

## **The Honorable Kendrick B. Meek**

**U.S. Representative of Florida (2003–2011) and Son of Representative Carrie P. Meek of Florida**

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

#### **“Put Her on Appropriations”**

Representative Meek explains how his mother received an influential committee assignment during her first term in the House.

*Interview recorded March 19, 2019*

When she got here to Congress, of course, she was placed on the Appropriations Committee, just like every freshman—not! You know, but she sought the, the Appropriations Committee, was an appropriator in the house, in the Florida legislature, appropriator in the senate—Mr. Fascell was an appropriator. Mr. Lehman was a cardinal. Both of them were cardinals in the, in the, in the, in the Appropriations. So that helped. And she went in to see the Speaker—I believe it was Speaker Foley, I believe—went in to see the Speaker, and she said, “Mr. Speaker,” she said, “I just want to share with you that I’ve served in the appropriations, I mean the appropriations committee in the legislature. I would love to carry out your agenda on Appropriations how you would like to see it carried out. Hurricane Andrew just hit my district. They really need me to be on this committee to help rebuild my district. But I am committed to the things that you need to—you, you would like to see happen on the Appropriations Committee.” And so Lorraine Miller, who was a former, former Clerk of the House, and also an aide for the Speaker at that time, she said my mom walked out the Speaker said, “Put her on Appropriations.” So she knew exactly what to say to people in power.