Sept. 12, 1961

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Sept. 12, 1961, the day former Missouri Gov. — and Missouri Sen. — Phil Donnelly passed away.

He was born on March 6, 1891, in Lebanon. Having earned his law degree in 1913, Donnelly then returned to his hometown to start a private law practice.

Shortly thereafter, he then developed an interest in public office and ran for city attorney. After this, he would serve a sole term as Laclede County prosecutor.

This parlayed itself into a single term in the Missouri House of Representatives. From there, Donnelly would then spend the next 20 years in the Missouri Senate, from 1925 through ’44.

Part of his time as governor saw a new [constitution](http://www.moga.mo.gov/mostatutes/moconstn.html) drafted and then approved for the Show-Me State, plus creation of the [Missouri Department of Revenue](http://dor.mo.gov/).

Donnelly also became Missouri first two-term governor. At the time, there was a law against running for consecutive terms, so he sat out the 1948 election and successfully ran for re-election in 1952.

After this, he would return to his law practice in Lebanon.

September 12, 1961, the date marking the passing of former Missouri Sen. Phil Donnelly, the first person to serve as governor twice, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: Missouri State Historical Society)