georgia politics."
- President Jimmy Carter*

"Without his life ... there would be no Georgia Dome, no [Georgia] World Congress Center, no MARTA. His life touched us all, and all of Georgians are beneficiaries of his service."

- Governor Roy Barnes

"From behind this podium, he championed the underprivileged, he argued for the underdog, and he stood for the infirm. From this podium, he spurred improvements in rural and urban areas alike. He raised the bar in health care and education, and pushed for economic development and equality."

- Terry Coleman, Murphy's successor as Speaker

"He had his own compass. He could not be pushed in a direction he did not want to go. He couldn't be threatened... He couldn't be fooled."

- Governor Zell Miller

"He's a giant. The real Tom Murphy will be exposed by journalists and historians. The tough, gruff Tom Murphy's story has been told. Now the other side will be known: He was an unsung hero, and he'll get his credit now."

- Representative Tyrone Brooks

"Speaker Murphy was one of the best leaders this state has ever seen and it was an honor to serve with him in the House of Representatives. He told me often how much he loved Georgia."

- Representative Calvin Smyre

"Tom Murphy was a fixture in Georgia politics, and an agent of much of our state's success and prosperity. His exceptional tenure as Speaker is a testament to his dedication to the people of Georgia. We'll miss his knowledge, commitment to Georgia's future, and sharp wit, and while we may try to fill his shoes, there will never be another Tom Murphy."

- Jane Kidd, chair, Georgia Democratic Party