

The Carolyn McCarthy Papers

Collection Summary

Repository:	Adelphi University
Creator:	Carolyn McCarthy; United States Congress
Title:	The Carolyn McCarthy Papers
Inclusive Dates:	1982-2015
Quantity:	104 linear feet (66 boxes)
Abstract:	Photographs, papers, and objects collected by Carolyn McCarthy during her 18 years as a member of the House of Representatives.
Language:	Collection materials are in English

Biographical History

Carolyn was a long term politician who served as the U.S. Representative for New York's 4th congressional district from 1997 to 2015. Throughout her career McCarthy focused on issues such as gun control, youth violence, education, health, and international diplomacy.

Carolyn McCarthy (née Cook, 1944) was one of five children born to Tom and Irene Cook. Raised in Long Island, McCarthy graduated from Mineola High School in 1962.

Originally planning to enter into nursing, McCarthy completed her professional training at Glen Cove School of Practical Nursing and, in 1964, began working as an intensive-care nurse. McCarthy became politically motivated in 1993, after a rampaging gunman killed 6 people and wounded 19 aboard a Long Island Railroad commuter train. Among the dead was her husband Dennis. Her son Kevin, then 26, was severely injured and left paralyzed by the attack. In the wake of the shooting, in mourning for her husband and caring for her son who suffered brain damage, McCarthy captured public attention with her fierce and emotional attacks on the powerful gun lobby. Transformed by tragic circumstances into a committed and passionate advocate for the victims of gun violence, she launched a personal crusade for stricter gun control.

Angered when her congressional representative, Republican Dan Frisa, voted to repeal a federal ban on certain assault weapons, lifelong Republican McCarthy changed her affiliation and ran against Frisa in the 1996 Congressional election. She won decisively with 57 percent of the vote and was elected the U.S. Representative for New York's 4th congressional district and the first female member of Congress from Long Island. She represented her district for nine terms until her retirement in January 2015.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Carolyn McCarthy Papers represent the life and work of Carolyn McCarthy throughout her 18 years in congress. The papers include but are not limited to photographs, congressional correspondences, a press clippings, office files, press releases, campaign material, research booklets, video recordings, plaques,

trophies, and books. These materials span the congresswomen's entire career. Particularly noteworthy items include 150 awards given to McCarthy and 200 video recordings that feature her.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Material donated by Carolyn McCarthy.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific items; Date (if known); The Carolyn McCarthy Papers; Box and folder number; Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections, Garden City, NY.

Processing Information

The Carolyn McCarthy Papers were processed by Michael Seminara in the fall of 2015.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

The Carolyn McCarthy Papers are open to research. Photocopies of fragile materials are provided for researchers in lieu of the originals.

Use Restrictions

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections. Researchers are responsible for copyright compliance.

Subject and Genre Headings

People:

McCarthy, Carolyn

Organizations:

Democratic Party (N.Y.)
Democratic Party (U.S.)
United States. Congress. House.

Subjects:

Crime--United States.
Gun control--United States.
Education--United States.

Nursing—United States
Elections--New York (State)
Elections--United States.

Places:

United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Foreign relations--21st century
United States--Foreign relations--Iraq.
United States--Foreign relations--Ireland.
United States--Foreign relations--Israel.

Occupations:

Politician

Arrangement and Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Photographs

Series Description: Photographs of McCarthy including photographs of her family, official portraits, photographs with politicians, staff, and constituents, award ceremonies, campaigns, international affairs, and events. Negatives are in a separate box.

Arrangement Note: Photographs are placed into folders broken up into nine subseries. Folders within each subseries are arranged chronologically. Original titles maintained when possible.

Subseries 1.1: Personal Photographs

Subseries Description: McCarthy and her family in settings not related to congress.

Subseries 1.2: Official Portraits

Subseries Description: Official and professional portraits of McCarthy.

Subseries 1.3: Photographs with Named Politicians

Subseries Description: McCarthy with presidents, mayors, senators, and other politicians who are named in the folder title.

Subseries 1.4: Photographs with Interns, Staff, and Constituents

Subseries Description: McCarthy with interns, staff, and constituents.

Subseries 1.5: Award Ceremonies and Parades

Subseries Description: McCarthy attending award ceremonies and parades.

Subseries 1.6: Election and Campaign

Subseries Description: McCarthy at election and campaign related functions.

Subseries 1.7: International Affairs

Subseries Description: McCarthy on international trips and at international meetings.

Subseries 1.8: Events

Subseries Description: McCarthy appearing at schools, organizational meetings, with police and military members, and at events discussing health care and gun violence.

Series 2: Correspondences

Series Description: Letters on congressional issues signed by McCarthy and other members of congress, addressed to congressional committees.

Arrangement Note: Binders arranged by year. Contents within each binder are arranged by congressional issue. Original titles are maintained.

Series 3: Press Clippings

Series Description: Magazine, newspaper, and online articles that reference McCarthy.

Arrangement Note: Boxes and folders are arranged chronologically by year. Original order is maintained within each folder. Some years are not in chronological order by month. This is notably true for 1997. Some of 2003 and 2004 have been combined into one grouping named 2003-2004. This grouping is divided by topic.

Series 4: Congressional Records

Series Description: Memorandums, budgets, and reports relating to specific meetings of congress and legislative action. Handwritten material included.

Arrangement Note: Original order and titles are preserved within folders when possible. Folders are arranged alphabetically by title.

Series 5: Office/ Subject Files

Series Description: Paper files relating to congressional issues and bound informational packets relating to congressional trips. Included in miscellaneous are letters from constituents and general memorandums.

Arrangement Note: Series is arranged into six subseries based on issue. Original order and titles are preserved within folders when possible.

Subseries 5.1: Gun Control and Gun Violence

Subseries Description: Paper files containing information on gun violence as well as compiled information on specific pieces of gun control legislation.

Arrangement Note: Folders arranged alphabetically by title.

Subseries 5.2: Youth/Education

Subseries Description: Compiled information on specific pieces on legislation and one memorandum relating to youth violence or education.

Arrangement Note: Folders arranged alphabetically by title.

Subseries 5.3: Franked Mail Reports

Subseries Description: Financial information relating to mail sent from the Representative's office covering the years 2000 and 2001.

Arrangement Note: Folders arranged chronologically by year.

Subseries 5.4: Hurricane Katrina

Subseries Description: One binder, one bound report, and one folder containing assessments on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as well as suggested improvements for hurricane protection.

Arrangement Note: Binder rehoused into folders maintaining the original title. Folder is untitled.

Titles:

CODEL Hastert: Helping Communities to rebuild After Hurricane Katrina.

DR 1605 Alabama: Hurricane Katrina

Subseries 5.5: Miscellaneous

Subseries Description: Letters from constituents, general memorandums, invitations, and legislative information on issues not appearing in an earlier subseries.

Arrangement Note: Folders arranged alphabetically by title.

Series 6: Press Releases

Series Description: Printed press releases from 1997, 1998, and 2000.

Arrangement Note: Contains two binders arranged in chronological order. The first binder contains press releases from January of 1997- February of 1998. The second binder contains press releases from 2000. Original order is preserved.

Series 7: Campaign/ Election Material

Series Description: Campaign publicity material and collected documents relating to McCarthy's campaign strategy and talking points. Handwritten material is included.

Arrangement Note: Folders arranged chronologically. Original order and title preserved when possible. Other folders contain miscellaneous campaign documents.

Series 8: International Affairs

Series Description: Nine binders containing information on eight international trips.

Arrangement Note: Divided into two subseries NATO and Congressional. Binders are arranged chronological by year. Original binder length and order are preserved.

Subseries 8.1: NATO

Subseries Description: Six binders containing information on five trips related to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Subseries 8.2: Congressional

Subseries Description: Three binders containing information on three international trips not related to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Series 9: Research/ Surveys

Series Description: 14 bound and one unbound collections of research materials relating to polls, election opponents, and legislative issues.

Arrangement Note: Items each placed into folders and kept in the original binding. Folders are arranged chronologically.

Series 10: Media

Series Description: Video and audio tapes depicting news clips, floor speeches, biography, campaign ads, speaking engagements, and published works. Formats include VHS, Betamax SP, U-matic, and audio cassette.

Arrangement Note: Divided into subseries based on subject or format. Inventory list is available. Original titles maintained. Subseries are arranged alphabetically by title within subseries.

Subseries 10.1: Broadcast Media

Subseries Description: Broadcasted news segments, floor speeches, PSAs, and speaking engagements featuring McCarthy.

Subseries 10.2: Biography

Subseries Description: Biographical videos focused on McCarthy.

Subseries 10.3: Campaign

Subseries Description: Campaign publicity media.

Subseries 10.4: Non-broadcasted Media

Subseries Description: Non-broadcasted filmed events and speaking engagements that feature McCarthy.

Subseries 10.5: Published Media

Subseries Description: Complete published works that feature McCarthy.

Subseries 10.6: Audio Recordings

Subseries Description: Audio cassette tapes featuring McCarthy. These include radio interviews and one campaign spot.

Subseries 10.7: Unlabeled

Subseries Description: Unlabeled video tapes acquired with the collection.

Subseries 10.8: Miscellaneous

Subseries Description: Video tapes not featuring McCarthy. Subseries includes news clippings, politician's ads, and media related to McCarthy's topics of interest.

Series 11: Plaques/ Awards

Series Description: Trophies, plaques, and certificates awarded to McCarthy.

Arrangement Note: Arranged by format into the categories of trophies, plaques, and certificates. A detailed inventory list is available.

Series 12: Books

Series Description: Published works previously owned by McCarthy.

Arrangement Note: Arranged alphabetically by title. A detailed inventory list is available.

Series 13: Objects

Series Description: Includes wall hangings, framed memorabilia, framed photographs, and miscellaneous objects.

Series 14: Born Digital

Series Description: Includes one hard drive containing 112,968 digital files from McCarthy's office computer.