

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Living Location

Representative Byron discusses the choice Members of Congress had to make when deciding whether to live in their district or in Washington.

Interview recorded June 15, 2016

You know, you looked, and you talked to, to Members that live outside of the area. And they have a debate on whether to move the family to Washington, or whether to stay and be gone every weekend, or whether to keep the family at home, and then, be—come home every weekend but be out campaigning. We lived in Frederick. He drove in every day. Traffic was not what it is today. And he was able to, to work that. My reaction was I would keep the house going. We had three children. They were fairly young. And commuting in was, was fine. There would be times when he would not get back in time for a meeting, and, and, but you worked through those things. What you lost in that, though, was the opportunity to know your colleagues and to work with your colleagues, because he was back and forth. Whereas when you have a Member that is here during the week, or a Member that moves their family here, you get a much better working relationship and understanding of, of the issues that those Members bring with them.