

JUSTICES WITH MILITARY SERVICE

Many of the 116 Justices appointed since 1790 to the Supreme Court of the United States have had prior military service. Among them are Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (Retired), and Justice Stephen G. Breyer (Retired).



First row (left to right): William J. Brennan, Jr., Stephen G. Breyer, Frank Murphy, and Byron R. White

Second row (left to right): William H. Rehnquist, Anthony M. Kennedy, Samuel A. Alito, Jr., and John Paul Stevens

Third row (left to right): Oliver Wendell Holmes, Lewis F. Powell, Jr., and Earl Warren

Office of the Curator • Supreme Court of the United States

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JUSTICES WITH MILITARY SERVICE

The forty (40) Supreme Court Justices with military service are listed below chronologically, by their Supreme Court service dates. List runs left to right.

John Jay
Colonel
New York Militia
1776-1778
Revolutionary War

Thomas Johnson
Brigadier General
Maryland Militia
1776-1777
Revolutionary War

William Paterson
Officer
Minutemen
1776-1778
Revolutionary War

Bushrod Washington
Private
Continental Army
1780-1781
Revolutionary War

Alfred Moore
Captain
Continental Army
1776-1777

Colonel
North Carolina Militia
1777-1781
Revolutionary War

John Marshall
First Lieutenant
Culpeper Minutemen
1775-1776

Captain
Continental Army
1776-1781
Revolutionary War

Brockholst Livingston
Lieutenant Colonel
Continental Army
1776-1779
Revolutionary War

Thomas Todd
Private
Continental Army
1781
Revolutionary War

Gabriel Duvall
Private, Muster Master
Maryland Militia
1776-1777
Revolutionary War

James M. Wayne
Captain
Georgia Hussars Militia
1813-1815
War of 1812

John Catron
Sergeant Major
U.S. Volunteers
1813-1815
War of 1812

John A. Campbell
Cadet
U.S. Military Academy
1825-1828*
**Left to care for his family
following the death of his father*

John Marshall Harlan
Colonel
U.S. Volunteers
1861-1863
Civil War

William B. Woods
Brigadier General
U.S. Volunteers
1862-1866
Civil War

Stanley Matthews
Colonel
U.S. Volunteers
1861-1863
Civil War

Lucius Q. C. Lamar
Lieutenant Colonel
C.S.A.
1861-1865
Civil War

Edward D. White
Private
C.S.A.
1861-1865
Civil War

Oliver Wendell Holmes
Captain
U.S. Volunteers
1861-1864
Civil War

JUSTICES WITH MILITARY SERVICE

Horace H. Lurton
Sergeant Major
C.S.A.
1861-1865
Civil War

Hugo L. Black
Captain
U.S. Army
1917-1918
World War I

Stanley F. Reed
First Lieutenant
U.S. Army
1917-1918
World War I

Felix Frankfurter
Major
U.S. Army
1914

William O. Douglas
Private
U.S. Army
1917-1919
World War I

Frank Murphy
First Lieutenant
U.S. Army
1919
World War I

Lieutenant Colonel
U.S. Army
1942

Harold H. Burton
Captain
U.S. Army
1917-1919
World War I

Tom C. Clark
Sergeant
Texas National Guard
1918-1919
World War I

Sherman Minton
Captain
U.S. Army
1917-1919
World War I

Fred M. Vinson
Private
U.S. Army
World War I

Earl Warren
First Lieutenant
U.S. Army
1917-1918
World War I

John M. Harlan
Colonel
U.S. Army Air Forces
World War II
1943-1945

William J. Brennan, Jr.
Colonel
U.S. Army
1942-1946
World War II

Potter Stewart
Lieutenant Commander
U.S. Navy
1941-1946
World War II

Byron R. White
Lieutenant (JG)
U.S. Navy
1942-1946
World War II

Arthur J. Goldberg
Major
U.S. Army
1942-1944
World War II

Lewis F. Powell, Jr.
Colonel
U.S. Army Air Forces
1942-1946
World War II

William H. Rehnquist
Sergeant
U.S. Army Air Forces
1943-1946
World War II

Colonel
U.S. Air Force
1976

JUSTICES WITH MILITARY SERVICE

John Paul Stevens

Lieutenant Commander
U.S. Navy
1942-1945
World War II

Anthony M. Kennedy

Private First Class
California Army National
Guard
1961

Stephen G. Breyer

Corporal
U.S. Army
1957-1965

Samuel A. Alito, Jr.

Captain
U.S. Army
1972-1980*
3 months of Active Duty,
followed by eight years in
the Reserves.