

Capitol Muses

The rotunda of the Michigan State Capitol contains eight monumental female figures, or muses, designed to represent eight priorities of the state in the late 19th Century. Their artist, Italian Tommaso Juglaris, lived and worked in Boston in the 1880s, when he painted these figures in his studio. They were mounted in the dome in 1886.

Juglaris's work may have been influenced by Constantino Brumidi, the Italian-born artist of the historical allegories painted inside the dome of the U.S. Capitol in 1865. Over a twenty-five-year period, Brumidi created several works of art for the nation's capitol, including the "Apotheosis of Washington," which features both allegorical and historical figures. Juglaris, as another respected and talented Italian decorative artist, may have been seen as Brumidi's worthy successor.

It is believed that Juglaris may have obtained the commission for the muses from William Wright, owner of the decorative paint firm responsible for decorating the walls and ceilings throughout the Capitol. He did not receive credit for his work because of his status as a non-citizen, and was not identified as the artist until 1992 when a visiting scholar, in conjunction with the Capitol historian, correctly attributed the paintings to Juglaris. The key to unlocking the mystery was the discovery that a symbol used to sign the works – previously thought to resemble a human figure – was actually Juglaris's initials imposed one upon another. This symbol can be seen below.



Rotunda Portraits, continued



Murray D. Van Wagoner
Michigan's 38th Governor, 1941-1943 Democrat

A former Michigan Highway Commissioner, Murray Van Wagoner oversaw a large expansion of the state's highway system during his time in the executive office. Upon America's entry into World War II, Van Wagoner encouraged Michigan manufacturers to retool their businesses for the production of wartime goods, earning Michigan the title "The Arsenal of Democracy."



Luren D. Dickinson
Michigan's 37th Governor, 1939-1940 Republican

Luren Dickinson, a seven-time lieutenant governor of Michigan, became governor unexpectedly in 1939 when his predecessor, Governor Frank Fitzgerald, died in office. Aged 79 at the time, Dickinson is Michigan's oldest governor. He is also the only lieutenant governor in Michigan to assume the governor's office upon the death of his predecessor. He appointed Matilda Dodge Wilson to serve as his lieutenant governor, making her the first woman to hold this office.



Frank Murphy
Michigan's 35th Governor, 1937-1939 Democrat

Frank Murphy is today remembered as Michigan's "Labor Governor," since one of his first acts in office was to mediate the end of the Strike with General Motors. Prior to his term as governor, Murphy served as a U.S. District Attorney in Detroit and as a judge in Detroit's Recorder Court where he presided over a 1926 landmark civil rights case. After serving as Mayor of Detroit, President Roosevelt named him governor-general of the Philippines in 1933 and, later, high commissioner. After his term as governor, Roosevelt named him United States Attorney General, and then, in 1940, he was appointed to the United States Supreme Court, where he served until his death in 1949.



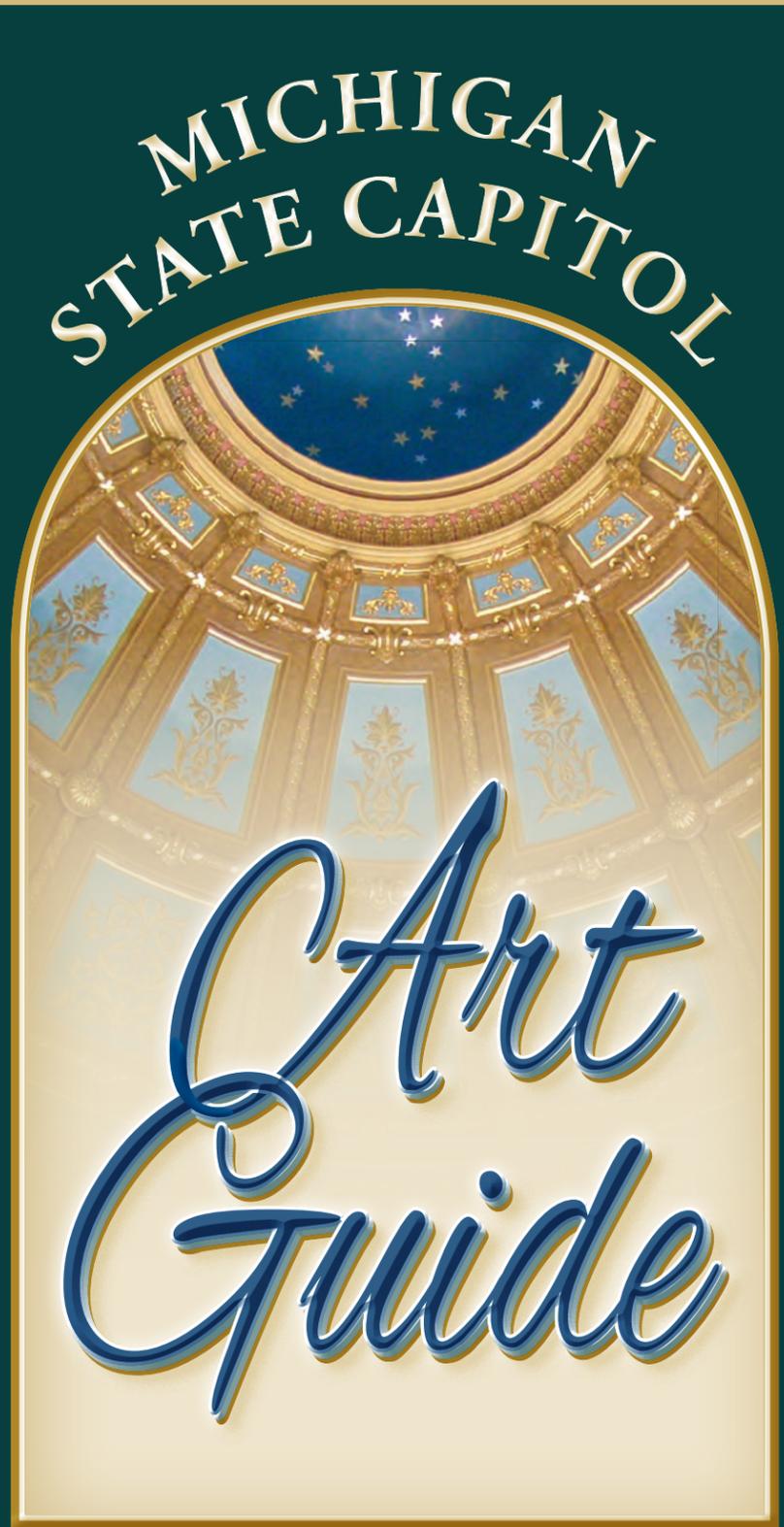
Frank D. Fitzgerald
Michigan's 34th and 36th Governor, 1935-1937, 1939 Republican

Frank Fitzgerald was a life-long public servant and the only Michigan governor to begin his career at the very bottom of the state's bureaucracy and rise to the very top. He is also the only Michigan executive to recapture the governor's office from a man (Frank Murphy) who had beaten him in the previous election, and the only governor to die in office. Upon his death, Fitzgerald laid in state in the Michigan State Capitol rotunda, the first governor to do so.



Wilbur M. Brucker
Michigan's 32nd Governor, 1931-1932 Republican

When Wilbur Brucker took office at age 36, neither his experience as a soldier in World War I nor his election as state attorney general prepared him for the challenges facing Michigan during the Great Depression. Overwhelmed by a dwindling state budget and chronic high unemployment, Brucker was defeated after one term in office. His career was not yet finished, however. After his term as governor, President Eisenhower appointed him Secretary of the Army.



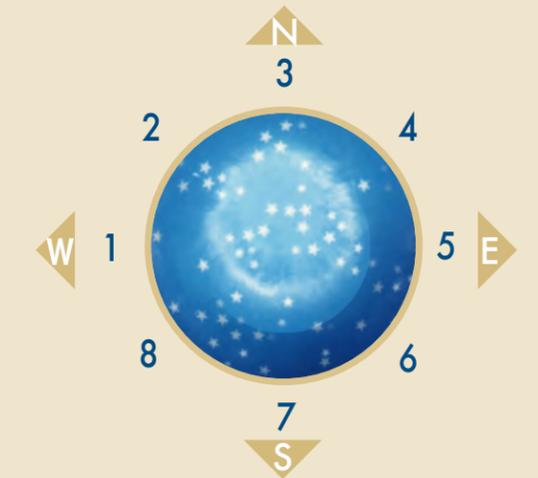
Michigan Capitol Commission

Capitol Building • Capitol Square

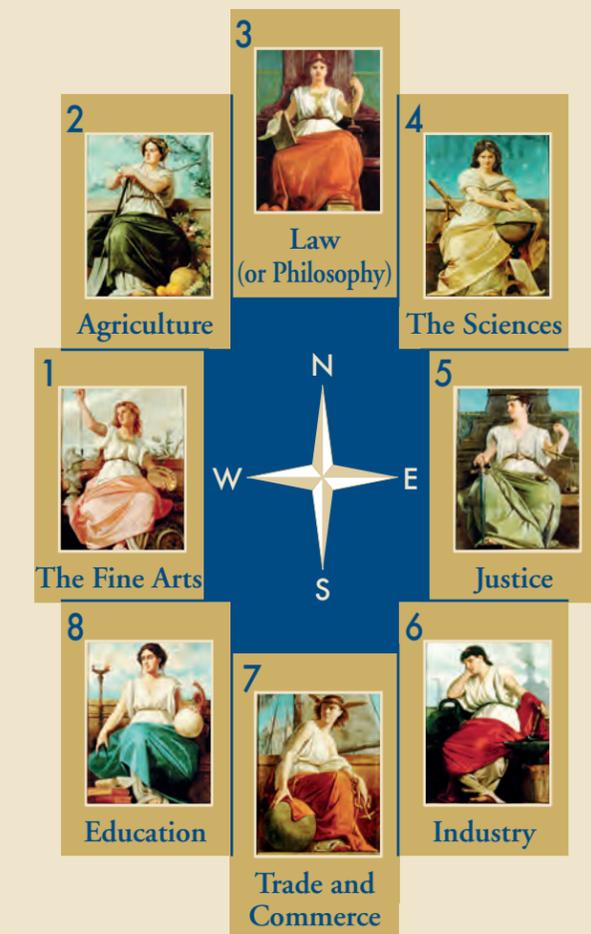
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Capitol Muse Diagram

To view the muses, proceed to the first floor rotunda, or the third floor rotunda gallery.

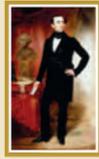


Begin on the western side of the building with the muse for The Fine Arts, and continue clockwise.



House Chamber

To view these portraits, visit the House Gallery located on the Capitol's third floor in the north wing. As you face the rostrum, begin with the first portrait on your left and move clockwise.



Stevens T. Mason
Governor of Michigan, 1835-1839
Mason became the territorial secretary and frequently served as the acting territorial governor of Michigan beginning at age 19. He was elected Michigan's first state governor at age 24. He remains the youngest governor in American history. Only 31 when he died, he is interred in Detroit at the site of Michigan's first capitol.

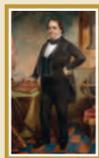


Hazen S. Pingree
Governor of Michigan, 1897-1901
While Mayor of Detroit, prior to his time as governor, reformer Pingree encouraged struggling Detroiters to plant vegetable gardens on city land, earning the nickname "Potato Patch Pingree."



Douglass Houghton
Michigan State Geologist, 1837-1845

Although not a governor, Houghton was a noted explorer, medical doctor, and University of Michigan professor. He is best remembered for his work exploring the vast copper deposits in the Keweenaw region of the Upper Peninsula.



Lewis Cass
Michigan Territorial Governor, 1813-1818, 1820, 1822-1823, 1825-1826, 1828-1829

Called the "Father of Michigan," Cass served as territorial governor and helped steer Michigan to statehood. He negotiated treaties with Native Americans, served in the U.S. Senate, was Secretary of War and Minister to France under President Jackson, and Secretary of State under President Buchanan.

Rotunda Portraits, Gallery of the Governors



Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan's 47th Governor, 2003-2010 Democrat

Jennifer Granholm, Michigan's first female governor, is depicted gazing into the future. A wind turbine, a model of a Chevrolet Volt electric car, a shovel (used at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new battery plant), and an image of the Ford River Rouge automobile plant represent her interest in renewable energy and manufacturing. Carefully selected book titles fill the bookcase, which also holds a picture of her husband and three children and the sculpture "Spirit of Detroit." A mortarboard and tassel denote her interest in education, and the Bible, her faith. The governor's hand rests on a globe, representing her efforts to recruit international business to the state during a time of increasing globalization.



John Engler
Michigan's 46th Governor, 1991-2003 Republican

John Engler is the last governor to serve Michigan for three terms, following the adoption of gubernatorial term limits in 1992. His portrait reflects his political philosophy, represented by the bust of Abraham Lincoln, an elephant, an Adam Smith-inspired tie, and a biography of Margaret Thatcher. Other books include a biography of Pope John Paul II, representing Engler's faith, and *Stewards of State*, a history of Michigan governors. Engler's wife and triplet daughters are depicted in a framed picture on the table. Yellow roses, found both in the portrait and on its frame, represent his wife's Texas heritage. The governor's hand holds the blueprints for the Capitol's landmark restoration, which he championed.



James J. Blanchard
Michigan's 45th Governor, 1983-1991 Democrat

Before being elected governor, James Blanchard served in Congress, where in the 1970s he authored the Chrysler Loan Guarantee Act, saving the company from collapse, as represented by the small Chrysler car in his portrait. As governor, Blanchard created the Michigan Educational Trust, which allows families to pre-purchase college tuition for young children, represented by a diploma, tied with a green ribbon for Blanchard's alma mater, Michigan State University. Also found in the portrait is a poster created for Michigan's 1987 sesquicentennial celebration and a vase of Canadian maple leaves, representing his appointment by President Clinton as ambassador to Canada upon the completion of his second gubernatorial term. The two red *Congressional Records* represent his time in Congress.



William G. Milliken
Michigan's 44th Governor, 1969-1982 Republican

William Milliken is Michigan's longest-serving governor, having served 14 years in office. A moderate coalition-builder, he strengthened land conservation and environmental conservation laws, increased the focus on civil rights, and strengthened the relationship between the governor's office and the City of Detroit. He was also instrumental in saving the present capitol building from destruction, paving the way for its eventual restoration (1989-1992). Milliken stands in front of his desk, which bears the Great Seal of the State of Michigan.



George W. Romney
Michigan's 43rd Governor, 1963-1969 Republican

Prior to becoming governor, George Romney came to prominence in Michigan as the president of American Motors Corporation. As governor, Romney instituted Michigan's first state income tax. A driving force behind the need to modernize and streamline Michigan's 1908 constitution, his leadership led to the adoption of a new constitution in 1963. After a brief and unsuccessful bid for the presidency, Romney resigned from the governor's office in 1969 to become the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Nixon.



John B. Swainson
Michigan's 42nd Governor, 1961-1962 Democrat

John Swainson became Michigan's second youngest elected governor at the age of 35. A World War II veteran, Swainson lost both legs while serving in France. As governor he worked to increase awareness for people with disabilities. Swainson's artificial legs are represented in his portrait by the lighter shading used on his pants below the knee. The rather abstract nature of the portrait represents the fact that Swainson, only 37 years old when he left the governor's office, felt that his political career was then still unfinished.



G. Mennen Williams
Michigan's 41st Governor, 1949-1960 Democrat

G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams, the heir to the Mennen family fortune, was the first person to serve twelve years as Michigan's governor. As governor he oversaw the construction of the Mackinac Bridge, which he called his proudest accomplishment. In his portrait, Williams, wearing his trademark green and white polka-dot bow tie, is surrounded by items symbolizing his career, including a cross, the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, a bust of President Roosevelt, and a globe, which represents his work abroad in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. The six red books on his desk are *Michigan Manuals*, each representing one of his six two-year gubernatorial terms (until Michigan's current constitution was adopted in 1963, governor's served two-year terms, rather than four years as today). In the background hangs the white official flag of Michigan's governors.



Kim Sigler
Michigan's 40th Governor, 1947-1948 Republican

Kim Sigler came to prominence as a crime fighter in Michigan during the 1940s when he helped prosecute Detroit's infamous "Purple Gang." He also served as special prosecutor in a widespread legislative corruption case. As governor, Sigler was known as a dapper dresser who owned dozens of suits, his flamboyant style earning him the nickname "Hollywood Kim." He was a licensed pilot and while governor often flew his own airplane, shown in his portrait, to official functions. In 1953, after he left office, he died piloting the airplane when it crashed upon landing near Battle Creek.



Harry F. Kelly
Michigan's 39th Governor, 1943-1947 Republican

In many ways, Harry Kelly's political career can be said to have begun in World War I, when he lost a leg fighting in France. After the war, he served as an assistant Wayne County prosecutor, Michigan Liquor Control Commissioner, and Michigan Secretary of State. Kelly's experience as a decorated war veteran helped prepare him to lead the state during the final years of World War II. Among his accomplishments as governor were the establishment of a trust fund to aid veterans and an expansion of Michigan's colleges and universities.

Senate Chamber

To view these portraits, visit the Senate Gallery located on the Capitol's third floor in the south wing. As you face the rostrum, begin with the portrait on your left and move clockwise.



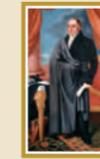
Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette
French hero of the American Revolution
This portrait of Lafayette, the young French nobleman who fought beside George Washington during the American Revolution, was purchased in 1837 and has hung in all three Michigan capitols.



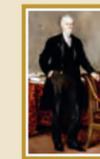
Austin Blair
Michigan's Civil War Governor, 1860-1864
Blair dedicated much of his efforts as governor to recruiting Michiganders to serve during the Civil War. Twenty-five percent of the state's male population fought, making Michigan's contribution among the highest of the Northern states.



Eva McCall Hamilton
Michigan's First Female Legislator, 1921-1922
Hamilton was elected to the Michigan Senate in the first election after women won the right to vote in 1920. A noted suffragette, she focused on women's and children's issues.



Lewis Cass
Michigan Territorial Governor, 1813-1818, 1820, 1822-1823, 1825-1826, 1828-1829
Called the "Father of Michigan," Cass served as territorial governor and helped steer Michigan to statehood. He negotiated treaties with Native Americans, served in the U.S. Senate, was Secretary of War and Minister to France under President Jackson, and Secretary of State under President Buchanan.



Russell A. Alger
Governor of Michigan, 1885-1886
A decorated war hero who fought in the Civil War, rising from private to general, Alger made a fortune as lumber baron after the war. He served as Secretary of War under President McKinley and was appointed – and then elected – to the U.S. Senate.



Henry H. Crapo
Governor of Michigan, 1865-1869
At the conclusion of the Civil War, Crapo accepted and promised to forever preserve Michigan's regimental battle flags. The original flags are now being preserved at the Michigan Historical Museum. Replicas hang in the Capitol rotunda.

See reverse side for additional Rotunda Portraits