

**The Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
U.S. Representative of California (1973–1979)

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

**Three Constituencies**

Congresswoman Burke describes the three constituencies she felt she represented.  
*Interview recorded July 22, 2015*

As I said, I always felt that I had three constituencies. I had a constituency of African Americans, a constituency of women, and a constituency that elected me. One of the things that came with all of those constituencies was a demand for appearances, so all of us as women and all of us as minorities were called upon. And the expectation in all of those states that did not have women elected Members and who did not have African-American elected Members who might have had a large population—expected us to go. So, I had to travel. We all had to travel. I think Shirley Chisholm traveled every week. But all of us had a responsibility to go to the various communities and—throughout the United States—because that was what was expected. And I just took my daughter to Louisiana. Her first experience at a childcare center was in Louisiana. So, it was one of those expectations. I think that's still the case.