EDWARD M. KENNEDY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewer’s Briefing Materials
John McCain Interview, 10/16/2009

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Miller Center Documents¹
- John McCain Timeline.
- John McCain Fact Sheet.

Secondary Source Materials

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Oral History Interviews

- Edward M. Kennedy interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 08/14/2006.
- David Burke interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/09/2008.
- Adam Clymer interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 07/12/2006.
- Brian and Alma Hart interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 02/18/2009.
- Judith Lichtman interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 02/21/2007.
- Walter Mondale interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/20/2006.
- Esther Olavarria interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 08/28/2006.
- Joel Packer interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 05/20/2008.
- Carey Parker interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/01/2008.
- Warren Rudman interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 05/16/2006.
- John Seigenthaler interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 06/05/2007.
- Sharon Waxman interview, Kennedy Oral History Project, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 12/19/2008.
John McCain (R-AZ) Timeline
Prepared by Bryan Craig, revised by Janet E. Heininger, Ph.D., 10/01/09
Miller Center, University of Virginia, 09/28/2009

1936  John McCain III is born in the Panama Canal Zone. (Biographical Directory of the United States Congress)


1967-1973  McCain is taken as a prisoner of war after his plane is shot down over North Vietnam. He is a prisoner at the famed “Hanoi Hilton” where he is given little medical treatment and is beaten by the North Vietnamese. (McCain and Salter, pp. 189-257)

1973-1974  McCain attends the Naval War College. (Biographical Directory of the United States Congress)


1981  McCain retires from the navy to pursue a career in public service.

1982-1986  McCain serves in the House of Representatives as a Republican from Arizona. He supports the Reagan administration’s foreign policy of supporting the Contras in Nicaragua and a hard-line towards the Soviet Union. (Alexander, pp. 99-106)

1983  Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and Charles Mathias (R-MD) lead the Senate fight to make Rev. Martin Luther King’s birthday a national holiday. Senator Jessie Helms (R-NC) opposes the bill, citing King’s communist ties and a lack of hearings on the proposal. A bitter, personal and public debate ensues. Ultimately, the Senate passes the bill 78-22. The House had already passed the bill August 2nd, with McCain voting against. Reagan signs the bill on November 2nd. McCain later acknowledges his position was wrong and supports the state holiday in Arizona in 1990. (Adam Clymer, Edward Kennedy: A Biography, New York: William Morrow, 2009, pp. 337-338; 1983 Congressional
1986

**November**  
McCain is elected to the Senate as a Republican from Arizona replacing the retiring Senator Barry Goldwater (R-AZ).

The Democrats regain control of the Senate in the mid-term elections.

The Iran-Contra scandal breaks in the media.

1987

**January**  
McCain is assigned the Armed Services Committee with EMK; both sit on the Subcommittees for Manpower and Personnel and Projected Forces and Regional Defense.

**August**  
McCain and EMK co-sponsor a bill to retain a freeze on U.S. aid to Panama under General Manuel Noriega. (*The Washington Post*, 08/07/1987)

**Fall**  
EMK leads the fight in the Senate to defeat the Bork nomination. McCain votes for confirmation. (*The New York Times*, 10/24/1987)

1988

**May**  
EMK reintroduces an amendment prohibiting the deployment of U.S. troops in Honduras and Nicaragua, but McCain successfully tables the amendment. (*1988 CQ Almanac*, pp. 424, 23-S)

**August**  
McCain gives a speech at the Republican National Convention. (Alexander, p. 118)

**Summer-Fall**  
McCain leads an unsuccessful fight to increase military aid to the Contras. EMK opposes the aid increase and the White House is reportedly unwilling to ask for more aid in the wake of Iran-Contra. (*1988 CQ Almanac*, pp. 491-496)

1989

**Feb.-Mar.**  
EMK and Senate Democrats vote against John Tower, President George H.W. Bush’s nominee for Defense Secretary, both in the Senate Armed Services Committee and on the Senate floor, because of his ties to defense lobbyists and his reportedly excessive drinking. McCain, a friend of Tower’s, is one of his staunchest supporters. (Clymer, p. 434; John McCain and Mark Slater, *Worth the Fighting For: A Memoir*, New York: Random House, 2002, pp. 121-157; *The Washington Post*, 02/24/1989)
1990

March The Senate passes EMK’s National Community Service Act of 1990 authorizing grants for national, community, and school-based volunteer service programs. During the debate, McCain tries to add an amendment to require post-service benefits for volunteers not to exceed post-service education benefits for veterans, but the Democrats table it. McCain votes for the bill. (1990 CQ Almanac, pp. 560-561, 8-S)

August Iraqi forces invade Kuwait on the 2nd. Bush announces his decision to send troops to the area on the 7th and formally notifies Congress. EMK and McCain both condemn Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait. However, McCain also questions Bush’s motives for sending troops. “Let’s have no illusions; if this were [sic] another part of the world, we would not see this kind of response.” (1990 CQ Almanac, p. 728)

October The House and Senate pass non-binding resolutions on the 1st and 2nd, respectively, endorsing Bush’s economic embargo against Iraq and the deployment of 100,000 U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia. They do not, however, provide explicit authority to go to war. McCain votes for the resolution, while EMK votes against it, calling it a “blank check endorsement for future actions … in effect, a Tonkin Gulf Resolution for the Persian Gulf.” (1990 CQ Almanac, pp. 717, 734; Clymer, p. 470)

November The Senate Ethics Committee opens hearings into allegations that Senators McCain, John Glenn (D-OH), Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), Don Riegle (D-MI), and Alan Cranston (D-CA) (known as the “Keating Five”) interfered with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB) on behalf of a major campaign contributor, Charles Keating. Keating was the chairman of the California-based Lincoln Savings and Loan Association, which had collapsed in 1989. The panel issues mild rebukes for McCain and Glenn. McCain admits errors in judgment, but not abuse of his office. (McCain and Salter, Worth the Fighting For, p. 193; Robert Timberg, John McCain: An American Odyssey, New York: Free Press, 1999, p. 179-185; 1991 CQ Almanac, pp. 26-38)

1991

January On the 12th, the House and Senate vote in favor of S.J. Res. 2 authorizing the president to use military force against Iraq pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolution 678. The Senate passes the authorization 52-47. EMK votes against it, while McCain votes for it. McCain states if failure to act would result in future aggression by dictators all over the world. EMK instead had supported the Mitchell-Nunn substitute authorizing “the use of American military force to enforce the United Nations (U.N.) economic embargo against Iraq; to defend
Saudi Arabia from direct Iraqi attack; and to protect American forces in the
region.” (S.J. Res. 1, Library of Congress) The resolution had also called for
continued sanctions and diplomatic pressure and declared that Congress, vested
with the power to declare war, would consider future requests by the president for
a declaration of war and for authority to use military force against Iraq. S.J. Res 1
438-441, 2-S; The New York Times, 01/12/1991)

On the 16th, Bush orders an air campaign against Iraq, transforming Operation
Desert Shield into Operation Desert Storm.

On the 17th, the Senate unanimously approves a resolution backing the president.

**February**

On the 27th, Bush announces a cease-fire and declares Kuwait “liberated.” Iraq
accepts cease-fire terms in March, agreeing to destroy weapons of mass
destruction and allow monitoring by U.N. inspectors. A formal cease-fire is
signed in April, which establishes a no-fly zone in Northern Iraq to protect the
Kurds. McCain argues, “The Bush administration had made a serious mistake by
leaving Saddam Hussein’s regime in power…. ” (McCain and Salter, Worth the
Fighting For, p. 276)

**Summer**

EMK and Senator William Roth (R-DE) co-sponsor a floor amendment to a
defense authorization bill (S 1507) lifting the ban on women flying combat
missions. The House earlier repealed the combat-exclusion law as part of its
annual defense authorization measure (HR 2100). The Kennedy-Roth amendment
passes by voice vote after an amendment to table it fails 30 to 69 with McCain
voting to table it. McCain and Glenn, former pilots, want a more conservative
approach and offer an amendment to allow some women to fly combat missions
to further study the issue. The Glenn-McCain amendment passes. Kennedy says:
“The issue is not whether women should be shot at. They already are—five
women died from enemy fire during the Gulf War. The real issue is whether
women can shoot back. The issue is not whether women should fly high-
performance aircraft. They already do. Women serve as instructors for combat
pilots. The real issue is whether we select our combat pilots based on ability or
gender.” (Clymer, p. 472; 1991 CQ Almanac, p. 414)

**1992**

**July**

EMK marries Vicki Reggie in McLean, Virginia.

**November**

Clinton is elected president, as the Democrats win the House, Senate, and White
House.
1993

January  EMK becomes chair of the Regional Defense and Contingency Forces Subcommittee on the Armed Services Committee.

Late July  EMK leads the efforts to pass the National Service program over Republican opposition to the program’s cost. On July 21st, McCain offers an amendment to make veterans eligible for National Service education awards, but it is killed with EMK voting for its tabling. After much debate, the bill passes the Senate on August 3rd and McCain votes against it. (1993 CQ Almanac, p. 402, 30-S)

August  EMK and McCain exchange hostile remarks during a debate on the nomination of Dr. Jocelyn Elders as surgeon general, reportedly telling each other to “shut up”. (The Boston Globe, 08/06/1993)

1994

January  The Senate passes a resolution to lift the trade embargo against Vietnam to improve Vietnam’s cooperation in resolving POW/MIA issues that McCain and Senator John Kerry (D-MA) have been working on in their Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. EMK votes for the measure and President Bill Clinton lifts the ban. (1994 CQ Almanac, p. 2-S)

August  EMK votes in favor of a McCain motion to table an amendment prohibiting the president from deploying troops to Haiti to reinstate an elected government without congressional approval or unless U.S. citizens or the national interest are in danger. The Senate adopts the motion and the amendment is tabled. (1994 CQ Almanac, p. 45-S)

November  The GOP wins control of both the House and Senate in the “Republican Revolution.” EMK loses his chairmanship of the Labor Committee.

EMK narrowly defeats Mitt Romney to win reelection to the U.S. Senate.

1995

December  EMK votes to pass a McCain-Dole measure to support sending U.S. troops to Bosnia and limiting their service to one year. (The New York Times, 12/15/1995)

1996

August  Congress passes the Kassebaum-Kennedy Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The law guarantees that most workers can maintain insurance coverage if they leave or lose their jobs. HIPAA also includes a provision making premiums for long term care insurance tax deductible, leading to a dramatic increase in the sale of it. HIPAA does not, however, guarantee that
individuals not be rejected for coverage because of pre-existing health conditions. McCain is one of 21 Republican co-sponsors of the bill. (Jill Quadagno, One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance, New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2005, p. 196; 1996 CQ Almanac, p. 6-39)

**September**

On the 30th, EMK and Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI) lead a filibuster against McCain’s measure that defines Federal Express as an airline, making it impossible for its truck drivers to join local unions. EMK uses tactics to delay a vote until October 3rd when Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD) and sixteen other Democrats join the Republicans to vote for cloture and pass the bill. (Clymer, pp. 568-569; 1996 CQ Almanac, p. 3-37)

**Fall**

EMK reportedly approaches McCain to join him on a bill for children’s health insurance. However, EMK works with Kerry to introduce a bill in October and then works with Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) in 1997. (The New York Times, 08/11/1997)

1997

**September**

The Senate approves an amendment by McCain and Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) to fund research on Parkinson’s disease in honor of Rep. Morris Udall (D-AZ). EMK supports the measure. Senator Dan Coats (R-IN) tries to add an amendment to ban federal money for research on aborted fetuses, but it fails with McCain and EMK voting against Coates. (1997 CQ Almanac, p. 9-55)

**November**

On the 7th, McCain introduces his tobacco bill (S1415) to increase taxes on cigarettes to $1.10 a pack to discourage teenage smokers, give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate nicotine and cap tobacco companies’ legal liability at $6.5 billion per year. The next day, EMK introduces his legislation (S1492) to raise the taxes on cigarettes by $1.50 a pack to discourage teenage smokers, compensate Federal and State Governments for a portion of the health costs of tobacco-related illnesses, enhance national investment in biomedical and basic scientific research and expand programs to address children’s needs. (THOMAS, S1415, S1492; The New York Times, 11/10/1997)

1998

McCain works on his tobacco bill (S1415). Senate Labor Committee members EMK, Bill Frist (R-TN), Hatch and James Jeffords (R-VT) work on FDA regulation. The bill gives the FDA authority to treat nicotine as its own class rather than as a drug or medical device. Creation of this new classification will help clear the way for FDA authority. Congress must be notified if the FDA decides to ban nicotine and will have two years to overturn the agency’s decision. EMK supports the bill, but it fails to reach the Senate floor. (Alexander, pp. 185-186; 1998 CQ Almanac, pp. 15-3 to 15-15)

1999

McCain and long-time aide, Mark Salter, publish their national bestseller, Faith of My Fathers, detailing McCain’s life as a POW.
February  
McCain votes for impeachment on both resolutions against Clinton in the Senate impeachment trial. EMK votes against impeachment; Clinton is acquitted. (*The New York Times*, 02/13/1999)

May  
Senators Russell Feingold (D-WI) and McCain are given the Profile in Courage Award for their work on election finance reform. They are the first elected officials of opposite parties to accept the award. (*The Boston Globe*, 05/25/1999)

July  
By a vote of 53-47, the Senate passes a GOP managed-care bill (S1344) after four days of partisan debate. Every Democrat and two Republicans vote against the bill; EMK votes for it. EMK leads Democratic debate on the floor. Republicans defeat every Democrat amendment aimed at expanding patients’ protections. Clinton vows to veto the bill. (*1999 CQ Almanac*, pp. 16-12 - 16-15)

September  
On the 27th, McCain announces his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president. He begins a tour on a bus dubbed the “Straight Talk Express.” (Alexander, pp. 197-198)

November  
EMK and Kerry work to restore $150 million from McCain’s transportation bill for Boston’s Central Artery/Tunnel Project or the “Big Dig.” Determined to eliminate wasteful spending, McCain wants to regulate an insurance program in which the Central Artery Project invested $150 million in bonds rather than road projects so it could increase its reserve for catastrophic emergency costs. McCain agrees to drop the item from the bill in order to get it passed. (*The Boston Globe*, 11/19/1999)

2000  
George W. Bush defeats McCain to win the Republican presidential nomination.

June  
EMK tries to attach the House managed care bill, minus several tax provisions, to a defense authorization measure (S 2549), but his amendment is tabled by Senator Don Nickles (R-OK) by a vote of 51-48. Republicans refuse to work with Democrats after EMK’s move. However, McCain is one of four Senate Republicans to go on record for the first time supporting expanded patients’ rights, under limited circumstances, to sue managed-care plans that delay or deny coverage. The Senate votes 51-47 for the expansion on the 29th. No agreement is reached in 2000. (*2000 CQ Almanac*, pp. 12-3, 12-12 – 12-13)

November  
George W. Bush defeats Al Gore in a contested presidential election. The Democrats pick up seats in the Senate resulting in a 50-50 party split.
2001

January  The Democrats regain control of the Senate for 17 days until Vice-President Gore, who has been the tie-breaking vote, is replaced by the new Vice President, Dick Cheney, giving the GOP control of the House, Senate and White House.

February  McCain joins EMK and Senator John Edwards (D-NC) as a co-sponsor for a patients’ bill of rights (S 1052). McCain writes in his memoir, “Almost all Americans support a patient’s bill of rights, as do all almost all the doctors and nurses in the country.” (McCain and Salter, *Worth the Fighting For*, p. 351; Clymer, pp. 595; Alexander, p. 338)


Early Spring  EMK and Daschle reportedly try to persuade McCain to switch parties in an effort to regain the Senate. McCain turns them down reportedly due to his Arizona constituency and his conservative stance on many issues such as abortion. (Drew, p. 74; Paul Alexander, *Man of the People: The Life of John McCain*, New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003, p. 350)

May  The Democrats regain control of the Senate when Jeffords leaves the Republican Party to caucus with the Democrats as an Independent. EMK regains chairmanship of the Labor Committee, now the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, as well as Judiciary’s Immigration and Refugee Affairs Subcommittee, and chairman of Armed Services’ Seapower Subcommittee.

Summer  On the 29th, Frist fails to substitute the managed-care/patients’ rights bill with a plan backed by President Bush. Frist’s plan has non-economic damages capped at $750,000, or three times the economic damages, and prohibits punitive damages. It also requires a patient to exhaust all administrative appeals before suing. EMK and McCain vote against the amendment. (2001 CQ Almanac, pp. 12-5, S-46)

By a vote of 59-36, the Senate passes managed-care/patients’ rights legislation sponsored by EMK, McCain and Edwards. The bill is similar to the Norwood-Dingell bill passed by the House in 1999. By a vote of 226-203, the House approves a GOP-backed bill (HR 2563) in a near party-line vote. In a reversal of previous year, the Senate bill now contains greater patient protections than the House bill. As before, the right of patients to sue their health plans is the biggest difference between the bills. (2000 CQ Almanac, pp. 12-3 - 12-7)

Rep. Charles Norwood (R-GA) is called to the White House to negotiate with Bush on behalf of EMK and the other patients’ bill of rights co-sponsors. Norwood reportedly angers Democrats when he offers Bush concessions on the
spot, including a key one on liability. Noneconomic damages are reportedly set at a low level. EMK is unable to get the White House to make further concessions.

**August**
The Norwood–Bush compromise patients’ bill of rights amendment to an underlying bill passes the House 218-213. It is reportedly fairly close to Norwood-Dingell on everything but liability. However, all movement on patients’ bill of rights stops after 9/11. (Clymer, p. 596)

**September**
9/11 terrorists attack New York and the Pentagon.

**2002**
McCain and Salter publish McCain’s memoir, *Worth the Fighting For*.

**March**

**May**
McCain appears before the HELP Committee to push for faster access to lower-priced generic drugs after the patents for the original brand expires. (*The Boston Globe*, 05/14/2002)

**August**
After EMK, McCain, Edwards and the Bush administration fail to reach agreement on a patients’ rights bill after months of informal negotiations, Daschle moves to appoint conferees to reconcile the two versions. Republicans object to the move and neither chamber ends up appointing conferees in 2002. (*2002 CQ Almanac*, pp. 10-7 - 10-8)

**October**
On the 11th, by a vote of 296-133, the House passes a resolution authorizing the use of military force against Iraq. With McCain’s support, the Senate approves the resolution later that day 77-23. EMK votes against it and argues on the floor, “The more we debate the war, the more we learn of the danger of going to war alone…. [L]et us build international support, try the United Nations, and pursue disarmament before we turn to armed conflict.” (*Congressional Record*, 10/10/2002) Bush signs the bill on the 16th. (*2002 CQ Almanac*, p. 9-3)

**November**
The Republicans regain control of the Senate in the midterm elections, returning to the GOP control of the House, Senate and White House. EMK loses chairmanship of the HELP Committee.

**2003**

**January**
EMK steps up his criticism on unilateral action against Iraq and supports Senator Robert Byrd’s (D-WV) resolution to give the weapons inspectors more time and seek a UN resolution before going to war. McCain responds, “The senator from Massachusetts apparently believes we should revoke the authority of the commander in chief.” (*The Boston Globe*, 01/30/2003)
March  After U.N. efforts fail to approve a final resolution, Bush initiates military action against Iraq on the 19\textsuperscript{th}. On the 20\textsuperscript{th}, the Senate adopts a resolution commending the president and the U.S. armed forces for their efforts in the Iraqi conflict with EMK and McCain vote in favor. On the 21\textsuperscript{st} EMK and McCain (with three other Republicans) vote in favor of and the Senate adopts a resolution “to set aside a reserve fund for possible military action and reconstruction in Iraq.” (S.Amdt. 270, Roll Call Vote Summary, 108\textsuperscript{th} Congress; Selected Congressional Votes Since 1982, p. 36; 2002 CQ Almanac, p. S-17)

McCain and EMK oppose Bush’s new round of tax cuts as ill-timed during a war. (The New York Times, 03/19/2003; The Boston Globe, 03/20/2003)

May  Standing before a “Mission Accomplished” banner, Bush announces aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln that “major combat missions in Iraq have ended….And now our coalition is engaged in securing and reconstructing that country.” (The Washington Post, 05/02/2003)

July  Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the occupation of Iraq. EMK is concerned U.S. troops have become policemen in a “shooting gallery.” (The Washington Post, 07/10/2003) McCain tells Rumsfeld that the Bush Administration needs to tell the American people how many troops are needed and how long they are needed. (The Washington Post, 07/10/2003)

September  Faced with two wars in south central Asia, Congress passes its most expensive defense spending package in history on the 25\textsuperscript{th}. EMK and McCain vote in favor. (2003 CQ Almanac, p. 2-42, S-67)

November  EMK attends the burial at Arlington National Cemetery of Private 1\textsuperscript{st} Class John Hart who had been killed in Iraq. His parents, Brian and Alma, tell EMK about their son’s wish to get armor for the Humvees in Iraq. EMK speaks to Senator John Warner (R-VA), who chairs the Armed Forces Committee, about scheduling hearings. Warner agrees to hold hearings later that month. EMK also raises the lack of armored Humvees issue with General Peter Schoomaker.

McCain urges Bush to send 20,000 more troops to help occupy Iraq. (The Boston Globe, 11/07/2003)

The Republican Congressional leadership announces agreement on a Medicare prescription drug bill. McCain and EMK, who had supported earlier versions of the bill, attempt to filibuster but are defeated in a 29-70 cloture vote. McCain opposes the 10 year, $400 billion price tag for the program and EMK calls the bill “a calculated program to unravel Medicare, to privatize it, to voucherize it, and to put seniors in the cold arms of HMOs.” (Boston Globe, 11/23/2003; 2003 CQ Almanac, pp. 11-7 - 11-13, S-82; The Washington Post, 11/24/2003)
2004 

January 
Senators Chuck Hagel (R-NE), Daschle and EMK work together on an immigration bill to provide certain undocumented workers legal status. However, EMK ends up working with McCain on a more comprehensive bill, while Daschle and Hagel introduce their own bill. (*CQ Weekly*, 01/10/2004, p. 97; *The Washington Post*, 05/15/2005)

April 
EMK, McCain, Daschle, and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) co-sponsor S 2328, a bill to allow cheaper drugs into the U.S. from Canada, prohibit drug manufacturers from clamping down on wholesale supplies and permit pharmacists and wholesalers to import drugs from the European Union. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) introduces his bill in June to retain drug manufacturers’ power to limit wholesale supply. Frist does not allow any bill to come to the floor. (2004 *CQ Almanac*, pp. 10-4 - 10-5; *The Boston Globe*, 06/05/2004; *The Washington Post*, 09/21/2004)

May-Sept. 
The Armed Services Committee holds a series of hearings on prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. McCain and EMK lead the questioning of Rumsfeld and other Defense Department officials. Both believe that high-ranking officials and officers should take responsibility. By the end of the hearings, EMK asks Rumsfeld to resign and McCain states he has “no confidence” in Rumsfeld to lead the Pentagon. (*The New York Times*, 05/08/2004, 05/12/2004; *The Boston Globe*, 05/12/2004)

2005 
McCain and Salter publish their fourth book, *Character is Destiny: Inspiring Stories Every Young Person should Know and Every Adult should Remember.*

February 
EMK and McCain co-sponsor Snowe’s drug import bill (S 239), which never leaves the Finance Committee. (THOMAS on S 239; *The Boston Globe*, 02/10/2005)

April 
Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN) and EMK co-sponsor an amendment for additional funding to increase production of armored Humvees and keep the Armor Holdings plant from closing. EMK convinces McCain to get several Republicans to vote for the amendment and it passes 61-39.

May 
EMK and McCain unveil their comprehensive immigration bill to tighten border patrols, establish a temporary visa program and create a procedure for illegal aliens to become citizens. EMK and McCain had reportedly worked with the Bush White House to help build broad support for the bipartisan legislation. (*The Boston Globe*, 05/13/2005)

A bipartisan group of 14 Senators, including McCain, Warner and Byrd, reach a compromise to end a heated Senate showdown over the elimination of the
filibuster against judicial nominations. EMK reportedly does not play a direct role in the agreement. (2005 CQ Almanac, p. 14-9; The New York Times, 05/24/2005)

**June**

EMK tables a Senate resolution calling on the IRA to disarm and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) to commit to power sharing. The resolution is co-sponsored by Senators McCain, Chris Dodd (D-CT), Joe Biden (D-DE), Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Susan Collins (R-ME). It recognizes the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement as “the blueprint for lasting peace in Northern Ireland” and demands that the IRA “immediately complete the process of decommissioning, cease to exist as a paramilitary organisation and end its involvement in any way in paramilitary and criminal activity.” (The Irish Times, 06/20/2005)

**July**

A second immigration bill is introduced by Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and John Cornyn (R-TX), which is a more conservative version of the EMK-McCain bill. The bill would allow foreign nationals to work in the U.S. for up to two years before returning to their home countries and would require illegal immigrants already here to return home before applying to join that program. The bill would also add 10,000 new Border Patrol officers, 1,250 customs officers, more jail space and $5 billion high-tech spending to improve border control. (The Houston Chronicle, 07/20/2005)

**October**

McCain introduces the McCain Detainee Amendment to establish the U.S. Army Field Manual on Intelligence Interrogation as the uniform standard for interrogating persons detained by the Department of Defense and prohibit cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment of any prisoner detained by the U.S. government. It passes by a 90-9 vote with EMK voting for it. (CQ Weekly, 10/05/2005)

During a Judiciary hearing on immigration, Bush officials unveil their support for a temporary-worker program, but remain tough on letting such workers stay in the country indefinitely. They would support illegal immigrants working for three years, and possibly three more, before returning home. Bush would later state his opposition to amnesty. (The Washington Post, 10/22/2005, 11/29/2005)

**December**

The House passes an immigration reform bill which is reportedly more conservative than the EMK-McCain bill. House GOP leaders are particularly opposed to any kind of amnesty program for illegal aliens. The House bill requires businesses to verify all workers’ legal status and increase sentences for those smuggling immigrants across the U.S. border. The bill also expands the grounds for which immigrants can be deported and authorizes local police to enforce federal immigration laws. The legislation makes it a felony to be in the U.S. illegally and authorizes the building of a two-layer southwestern border fence with surveillance cameras, lighting and motion sensors. The business lobby expresses dissatisfaction at the lack of a temporary-worker program, while Hispanic/Latino groups and the Catholic Church object to the perceived punitive nature of the bill. (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 12/17/2005)
2006

March

On the 16th, Senate Majority Leader Frist offers as a substitute a narrower version of the bill with greater focus on border security and no guest worker program. He asks Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), the Senate Judiciary Committee chair, to help find votes to break a filibuster. (Sacramento Bee, 04/03/2006)

On the 27th, the Senate Judiciary Committee passes the EMK-McCain immigration reform bill. (The Washington Post, 03/28/2006)

April

Compromise on immigration reform collapses as Democrats under Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) reject conservative Republican amendments designed to reduce the number of illegal immigrants eligible for citizenship. EMK meets with Reid to urge him to move ahead with the bill since Democrats have enough votes to stop objectionable changes, but Reid delays action. Both McCain and EMK report disappointment that politics got “in front” of this issue. (The Washington Post, 04/08/2006, 04/12/2006)

May

The Senate passes the EMK and McCain immigration bill, which contains provisions designed to tighten border security, such as ordering the deportation of illegal immigrants convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors, building a 370-mile triple-layer fence between U.S. and Mexico and declares English the U.S. national language. It also contains a guest worker program and a procedure for illegal immigrants to become citizens. The guest-worker program would admit 200,000 foreign workers for U.S. employers who cannot find U.S. workers to fill positions. Also, the bill creates a second guest-worker program for immigrant farm workers, who can earn permanent legal residency. The path to citizenship divides illegal immigrants into three categories. Those who have been in the U.S. for more than five years can become citizens if they demonstrate employment for three years, pass security checks, pay fines and back taxes and enroll in English classes. Those who have been in the U.S. for two to five years have to leave the country and apply for a work visa to return as guest workers. While here as guest workers, they can then apply for permanent residency. Those who have been in the U.S. for fewer than two years have to leave without a guarantee of being admitted as guest workers. The bill also contains a worker verification system. Critics of the House bill, including La Raza and the Roman Catholic Church, line up behind the Senate bill. (The New York Times, 05/26/20; Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 05/26/2006)

September

McCain and EMK urge Bush to help bring House and Senate leaders to the White House to broker an agreement on immigration reform. However, efforts to reach a compromise between the House and Senate bills collapse and Senate leaders turn their attention to building a border fence. The collapse comes after House GOP leaders have spent much of the summer holding field hearings, which backers of
the bipartisan plan label as delay tactics meant to drum up anti-immigration sentiment. (*The Washington Post*, 09/05/2006, 09/30/2006)

The Armed Services Committee approves a Warner-Mc McCain-Graham bill to authorize military tribunals to try terrorist suspects. It prohibits the use of classified evidence that the accused cannot see and defines interrogation under the Geneva Conventions. However, Bush argues that the Geneva Conventions are too vague on interrogations. EMK and committee Democrats vote for the bill. After McCain gets Bush to agree to outlaw torture, sexual assault, biological experimentation, mutilation or maiming and intentional infliction of serious bodily injury, the final bill passes the Senate in a 65-34 vote. For EMK the ban is too vague and his efforts to amend the bill to delineate specific interrogation methods fail. EMK does not vote for the final bill because it does not go far enough to curb torture techniques and allow detainee rights to appeal. McCain votes against EMK’s amendment and votes for the bill. (*2006 CQ Almanac*, pp. 5-9 to 5-13; *The Boston Globe*, 09/29/2006)

**November** The Democrats regain control of the House and Senate. EMK regains chairmanship of the HELP Committee.

**2007**

**January** McCain becomes Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee. EMK becomes chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee.

Bush announces a “surge” of 28,500 new U.S. troops into the Baghdad and the Anbar Province to help improve security. McCain supports the surge; EMK does not. (*Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror: Selected Legislation from the 110th Congress*, Congressional Research Services, p. 4; *Time Magazine*, 12/18/2006)

**February** Mitt Romney announces his campaign for the Republican nomination for president.

**March** On an amendment to strike the date of March 31, 2008, for withdrawal fro Iraq, EMK votes for the date certain while McCain votes against, saying “this bill should be named the Date Certain for Surrender Act.” (*The New York Times*, 03/28/2007) The amendment passes the Senate in a 50-48 vote. (*CQ Weekly*, 03/27/2007)

**April** McCain announces his campaign for the Republican nomination for president.

**Spring** Efforts to revive the EMK-Mc McCain immigration legislation reportedly stall as McCain draws strong criticism for working with EMK and for his position on “amnesty.” The press also reports that EMK’s demand for labor-related provisions like wage guarantees are a sticking point. EMK changes tactics and
begin working with the White House and Kyl to revive the Senate’s bipartisan immigration bill. Kyl and Cornyn had sponsored an immigration bill the previous year that was more in line with the conservative House immigration bill. (*The Washington Times, 05/09/2007; USA Today, 05/14/2007*)

May

During a meeting on the immigration bill, McCain and Cornyn exchange heated words with EMK present. Senate leaders from both parties announce they have reached an agreement on immigration to toughen border security, create a guest worker and path-to-citizenship programs. As a concession to conservatives, the plan would shift the U.S. visa system from family- to merit-based, in which a point system would be used to evaluate visa candidates on the basis of job skills, education and English language proficiency. However, foreign-born spouses and minor children would continue to receive visa preference. (http: www.Powerlineblog.com; *The New York Times, 05/18/2007*)

June

On the 7th, Reid pulls the immigration bill after three failed cloture votes. Another attempt on the 28th fails as well as McCain and EMK vote for cloture, but the bill only get 53 votes. (*2007 CQ Almanac, p. 15-9; The Washington Post, 07/08/2007*)

2008

January

EMK announces his support for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama.

On the eve of the Republican Florida primary, Romney attacks McCain for pushing an “amnesty bill” for illegal immigrants with EMK. (*The Boston Globe, 01/28/2008*)

February

EMK campaigns for Obama in Illinois comparing him to his brother JFK. (*The Boston Globe, 02/02/2008*)

March


May

EMK is diagnosed with a brain tumor. McCain responds, "I have described Ted Kennedy as the last lion in the Senate, and I have held that view because he remains the single most effective member of the Senate." (*The Washington Post, 05/21/2008*)

August

EMK makes a surprise appearance and speech at the Democratic National Convention. Obama accepts the Democratic nomination.

McCain selects Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running-mate.
October  Ethel Kennedy campaigns for Obama in New Hampshire. Her grandson, Matt, has campaigned for Obama in the state since his graduation from Harvard business school. (*The Boston Globe*, 10/05/2008)

November  Obama defeats McCain in the general election.

2009


February  Obama unveils a plan to leave 35,000 to 50,000 troops in Iraq until 2011, while pulling out the majority of the 142,000 troops by August 31, 2010. Both McCain and EMK support the plan. (*The Boston Globe*, 02/28/2009)

March  McCain attends EMK’s 77th birthday party at the Kennedy Center. EMK is also presented with the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. (*USA Today*, 03/09/2009)

April  EMK and McCain attend a HELP Committee hearing on Obama’s nomination of Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius for Secretary of Health and Human Services. (*The Boston Globe*, 04/01/2009)

July  McCain successfully leads the effort to cut funding for twelve additional F-22 Raptor fighter planes that EMK voted for in the Armed Services Committee the previous year. (*The Boston Globe*, 07/22/2009)

August  Discussing the impact of EMK’s absence in the health care debate on ABC’s “This Week with George Stephanopoulos, McCain suggests, “he had a unique way of sitting down with the parties at a table and making the right concessions, which really are the essence of successful negotiations.” (*The Boston Globe*, 08/24/2009)

On the 26th, EMK dies of brain cancer at his home in Hyannis Port. McCain releases a statement saying, “My friend, Ted Kennedy, was famous before he was accomplished. But by the end of his life he had become irreplaceable in the institution he loved and in the affections of its members.” (http://mccain.senate.gov/public/)

McCain eulogizes EMK at his memorial service in Boston.
House Service: 1983-1987  
Senate Service: 1987-Present

Committees with EMK:
- HELP (2009-present; EMK Chair); Children and Families Subcommittee.

Other Senate committees:
- Governmental Affairs (1987-present).
- Select Committee on Indian Affairs (1987-present).
- Select Committee on Aging (1987-1995).
- Energy and Natural Resources (2009-present).

Issues that McCain worked on with EMK:
- Noriega/Panama: McCain and EMK co-sponsored a bill to keep a freeze on U.S. aid to Panama under General Manuel Noriega intact.
- Kassebaum-Kennedy Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996: McCain was a co-sponsor.
- Tobacco legislation: after failing to win support for his own tobacco bill, EMK supported McCain’s bill, working on the FDA regulatory aspects of McCain’s bill in 1998; the bill failed to reach the Senate floor.
- Patient Bill of Rights: In 2001, EMK, McCain, and John Edwards drafted legislation that passed the Senate, but a final agreement with the House and the Bush administration was never reached.
- Comprehensive immigration reform: EMK and McCain cosponsored legislation which passed the Senate in 2006; controversial “amnesty” provisions providing pathway to citizenship later helped to derail the bipartisan legislation.
- Drug import legislation: in 2004-2005, EMK, McCain, Tom Daschle and Olympia Snowe co-sponsored legislation to provide Americans with access to cheaper drugs from Canada and Europe.
- Abu Ghraib prison: in 2004, EMK and McCain led the effort on Armed Services to investigate the prison abuses.
Other issues:

- McCain and Russell Feingold are given the Profile in Courage Award for their work in election finance reform.
- Iraq: McCain supported the use of force in Iraq both in 1991 and 2003; (he reportedly lamented that Saddam Hussein remained in power after the first Gulf War); as early as 2003, McCain recommended more troops to occupy Iraq and supported the 2007 surge; EMK opposed both wars and the surge; after 2003, both called for the U.S. to develop a better plan for rebuilding Iraq and working towards withdrawal.
- Torture of terrorist detainees: in 2006, McCain worked on a bill authorizing military tribunals to try terrorist suspects; McCain worked with Bush to outlaw certain torture; however, EMK did not support the final bill because he wanted to ban specific torture techniques like water-boarding and to give detainees a right to appeal.