

# SAM RAYBURN HOUSE MUSEUM

The Sam Rayburn House Museum State Historic Site is the former home of well-known 20<sup>th</sup> century **politician**, Sam Rayburn. Beginning in 1906, he served in the Texas **House of Representatives** for six years. In 1912, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. While serving there, **Congress** elected him **Speaker of the United States House** of Representatives in 1940. This made him the third highest-ranking **official** in the U.S., right behind the **President** and **Vice President**. Mr. Rayburn was elected Speaker ten times, and served nine full **terms** between 1940 and his death in 1961. No one has served longer as Speaker in the history of the United States.

After serving in Congress for several years, Mr. Rayburn saved enough money to build a house for himself and his family outside of Bonham, Texas. When the home was finished in 1916, his parents, brother, and sister lived there with him. Mr. Rayburn added several rooms and porches to the home over the next 45 years. He owned 121 acres of farm land surrounding the house. The family raised cotton, corn, hay, oats and sorghum. Pastures provided grazing land for cattle. Mr. Rayburn's brother, Tom, managed the farm.

When Congress **recessed**, Rayburn left Washington D.C. and came home to Bonham. He preferred the quiet of his country home and farm. Mr. Rayburn had a formal congressional office in Bonham, but he chose to spend most of his time at home. Local **voters**, and others, came to the house to meet with the Congressman. President Harry Truman and future President Lyndon B. Johnson were just a few of the high-ranking public officials who visited with Rayburn at this home. If you visit today, you'll find that the home and its furnishings still look very much as they did when the Rayburns lived there.

## Crossword Puzzle

**Congress** – the legislative body of a nation. In the United States, it includes the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**House of Representatives** – the lower house of the United States Congress. It has 435 elected representatives; the number from each state varies according to the state's population.

**official** - a person appointed or elected to an office or charged with certain duties.

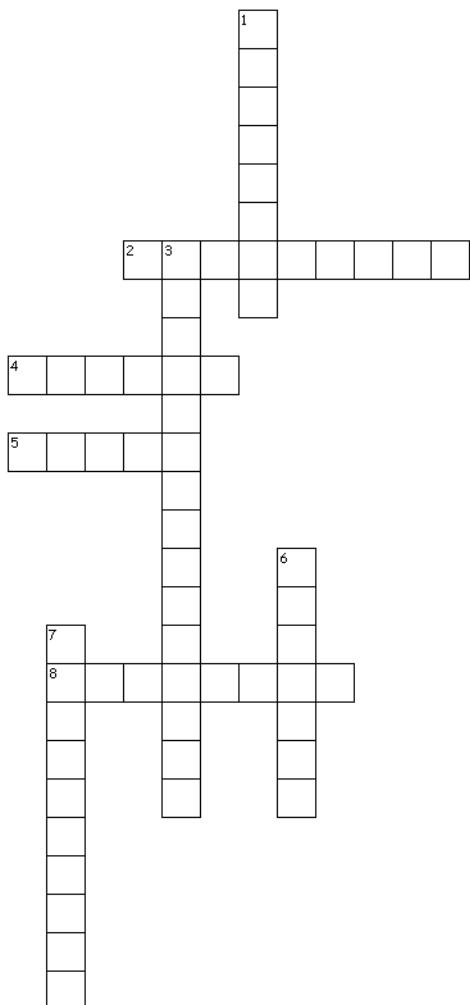
**politician** - a person skilled in political government or administration; statesman or stateswoman.

**President** – the highest executive officer of a modern republic; the Chief Executive of the United States

**recessed** - temporary withdrawal or cessation from the usual work or activity.

**Speaker of the House** - the elected presiding official of the House of Representatives. This is one of the most influential political positions in the United States.

**terms** - the amount of time that an elected official can hold office until they have to be re-elected.



**Vice President** - is elected at the same time as the President and who assumes the presidency upon the resignation, removal, death, or disability of the President.

**voters** – people who can, or do vote in elections.

### Across

2. The \_\_\_ is the Chief Executive of the United States.
4. The \_\_\_ turn up on Election Day to decide who their elected officials will be.
5. The President of the United States is only allowed to serve for two four-year \_\_\_.
8. President Truman was the highest ranking \_\_\_ to visit Mr. Rayburn at his home.

### Down

1. \_\_\_ includes both the Senate and the House of Representatives.
3. Mr. Rayburn was elected to the U.S. House of \_\_\_.
6. The \_\_\_ of the House is third highest ranked official in the U.S., after the president and vice president.
7. Like many other elected officials, Mr. Rayburn was a very skilled \_\_\_.

## **Wit and Wisdom**

As a politician, Sam Rayburn had a reputation of being a “plain talker” and “straight shooter.” He is credited with these sayings:

“Any fellow who will cheat for you will cheat against you.”

“Without vision, nations perish.”

“There is no degree of honesty. You are either honest or dishonest.”

“The way to get ahead...is to stand for something and to know what it is you stand for.”

“No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut.”

What do you think these sayings mean?

Create your own “Wit and Wisdom” saying.

Draw a picture to illustrate your saying.