

## HISTORICAL QUOTATIONS

## STUDENT ACTIVITY



Frances Payne Bolton  
U.S. Representative, 1940–1969  
Republican from Ohio

“A few of [the party leaders] opposed my nomination, but most of them thought it would be a graceful gesture which would do them no harm since they were sure I would get tired of politics in a few months, and flit on to something else.”

— Representative Frances Payne Bolton



Jeannette Rankin  
U.S. Representative, 1917–1919;  
1941–1943  
Republican from Montana

“How shall we answer the challenge, gentlemen? How shall we explain to them the meaning of democracy if the same Congress that voted to make the world safe for democracy refuses to give this small measure of democracy to the women of our country?”

— Representative Jeannette Rankin



Ruth Bryan Owen  
U.S. Representative, 1929–1933  
Democrat from Florida

“I believe that woman’s place is in the home. But I believe that the modern mother considers the world her home. The community in which she lives and the children grow is her home and for that reason she should assure herself of the opportunity of getting good government.”

— Representative Ruth Bryan Owen



Cardiss Collins  
U.S. Representative, 1973–1997  
Democrat from Illinois

“We will no longer wait for political power to be shared with us, we will take it.”  
— Representative Cardiss Collins



Helen Gahagan Douglas  
U.S. Representative, 1945–1951  
Democrat from California

“Politics is a job that needs doing—by anyone who is interested enough to train for it and work at it. It’s like housekeeping; someone has to do it. Whether the job is done by men or women is not important—only whether the job is done well or badly.”  
— Representative Helen Gahagan Douglas



Coya Knutson  
U.S. Representative, 1955–1959  
Democrat from Minnesota

“I am not a feminist or anything else of that sort. I do not use my womanhood as a weapon or a tool. . . . What I want most is to be respected and thought of as a person rather than as a woman in this particular job. I would like to feel that I am respected for my ability, my honesty, my judgment, my imagination, and my vision.”  
— Representative Coya Knutson



Patricia S. Schroeder  
U.S. Representative, 1973–1997  
Democrat from Colorado

“The day I wore a pants suit onto the [House] floor you’d have thought I asked for a land base for China. I just want to do my job. Does it make any difference if I have a bow in my hair or not?”

— Representative Patricia S. Schroeder



Barbara Jordan  
U.S. Representative, 1973–1979  
Democrat from Texas

“I am neither a black politician nor a woman politician. Just a politician, a professional politician.”

— Representative Barbara Jordan



Alice Mary Robertson  
U.S. Representative, 1921–1923  
Republican from Oklahoma

“There is an unfortunate tendency on the part of women just now, having hardly found themselves in politics, to criticize faults rather than to encourage virtues. They call themselves non-partisan and stand on the side as harsh critics instead of going right in at the very source of government in their own immediate communities to build up what is best.”

— Representative Alice Mary Robertson