

Shirley Anita Chisholm (1924-2005)



Born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 20, 1924, Shirley Anita Chisholm (formerly Shirley St. Hill) is best known for becoming the first black congresswoman (1968), representing New York State in the U.S. House of Representatives for seven terms. After graduating from Brooklyn College in 1946, she began her career as a teacher and went on to earn a master's degree in elementary education from Columbia University. Three years later, she married Conrad Q. Chisholm, a private investigator, in 1949.

From 1946-1953, Chisholm worked as a nursery school teacher and then became the director of two daycare centers.

In 1972, she became the first black candidate to run for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. Throughout her political career, Chisholm fought for educational opportunities and social justice. Chisholm left Congress in 1983 to teach. She died in Florida in 2005.

For more information about Shirley Anita Chisholm, please visit:

[http://history.house.gov/People/Listing/C/CHISHOLM,-Shirley-Anita-\(C000371\)/](http://history.house.gov/People/Listing/C/CHISHOLM,-Shirley-Anita-(C000371)/)