

Women in the Oklahoma Legislature

LESSON 4

BETTER WRITING is an important part of the political process, both for citizens and for politicians.

Vicki Miles-LaGrange was born in Oklahoma City and became one of the first African American women elected to the Oklahoma Senate (1986). She also holds a law degree, and after serving in the Senate for seven years, became a federal judge. In a 2007 interview conducted through OSU's Women of the Oklahoma Legislature Oral History Project, Vicki told the story of how she wrote a letter to President John F. Kennedy after he was elected in 1960. She was only in grade school at the time and said:



Vicki Miles-LaGrange

"Do you remember the paper we used to have in elementary school, where the lines are at the bottom and you draw a picture at the top? I drew a picture of [President Kennedy] at the top...and I wrote him this letter, and I was telling him how very happy I was that he was elected president. Well I got a letter back... I took the letter to school, and we had an assembly about my letter! (Laughs) I was so excited to hear from the President of the United States."

Vicki now has the letter on the wall in her office at the courthouse.

*Vicki Miles-LaGrange's oral history can be found at
www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/wotol/lagrange/index.htm*

ACTIVITY

Are you excited about anyone who was recently elected, or do you have a question for either your Representative or Senator? Find the addresses for your state Legislators and write one of them a letter asking your question or congratulating them on their election.

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