First elected to Congress in 1980, Barney Frank represented Massachusetts’s 4th District for 32 years. He is known as a superb legislator and a pragmatic politician whose sharp intellect and sense of humor made him one of Washington’s most influential and colorful figures.

While in Congress, Frank worked to adjust America’s spending priorities to reduce the deficit, provide less funding for the military and more for quality of life at home. As chair of the House Financial Services Committee, Frank was instrumental in crafting a compromise bill to stem the tide of home mortgage foreclosures, as well as the subsequent $550 billion rescue plan. He worked to adopt sweeping financial regulations to prevent a recurrence of this crisis and was a key author of the 2010 Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

In 1987, Frank became the first member of Congress to voluntarily come out as openly gay, and in 2012 he married his long-time partner, becoming the nation’s first congressman in a same-sex marriage while in office.

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