

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

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

**President Carter and Congress**

Representative Byron recalls a meeting at the White House with President Jimmy Carter.  
*Interview recorded June 15, 2016*

When the Carter administration—and I think it was September before the election in November—had all the Democrats over to the White House. And the President said, “I have a file of all of your voting records. And I know how you voted on each of my pieces of legislation. And I, don’t come calling to me to ask me to send Rosalyn out to campaign for you in your district unless I look in that file.” Well, I’m a freshman Member, and I’ve been there maybe a year and a half. And so, at the end of the wrap-up, you know, “Any more questions?” I raise my hand and I said, “Well, Mr. President, I have a comment to make, not really a question. Camp David is in my congressional district. We had a race up at Camp David where there were about 800 people running. And you ran in it. And you didn’t do very well. In fact, you collapsed. And my two sons were running in that race. And any one of those 799 people would have been only too happy to help you and to pace you, because you went out too fast, and you didn’t finish the race. Now, in this room are a lot of Members that know their district, and any one of them would be only too happy to help you in their district. But you have to ask them.” And I sat down, and I thought, “I can’t believe what I just said.” But I had three or four people come up to me afterward and said, “Mrs. Byron, thank you for saying that. It needs to be said.” Needless to say, he didn’t ask. He didn’t win, so.