

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Congress and Hard Work

Representative Byron describes how she defied the conventional thinking of the time by pursuing her own congressional career after the death of her husband.

Interview recorded June 15, 2016

Anybody that comes into Congress and thinks that they're not going to be working hard is wrong. And there, there have been several people who've come and decided, you know, they weren't going to be in Washington. They were going to do—but, they would, they'd be there for two years. My problem was that the party powers that be, said, "Well, we will nominate her, and then next year"—and I'm quoting numerous of them— "and we'll get a real candidate next year, in two years, somebody that can, we can run," and, and—I don't think they knew me very well. There's too much work. There's too much potential for wonderful things to happen to your constituents not to work it hard.