

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“We Just Had to Out–Bentley Them”

Representative Bentley recalls a memorable re–election campaign.
Interview recorded March 21, 2016

My second campaign for re-election was against Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. And I'll put the end before the, the meat in between. I was the first one to ever beat a Kennedy. And I did in that election, but I had the whole Kennedy family against me. I can remember the night before that election, there was a certain corner, street corner in my district in Dundalk—and this is Merritt Boulevard and Wise Avenue—and we're down there with our street signs the night before, and the whole Kennedy clan shows up. Well, we just had to out-Bentley them. And we did. We finally got them out of there. But that was one hell of a night, I can tell you. That's still my favorite street corner.