

**The Honorable Lois Capps**  
U.S. Representative of California (1998–2017)

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

**Female Role Models**

Representative Capps remembers when there were few female political role models.  
*Interview recorded July 16, 2019*

I think I've identified with some strong women, both in, in primary school, elementary school. I don't recall as much in high school, but certainly in college and in my preparation to become a nurse, there were rather outstanding professors, other nurses with whom I worked that I, that I wanted to emulate. And that, and that list goes on. I've been, I believe, blessed by having—being alive during a time when women have really come into their own in so many ways. I'm old enough to remember when I was told a woman's place is in the home—or subtly perhaps, but a strong message—to coming through the process that we are undertaking, since I did work in the United States Congress, to seeing the small minority of women Members now to a fuller group. And the place of women as our election is—the campaign is showing us for the next presidential election a great shift in, in the public, but also for me personally.