



Student Name:

Class Period:

Date:

## Meet the Originals

*Texas Originals* is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Anne Legendre Armstrong. Then, answer questions about it.

### Anne Legendre Armstrong 1927–2008

Once, when asked about her many achievements, the politician, diplomat, and rancher Anne Armstrong explained, "I was born with energy." That energy spurred Armstrong to become a woman of many "firsts": first female co-chair of the Republican National Committee, first female counselor to a U.S. president, and first woman to chair the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Armstrong is so closely associated with Texas that it's easy to forget that she was born in New Orleans. In the 1950s, after marrying cattleman Tobin Armstrong, she moved to South Texas and became active in local politics, while also raising five children and helping to run her husband's Kenedy County ranch.

Armstrong became co-chair of the RNC in 1971. The next year, she became the first woman to give the keynote address at a national party convention. While serving as a cabinet-level Counsellor to President Nixon, Armstrong created the White House Office of Women's Programs.

She later became Counsellor to President Ford, who appointed her ambassador to Great Britain. Armstrong was a beacon to many women who aspired to public service, including Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, who described Armstrong as her "greatest mentor for thirty years."

Armstrong maintained strong ties to South Texas throughout her distinguished career. When she died in 2008 at the age of eighty, she was a sitting member of the Kenedy County Commission.

**Check for Understanding:** Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Anne Legendre Armstrong. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Where did Anne Legendre Armstrong spend most of her life after marrying her husband?
2. Which two presidents gave Armstrong positions in their administrations?

**Going Further:** Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Taking a Position.** Armstrong says that she "was born with energy" as an explanation for her success. What other qualities did she likely demonstrate that led to her success?