

Myles Garrigan

Invitation to Become a House Page

Memories of an invitation to serve as a House Page.

Interview recorded May 25, 2012

GARRIGAN: Well, I was a senior in high school, South River High School, South River, New Jersey. And I was walking down the corridor one day, and the mayor of our town, John Fitzpatrick, was also the coach of the baseball team and the basketball team. Anyway, he stopped me and showed me a letter that he had received from Congressman William Sutphin. And he gave it to me, and I read it. And it said, in effect, that the House Patronage Committee had awarded him a Page job, and that if Mr. Fitzpatrick would pick a Page and send him to Washington, he would be very happy. So Coach—I called him Coach, he was Coach—he showed me the letter, and he said, “Would you like to go to Washington?” And I thought in my mind, I thought I would love to go. But I told him I needed a little time to think about it. And he said, “Well, I’ll give you two weeks. And at the end of that period of time, I’ll ask you if you want to go. And you can give me your answer.”

JOHNSON: How old were you at the time?

GARRIGAN: I was 17. I was a senior in high school. I was president of my class, by the way. And I had some trepidations about going. I lived with my aunt, and she would be alone. It would be my first time away from home for any length of time. So I gave some serious thought, but I thought, at the end, it’s the thing to do, go to Washington, and be part of the political scene. So that’s how I ended . . . he came up to me, and two weeks had gone by and he said, “Do you want to go to Washington?” And I said, “Yes, I’d love to go.” And I guess about here, people would usually say, “Boy Garrigan goes to Washington, and the rest is history.”