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“That’s Why I Loved Working Here”

Recollections of the factors that made coming to work a thrill.

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When I would cross the 14th Street Bridge in the morning, and you make that turn to the Southwest Freeway, and up, and I see the Capitol looming, I just get a smile on my face. It was, I don’t know, it was like, it was the best job. The best job in the sense that I grew the most without having a formal—I only had two years of college—so without having the formal degree, I could actually grow into something. And I had the intelligence to do it, but you had to work for it. You do in college, too, but here it was, I had the opportunity to do that.

In some of the places that I worked, prior to working on the Hill, you were in a job—that was your job. That’s it, don’t go outside your job, stay inside your job. I like going outside my job. I like solving problems, I like getting into the nitty-gritty of how things work, and how to make them work better. This place allowed that. And it allowed you to build a camaraderie with your peers. It allowed you to help them get excited about what you’re excited about. And say, “Well come on, you can do this.” The Hill offers you, on a plate, education, unbelievable. Computer systems this way, they have House Floor procedures, everything is right there. All you have to do is take advantage of it. It’s amazing. I think it’s just amazing. And you could do pretty much anything you set your mind to, that’s why I loved working here.