

**The Honorable Eva M. Clayton**  
U.S. Representative of North Carolina (1992–2003)

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

**Only Woman in the Campaign**

Representative Clayton discusses the role of gender when running for elective office.  
*Interview recorded May 15, 2015*

I must say I did not raise the issue of a woman against a man, that, “I as a woman will do this.” I raised the issue that “I, Eva Clayton, will do this.” I was the only female. I also was in a position, because I had some experience, to say that, “You know I care.” Now, if you could translate what I was saying: “I have a record and I’ve demonstrated to you I care. I just shared with you what I did with the state, right? I have a demonstrated record. Not only have I put myself earlier to run, I have a demonstrated record that I care about rural areas. I care about poverty. I care about you.” So I think I was in a unique position because I was the only woman, and they knew I was pro-choice. They knew I cared about children. They knew. So I was in a position to say without saying, “I, Eva, a woman.” I said, “I, Eva Clayton,” okay. Now if I needed to say that, I would. Now women who were supporting me obviously said, “Eva Clayton as a woman will do this.” EMILY’s List, who supported me, also said that for me. And I attracted a number of women’s groups, inside my district and outside my district, who knew that the issues I cared about were issues that women cared about and strongly in that area. So gender was there, whether I said “woman” or not, because I was the only woman who ran, and that helped me. Now if I had two women, I don’t know what we would—we both would have cared, right, and I would have said, “I care more,” right?