

**Mary Ellen (Winter) Atkins**  
Secretary, Representative Karl Le Compte of Iowa

## **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

### **Congressman Le Compte's Office: Part Two**

Mary Ellen Atkins compares the modern Longworth House Office Building to when she worked there in the 1940s.

*Interview recorded August 24, 2016*

The main secretary, Margaret, was in the other room. But we found out when we visited—my two sons and their wives, and I went back to Washington, in June of this year, 2016, just to visit some of my old haunts. We were able to find out where his office had been. I did not remember going up seven floors to his office. But when we went up there, it was inhabited by a Congressman from New York now. But they had put in a wall of panels to separate each of the staff until they have a separate room, and they were very nice and pleased to greet us. That was very interesting. But anyway, beyond our office was the wardrobe room and the bathroom. And then the Congressman's office beyond that, and that all had pretty much stayed the same. That was very interesting to see that, but I enjoyed working there. We had a lot of people in, and then I was able to go over to the—because we were right across the street from the Capitol, and we were able to go over there for important speakers who would come. We would be able to go up to the galleries and see them. I particularly remember General Dwight Eisenhower speaking to us, and we had the assembled Congressmen and Senators there to hear him. That was really inspiring. But we were able to go over to other speakers, also. I just remembered him, for sure. So, that was wonderful to be able to do that.