

**The Honorable Helen Delich Bentley**  
U.S. Representative of Maryland (1985–1995)

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Experience, Not Gender**

Representative Bentley describes how her experience as a journalist and knowledge of her district were more important than her gender in congressional campaigns.

*Interview recorded March 21, 2016*

Well, gender helped to a degree, but I think the fact that I had had 15 years of television, and I'd had 29 years writing for the *Sun* paper, and I knew my issues, I think that was my foundation more than just being a woman. But I certainly never forgot the fact of how women had been, were being discriminated against, and still are.