

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

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

**Quick Decision to Run for Congress**

Representative Byron recalls the quick decision she made to run for Congress after the death of her husband Representative Goodloe Byron of Maryland.

*Interview recorded June 15, 2016*

It was an election year. Maryland—I believe he died on a Tuesday evening. The governor at that time was Blair Lee—came to see me on Thursday and asked me if they could put my name forth. The primary had transpired. The night Goodloe died, I could hear people in my house, on the first floor, saying, “Well, we’ll get a real candidate to run for this slot.” Because the attorney general in Maryland had looked at it and stated that the central committee would have the authority to nominate somebody to replace Goodloe on the ballot. And, but it had to be a duly constituted meeting of the central committee. Well, we had a new central committee for the state. They were having their first meeting on Friday of that week, and so the governor came and asked if I would put my name forward. And I said, “Oh, I can’t possibly do that.” My two sons who, at that time, were twenty—22 and 23—said, “She’ll run.” And I thought, “Oh, I can’t do that.” They said, “Yes, she will. Don’t pay any attention to her.” So, the governor left. My name was presented to the central committee on Friday night, and Saturday morning, I had become a, a widow, a single parent of a very expensive 13-year-old, a candidate for Congress. And it all transpired very, very quickly.