Summary Information

Creator
McKee, Mattie Mae, 1938 -

Extent (quantity/size)
9 document boxes and 1 oversized box.

Language
English

Abstract
The Mattie Mae McKee papers consist of correspondence, photographs, and literary productions compiled by McKee while she worked as a congressional aide for five U.S. Representatives and Senators from 1968 to 1989. Most of the materials relate directly to her book published in 2014, *In the Shadow of the Greats: From Texas' Square Roots to Capitol Hill's Inner Circle*.

Subjects

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access and Use
All requests for copying of materials must be submitted to the W. R. Poage Legislative Library in writing. Please use the Request Form for Copying Materials sheet. Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Use/Reproduction Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Mattie Mae McKee papers, Accession #103, Box #, Folder #, Baylor Collections of Political Materials, W. R. Poage Legislative Library, Baylor University.

Processing Information
Described by Thomas DeShong and released on 2019-05-17.

Archivist's Notes: The collection contained three VHS recordings of the U.S. Senate debate concerning the confirmation of John Tower as Secretary of Defense on March 2, March 3, and March 6, 1989. These
videos have been deaccessioned as the originals are available within C-Span’s video archives.

Scope and Content

The first five series follow the path of McKee’s career and are divided according to the appropriate Congressman. Similar types of materials are found throughout the collection, particularly correspondence, photographs, clippings, and programs. The donor also included research materials she gathered while compiling her book that was published in 2014, In the Shadow of the Greats. These documents have been placed in the relevant series, sometimes skewing the inclusive date ranges beyond the years McKee actually worked. The final series contains McKee’s personal materials relating to her book, research, and personal correspondence. Within each series, the folders are organized alphabetically by subject or material type. Series I. O.C. Fisher Years and Series IV. John Tower Years are the largest series in the collection.

Administrative/Biographical History
Mattie Mae McKee, the daughter of Sarah Taylor McKee and John Thomas McKee, was born in Sonora, Texas, on November 26, 1938. Her uncle, Basil Halbert Taylor, employed her throughout the summers of her high school years in the Law Office of Taylor & Murphy in San Antonio, instilling within McKee a love of the legal profession. After graduating from San Angelo High School in 1957, McKee earned her Associate’s degree in Business at San Angelo Junior College in 1959. She worked as a legal secretary for the firm of Kerr & Gayer where she earned her certification with the National Association of Legal Secretaries in 1966. At the time, McKee was one of twelve Certified Professional Legal Secretaries in Texas and the ninety-sixth to be certified in the nation.

Shortly thereafter, in March 1968, McKee entered the political arena as a congressional aide for Representative O.C. Fisher, a Democrat representing the 21st Congressional District of Texas. McKee worked for Representative Fisher until his decision to retire. In September 1974, McKee joined the staff of Representative W. R. Poage, a Democrat representing the 11th Congressional District of Texas. McKee remained as a member of Poage’s staff until his decision to retire in December 1978. She then agreed to serve as the new Office Manager for Poage’s immediate successor, Democrat Marvin Leath. Under Leath, McKee faced the difficult task of establishing the office of a freshman Representative.

In July 1980, McKee left the House of Representatives behind and became the Executive Secretary for Senator John Tower of Texas, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. McKee held this position until January 1985 when Tower retired. McKee then accepted the Executive Assistant position for Senator John Warner of Virginia, remaining with his staff until April 1989 when McKee decided to leave Washington, D.C. and return to San Angelo.

After her lengthy career as a congressional aide, McKee earned her bachelor’s degree in English and history at Angelo State University and worked briefly in the real estate field. She also pursued writing, co-authoring a two-volume history of her family, The Stories of the Taylors and Altizers: Passing It On, with her cousin in 2002. McKee later recounted her experiences in Washington, D.C. in her 2014 book, In the Shadow of the Greats: From Texas’ Square Roots to Capitol Hill’s Inner Circle.

Related Resources
Related records in other Archive collections
Related citations

Archival Arrangement
The Mattie Mae McKee papers were initially housed in six record storage boxes. A detailed, folder-level inventory was completed just prior to the latest round of processing.

The original order of the collection has largely been maintained. The series are arranged chronologically according to the U.S. Representative or Senator for whom McKee worked. Within each series, folders are organized alphabetically by topic or material type.

A personal series was created to house materials produced after McKee's time in Washington, D.C., particularly documents pertaining to the writing of her book, *In the Shadow of the Greats*. Thus, the collection is currently arranged into six series: I. O.C. Fisher Years, II. W. R. Poage Years, III. Marvin Leath Years, IV. John Tower Years, V. John Warner Years, and VI. Personal.

**Series 1: O.C. Fisher Years. 1940-2018, undated**

**Summary Information**

**Media**
Photographic print; Postcards

**Administrative/Biographical History**
Series I. O.C. Fisher Years is one of the largest series in the collection and consists of clippings, photographs, correspondence, and other materials relating to Mattie Mae McKee’s employment as a staff member for Representative O.C. Fisher. Fisher was a Democrat who represented the 21st Congressional District of Texas. McKee worked for Representative Fisher from March 1968 to September 1974. Materials relating to Fisher's membership on the House Armed Services Committee feature prominently in the series. The series is in good condition.

Box 1. Folder 1. 100th Anniversary of O.C. Fisher Federal Building, Clippings, Correspondence, and Programs, 2011 August
Box 1. Folder 2. Boy Scouts Dinner Honoring O.C. Fisher, Clippings, Literary Productions, Photographs, and Programs, 1992, undated
Box 1. Folder 3. Boy Scouts Dinner Honoring O.C. Fisher, Correspondence, 1992 February-July
Box 1. Folder 4. Clippings, General, 1968-2006, undated
Box 1. Folder 6. Congressional Secretaries Club, Program, 1970 April 18
Box 1. Folder 7. Correspondence, General, 1974-2010, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. D.C. Area Church of Christ Congressional Breakfaests, Correspondence, Notes, and Photograph, 1976, undated
Box 1. Folder 9. Dedication of O.C. Fisher Texas Historical Marker in Junction, Texas, Photographs and Remarks, 2018 November
Box 1. Folder 11. Dolly Madison McKenna, Clipping and Promotional Materials, undated
Box 1. Folder 16. License Plate for Congress Staff, 1969
Box 1. Folder 17. Memoirs of Theo Alexander Regarding Fisher’s Race Against Representative Charles South, undated
Box 1. Folder 18. Menu, House of Representatives Restaurant, Gerald Ford Presidential Inauguration, 1974-2018
Box 10 OVZ. Folder 1. Nine Governments and Flags of Bexar County, Certificate, 1969 November 26
Box 1. Folder 20. O.C. Fisher, 90th Birthday Celebration, Clipping and Photographs, 1993 November
Box 2. Folder 1. O.C. Fisher, Biographical Materials, 1971, undated
Box 2. Folder 2. O.C. Fisher, Newsletters from Retirement, 1986-1992
Box 2. Folder 3. O.C. Fisher, Obituaries, 1994 December
Box 2. Folder 4. O.C. Fisher, Party Hosted by Mattie Mae McKee and Bob Daugherty, Correspondence, 1985-1986
Box 2. Folder 5. O.C. Fisher Addition to Kimble County Library, Clippings, Correspondence, and Photographs, 1975-1989, undated
Box 2. Folder 6. O.C. Fisher Dam and Lake, Brochure and Clippings, 1975-2004
Box 2. Folder 15. Photographs, General (8 of 10), 1963-1994, undated
Box 2. Folder 17. Photographs, General (10 of 10), 1963-1994, undated
Box 2. Folder 19. Resume, Mattie McKee, circa 1974
Box 2. Folder 21. Sallie Griffis Helms, Obituary, 2013 March
Box 2. Folder 22. Santa Claus and Ebenezer Scrooge Race for Seat in House of Representatives, Clippings and Photographs, 1971, undated
Box 2. Folder 25. Sonora Fling Ding, Photographs (1 of 2), 1974-1978, undated
Box 2. Folder 26. Sonora Fling Ding, Photographs (2 of 2), 1974-1978, undated

Summary Information

Administrative/Biographical History

Series II. W. R. Poage Years is comprised of photographs, correspondence, programs, biographical materials, and other documents pertaining to Mattie McKee’s employment for U.S. Representative William Robert "Bob" Poage. Poage was a Democrat who represented the 11th Congressional District in Central Texas. McKee worked as his staff member from
September 1974 to December 1978 at which time Representative Poage retired from public office. Overall, the materials in this series are in good condition.

Box 3. Folder 1. Article, “W. R. Poage is Mr. Agriculture”, World of Agricultural Aviation, 1978 May
Box 3. Folder 3. Clippings, General, 1975-1989, undated
Box 3. Folder 4. Correspondence, General, 1974-2004, undated
Box 3. Folder 5. Groner Pitts Dinner and Roast, Brownwood Coliseum, 1982
Box 10 OVZ. Folder 2. Honorary Admissions Officer for West Point, Certificate, 1976 October
Box 3. Folder 8. O.C. Fisher Retirement Reception Hosted by W. R. Poage, Photographs (1 of 4), undated
Box 3. Folder 9. O.C. Fisher Retirement Reception Hosted by W. R. Poage, Photographs (2 of 4), undated
Box 3. Folder 10. O.C. Fisher Retirement Reception Hosted by W. R. Poage, Photographs (3 of 4), undated
Box 3. Folder 11. O.C. Fisher Retirement Reception Hosted by W. R. Poage, Photographs (4 of 4), undated
Box 3. Folder 17. Planting of Pecan Tree from Brownwood, Texas Near Capitol, Clippings, Correspondence, and Photographs, 1978-2009, undated
Box 3. Folder 20. Targeted Committee Chairmen, Biographical Materials and Photographs, 1976-2000, undated
Box 3. Folder 21. Texas Breakfast Club, Correspondence and Photographs, 1976-2007
Box 3. Folder 22. Texas Breakfast Club, Remarks and Photographs, 1977 September
Box 3. Folder 25. W. R. Poage, Biographical Materials, 2009 April 30
Box 3. Folder 27. W. R. Poage, Funeral Service Program, 1987 January 5
Box 3. Folder 31. W. R. Poage Legislative Library Center Dedication, Brochure and Program, 1979 September 21

Series 3: Marvin Leath Years. 1979-2000, undated

Summary Information

| Media          | Photographic print |

Administrative/Biographical History

Series III. Marvin Leath Years is the smallest series in the collection. Mattie McKee worked as the Office Manager for Representative Marvin Leath from January 1979 to June 1980. Leath represented the 11th Congressional District in Central Texas, succeeding long-time Representative W. R. Poage. This series is comprised primarily of clippings and photographs from McKee's time in Leath's office and also includes a copy of Leath's obituary from 2000. The materials are in good condition.
Series 4: John Tower Years, 1977-2012, undated

Summary Information

Media
Photographic print

Administrative/Biographical History

Series IV. John Tower Years is the largest series in the collection. It is comprised of photographs, programs, correspondence, and other materials related to Mattie McKee’s employment as the Executive Secretary of Senator John Tower of Texas. McKee worked for Senator Tower from July 1980 until Tower’s retirement from the Senate in January 1985. Due to Tower’s service on the Senate Armed Services Committee, many of the materials in this series deal with the U.S. military (i.e. the commissioning of naval vessels, trips to West Point, Goodfellow Air Force Base, etc.). Tower’s nomination for Secretary of Defense under President George H. W. Bush, which was ultimately rejected by the Senate, is also prominently featured in the series. Overall, the materials are in good condition.
Series V. John Warner Years consists of correspondence, photographs, programs, and other materials compiled during Mattie McKee’s employment as the Executive Assistant to Republican Senator John Warner of Virginia. McKee worked for Senator Warner from January 1985 to April 1989 at which point McKee left Washington, D.C. and returned to her home state of Texas. The materials in this series are in good condition.

Box 5. Folder 5. Confirmation Fight Over John Tower as Secretary of Defense, Clippings, 1989 March 3-7
Box 5. Folder 6. Confirmation Fight Over John Tower as Secretary of Defense, Clippings, 1989 March 8-29
Box 5. Folder 7. Congressional Staff Club, 47th Annual Dinner-Dance, Program, 1982 June 11
Box 5. Folder 8. Correspondence, General (1 of 3), 1981-2012, undated
Box 5. Folder 9. Correspondence, General (2 of 3), 1981-2012, undated
Box 5. Folder 10. Correspondence, General (3 of 3), 1981-2012, undated
Box 5. Folder 11. Correspondence, Personal Notes from the Tower Family, 1982-1992, undated
Box 10 OVZ. Folder 4. Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Southern Methodist University, Newsletter, undated
Box 5. Folder 13. Farnborough Air Show, Correspondence, Directories, and Itineraries (1 of 2), 1984
Box 6. Folder 1. Farnborough Air Show, Correspondence, Directories, and Itineraries (2 of 2), 1984
Box 6. Folder 2. Farnborough Air Show, Photographs, 1984
Box 6. Folder 5. Goodfellow Air Force Base, Correspondence, Photographs, and Programs (2 of 2), 1981-1989
Box 6. Folder 7. John and Marian Tower, Funeral Program, 1991 April 8
Box 6. Folder 9. License Plate, Senate Staff, circa 1982
Box 6. Folder 10. Mighty Tower Art Players, Script, 1983 September 27
Box 6. Folder 15. Texas Federation of Republican Women Award of Excellence, Certificate and Program, 1991 November 8-10
Box 6. Folder 20. Tower Staff Reunion Celebration, Photographs, 1982 October 23
Box 6. Folder 21. Trip to Houston for Tower’s Re-Election Campaign, Photographs, undated
Box 7. Folder 1. U.S. Senate Armed Services Christmas Party, Photographs, 1981 December

Series V. John Warner Years. 1968-2012, undated

Summary Information

Media Photographic print

Administrative/Biographical History

Series V. John Warner Years consists of correspondence, photographs, programs, and other materials compiled during Mattie McKee’s employment as the Executive Assistant to Republican Senator John Warner of Virginia. McKee worked for Senator Warner from January 1985 to April 1989 at which point McKee left Washington, D.C. and returned to her home state of Texas. The materials in this series are in good condition.

Box 7. Folder 2. 3rd Annual John Warner Invitational Golf and Tennis Classic Awards Dinner, Program, 1985 June 22
Box 7. Folder 3. 4th Annual Benefit for the Washington Home, Program, 1985 November 21-25
Box 7. Folder 4. 99th Congress, Program, 1985 September 10
Box 7. Folder 5. 100th Congress, Guide to the Senate, 1987
Box 7. Folder 8. Atoka Farm, Articles and Notes, 1970-1991, undated
Box 7. Folder 11. Congressional Staff Club, Certificate, 1987 May
Box 7. Folder 12. Correspondence, General (1 of 3), 1985-2004, undated
Box 7. Folder 13. Correspondence, General (2 of 3), 1985-2004, undated
Box 7. Folder 15. D.C. Area Church of Christ Congressional Breakfasts, Correspondence, 1988-2008, undated
Box 7. Folder 18. National Symphony Orchestra Ball, Program, 1988 December
Box 8. Folder 1. Personnel Rosters, 1988


Summary Information

Media: Photographic print

Administrative/Biographical History