

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Careful Consideration of Committee Assignments

Representative Byron explains how she received her committee assignments.
Interview recorded June 15, 2016

Pick your committee assignments carefully. My reaction was, knowing myself, I'm not going to get on a committee where I'm, I'm not interested in, and it isn't something that you look at not only represent your district, but also represent you as an individual to, to be working there. One of, one of the first things the Members do is they pick their committee, the Steering and Policy picks committee assignments. And I thought, "Well, okay. I know what I want. I know what I don't want." So, I put down Judiciary. And I made sure they knew I didn't have a law degree. But I didn't have a college degree. And I thought I'm safe on that one. I put down Armed Services. I put down, I put down one other, one other one which I knew I wasn't going to get on, and Interior. And surprisingly, I got Armed Services and Interior. Isn't that amazing? But, you know, you look at Ways and Means, Appropriations, you know, Members come: "I want Ways and Means. I want Appropriations. I want Judiciary." And, and then they end up on something which really they're not excited about. I was excited about both of those two committees that I served on.