

My family and I soon left Tulsa, but I worked to forge a path forward, a path to better. I helped form the Tulsa Race Riot Commission. I also pursued my PhD and became a university professor. I was the first African American woman to serve in the US Coast Guard on active duty. I was honored to have President Barack Obama speak about me during the Coast Guard induction ceremony in 2015. What joy to also have a USCG training center named after me in Washington, DC.

My story begins in 1915, the year I was born. I was six years old during the awful 1921 catastrophe of racial violence. My father's business was lost in the ruins, as were many other successful businesses along Greenwood. My mother ushered us to safety under our dining room table while white mobs invaded our home and destroyed our property. What a frightening sight. So much was taken from us, including my sister's prize piano. These were horrible images for my young eyes to see.

## Dr. Olivia Juliette Hooker



*Dr. Hooker testifying before members of the Congressional Black Caucus and others on Capitol Hill*

Think about it...

- How does the story capture the events of the 1921 Race Riot and the story of Greenwood?
- What is most important about this story?
- Did I survive the events of May 31 – June 1, 1921?
- What makes me a survivor? A Pioneer?

## The Story of Survival 1921 and Beyond



**Dr. Olivia J. Hooker**