

# Women



# History



*Barbara Jordan*



*Barbara Jordan in  
1976*

## Barbara Jordan

Barbara Jordan was born in 1936 in Houston, Texas. After being an honor student in high school, she went to college and law school.

She became a lawyer in 1960. In 1966 she became the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate. She held important roles while a state senator, including governor for a day.

In 1972, Barbara Jordan ran for the U.S. House of Representatives and won. She was one of the first women elected to Congress from Texas. She was also the first African American woman elected to Congress from the South.

While in Washington, D.C., Barbara served on the important House Judiciary Committee. She became famous in 1974 for a speech she gave when then committee was meeting about removing President Nixon from office.

Barbara left office in 1979. She taught advanced college classes at the University of Texas. By this time she had become sick with multiple sclerosis, a disease that affects the brain and spine. She eventually had to use a wheelchair to move from place to place.

In 1994, President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She died in 1996. Barbara Jordan is remembered for her intelligence, her speeches and her dedication to helping people.



*Barbara Jordan in a meeting in the  
White House Cabinet Room*

**Q**  
**AND**  
**A**

Where was Barbara Jordan born?

**Houston, Texas**

What committee did Barbara Jordan serve on in Congress?

**House Judiciary Committee**

What did President Clinton award Barbara Jordan?

**Presidential Medal of Freedom**