

**The Honorable Donna F. Edwards**  
U.S. Representative of Maryland (2008–2017)

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

**Family Service**

Representative Edwards discusses the impact of her father's military service on her upbringing.  
*Interview recorded June 29, 2018*

My dad was all about service. He served nearly 30 years in the Air Force and so my entire growing up years we were moving from one base, to the next base, to the next base. We lived some internationally and, and, of course, across the country. I got to live around a lot of different people and it was, you know, a tremendous way to—a background rather to have coming into politics because I got to live around, you know, people who were completely unlike myself, had grown up in different regions of the country, and our dads all had to work together and so, you know, we had to live next door to each other and go to school. And that was at a time when most kids went to the schools that were on installations, the DOD schools, Department of Defense schools, and so I did too. And it was a very closed kind of community, but I think my dad's service taught me about service and my mother as well because all the time that, you know, when dad serves mom serves.