

John Allen Murphy
Metropolitan Police Officer, Washington, DC

Events: 1954 Shooting

On the Scene

John Allen Murphy describes what he encountered when he arrived at the Capitol on the day of the shooting.

Interview recorded April 16, 2014

So I remember we went up, got out of the car, went to the alcove. And I remember saying to Jimmy, "I think I'm going to take my gun out." And as we come down the alcove, which is dark, I can hear somebody, see a big rush coming at us. And someone hollering, "Get that woman, get that woman." And there was a woman maybe in front of these people by so many steps, and I could heard somebody, "A German Luger." Somebody saying, "She's got a Luger." And when she came, she was just a little thing. And I grabbed her by the wrist but there was no Luger in her hands or anything. Of course, later on I hear somebody caught her up in the, in the gallery and somebody else got her. But all this time though she was running at me. We came outside. Of course, the Capitol has its own press and they were all out there. And then somebody came to us, one of the other—I think Jason, one of the guys in 12th scout had one of the fellas. And I remember all the picture taking. Now, the priority was to find out who was hurt and get some ambulances. I remember hollering at Jimmy, "Get some ambulances out here because they say a lot of them have been shot," not knowing how many at the time.