

**Muftiah McCartin**  
Staff Director, House Committee on Rules

## **Special Exhibit: Women in Congress**

### **Starting on the Hill: Part One**

Muftiah McCartin remembers being interviewed by Representative Jack Brooks of Texas for a secretarial position.

*Interview recorded January 29, 2016*

And Jack Brooks was a very intimidating person. He was from Texas, he smoked the big cigars, he was bald. He was very, very—he had sort of a very strong personality. He sadly lost in the wave of the '94 election. He lost then, but he really was a giant—when he lost, he was the chair of the Judiciary Committee. So, I'm sitting across from him at his desk—and I sit down. He's—he barely even looks at me, and he, and he pulls a keychain out of this desk drawer. And he says, "So, I hear you want to work for me. Great." And he throws me this key—keychain, which I catch. And, and he says, "Well, have a good time, honey." And I leave his office with Bill, and the next thing I know, Bill's putting papers in front of me. And like, nobody offered me the job. And I'm just like, I'm a kid. I'm like, I—like, wait. I didn't know how to say, "Wait a minute. Somebody needs to offer me the job here. I didn't even know how much you're offering to pay me," you know? So, I went home in tears, because I had this plan of lining everything up. And I had actually one job that I thought that I was going to take. So, I said, well look, "You know, it's only for six months. What the heck?"