

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

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

**Chairing a "Caucus of Stars"**

Representative Burke shares memories of the Congressional Black Caucus.  
*Interview recorded July 22, 2015*

Well, we had a great caucus. You had Ron Dellums, you had Fauntroy, you had Charlie Rangel. So, we had a caucus of stars. They were people who were requested to speak all over the nation. Now, the one thing that—Parren Mitchell was the caucus chair before me. They were willing to bring me in as chair, I think, because they knew I had a history of raising money, and I could come in and to assist them in that score. There was a certain reluctance there, that for a woman to be chair, at first. But, they—immediately that dissolved, and I was given every consideration as chair of the Black Caucus which, you know, was an interesting time because it was a time when African-American men were supposed to be moving forward. But I had a good experience as chair in terms of issues and taking part in those issues.