

Frank Mitchell

Press Attention

Memories of the press attention received for the honor of being named the first African-American Page for the U.S. House.

Interview recorded August 6, 2008

I just remember that there were more cameras, TV, and still cameras than I'd ever seen before. The lights were flashing. I was kind of—I mean, I guess I was—totally in awe, at 15, just trying to keep up with it all and be ready to sound intelligent when they asked me a question. But, you know, obviously Mr. Ford took the lead, and Mr. Findley had a role. And they asked me—I'm sure, as I recall, reading some things, too—how I felt, and, you know, what it meant to me. So, and it was very important. I mean, I was raised in a house, again, with my aunt and uncle and my great-aunt and then her mother—so my great-grandmother. And there were always stories about family members doing things, you know. And it's up to the listener to determine how significant those things are. But they always meant something to the storyteller—to my grandmother or my aunt. So I was raised to think big, to think that I could do whatever I decided to do. And so I guess I wanted to live up to the expectations. I didn't want to stumble.