

## **Roger Addison**

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### **The Long Struggle for Representation: Oral Histories of African Americans in Congress**

#### **“We Didn’t Know What to Do”**

Roger Addison recalls the difficulties everyone faced after evacuating the Capitol on September 11, 2001.  
*Interview recorded May 29, 2019*

We didn’t know what to do. It’s crazy! We, they told us we can go home. I went down to get my car and I didn’t live far from here, I lived in Shaw, the Shaw neighborhood. And it took me about three hours to get home. It took me about three hours to get home. What I remember was my mom standing in the door crying because she couldn’t get in touch with me. She didn’t know where I was, didn’t know what happened. And the next thing that I remember was my friend, who worked in the main office with me, Jacina Hayes stuck downtown and didn’t have a way home. And I was fortunate enough to go back and get her and made sure that she was safe. It, it was, all, all I remember seeing was a lot of military men that particular day in downtown Washington. And all I can remember hearing was jets, over, over, overhead, but I couldn’t see any, you know. And it was just chaos. It was just total chaos in, in downtown Washington. It was almost, it was gridlock. Everything was almost at a standstill. Ask me, so ask me how I was able to come back and get Jacina. God knows! It just happened that way. Everything was closed down, even as far as Maryland. She lived in Maryland and the malls and everything had closed down. So yeah, it was, it was a terrible day, terrible day.