

**The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums**  
**U.S. Representative of California (1971–1998)**

**Events: Civil Rights**

**The Dellums Amendment: Part Three**

Representative Dellums describes the “highest point” in his political life.  
*Interview recorded June 19, 2012*

Because even though it was dramatic, it was a fluke in one sense. It was Siljander making the very personal and individual decision not to rise and ask that . . . You know, this was 15 years of our lives, because we had been pushing this since late '71, early '72, into 1986. I remember that night, I got home. It was late. I had literally put on my running shoes, and I went out of the house, and I started to run. And I ran and ran and ran, until I couldn't run anymore. And I just sat down on the curb, and I just cried. That was an incredible moment. And to be a person that, you know, grew up in the hood, modest family but caring people, to have found myself in a place where I could be part of history, to help change the world in some way, was an overwhelming feeling. And I don't know if there are many things that could overshadow that in my life—that was just extraordinary.