

**The Honorable Beverly Barton Butcher Byron**  
U.S. Representative of Maryland (1979–1993)

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

**Camp David Accords**

Representative Byron remembers the events surrounding the Camp David Accords.  
*Interview recorded June 15, 2016*

We were in Israel at the point in time when Sadat made the commitment that he would be willing to go to the Knesset for peace. We took the invitation. I happened to be talking to—and I, and I'm a spouse so I had nothing to do with anything that's going on—but I was talking to Ezer Weizman who was the Israeli Defense Minister. And I said, "We have a great big plane. Why don't you come go with us tomorrow?" And he said, "Well, yes, I will. That's great." I said, "You don't need to bring much other than just your toothbrush." At which time the military person said, "What are you talking about? He can't go with us." And I said, "Well, he'd like to go. And, and they've made the offer to the Egyptians." As it turned out, I said, "Well, okay, you can't go tomorrow. But we'll, we'll work it out." By the time we got to, to Egypt, the Egyptians were saying, "What is the reaction in Israel to Sadat's commitment to go to, to the Knesset?" And I said, "Well, the only thing I can tell you is that they were shining the silver, getting out the good china. And so, they're waiting for you." The irony there is that it happened within a week. We were back in, in the States by the time the Egyptian delegation left. And yet, Goodloe's congressional district, and my congressional district, has Camp David. And it was my daughter's 13th birthday, the September 17th, when the President, and Sadat, and Begin left Camp David on a Sunday night at 9:30—flew over our house in helicopters. And no one knew what had happened. No one was aware at all whether there had been an agreement between the two countries, which Jimmy Carter had committed to getting in place. And I can still visualize us standing there. We had a bunch of people there for crabs in the yard. And we looked at the helicopters going over and thinking, "I wonder what's happened." On the 11:00 news, it was announced that he had come up with an agreement, and that they were going to finalize it.