

## **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**

#### **“Carrie, You Should Run”**

Representative Meek recalls his mother’s early involvement in Florida state politics.

*Interview recorded March 19, 2019*

She ran and really didn’t have any money. I mean, just sitting here talking to you all, I’m thinking, I remember the graphic arts students at Miami Dade College at the time drawing the signs—literally, I mean, putting “Meek” on one side, putting “Carrie” at the top, and, and with a marker filling it in, waterproof marker, putting “Carrie Meek.” And then we put a, a black and white picture in the middle of it and put a little cellophane over it. That was the sign. There was no, you know, printing or union printing or anything like that. Those were the original signs. And the handout was basically something that was typed with her picture on it, and we ran photocopies of it. So that’s what she had at the beginning. And we started running and knocking on doors and, and on the street corners with bullhorns because she wasn’t supposed to run. There was a city commissioner by the name of Athalie Range who was an undertaker, one of the, in the community. A community meeting was held at her house. Remember, I spoke of the fact that she was director of Model Cities and was very involved in community development and community activity, even through the, even through the college. And, and they met at her house. They talked about who should run. Of course, men were chose to run and said they would be the best candidate. And Athalie Range hung around until everyone left and said, “Carrie, you should run. The very reason why they would even meet in your home is the reason why you should run.”