

**Mike Michaelson**  
**Superintendent, Radio-TV Gallery, U.S. House of Representatives**

## **Events: 1954 Shooting**

### **Shooting in the House Chamber**

Mike Michaelson recalls how he relayed the news of the shooting in the House Chamber.  
*Interview recorded May 14, 2009*

They stood up and they began to fire. And the woman was unfurling a big flag. It was maybe five-by-eight or something like that. I didn't know what it was at the time, and they were speaking and yelling in Spanish, and pow, pow, pow, pow, pow. And they had Lugers or something, with long-nosed rifle guns. And I ducked down underneath the ledge—we had a writing ledge there—and I ducked down underneath it, and there was a phone there, that I could call my office. And I picked up the phone, and they, “What the hell's going on out there, Mike?” I said, “Like there's a shooting going on here!” And then, “Well, are you all right?” I said, “Well, I'm ducked down underneath the table.” I said something like that.