

Roger Addison

Registration and Compliance Clerk, Office of the Clerk

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

July 24, 1998

Roger Addison reflects on a personal encounter that took place on a tragic day at the Capitol.

Interview recorded May 29, 2019

So on this particular day, it was a very hot day, I decided that I needed a little air, so I went out to take a little walk. And I decided that I was going to go over to the LRC just to take a look around and see what was happening. I hadn't even—had no idea that I even wanted to work at the LRC at this time. I just was taking a walk and walked over to the LRC. We had, Tolson and I had pagers at the time and, and I—let me back up a little bit. I spoke to Officer Chestnut. It was, they were getting ready to go on break, summer break. And I spoke to him. He told me he couldn't wait. Officer Gibson was standing outside at this particular time. I think this maybe was around 2, 12, and 1:00 when I saw him. And he told me, "Roger," he said, Officer Gibson and he said, "Roger, just as soon as I get the Member off from home when they leave today, I'm going to pick my kids up and we're going to Disney World." I told him, "Fantastic, that's great." He didn't make it. He didn't make it to Disney World.