

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Congressional Football

Representative Edwards talks about her experience as the only woman Representative to play on the Congressional Football Team.

Interview recorded June 29, 2018

That was a different experience. I was the only woman Member to play on the, on the team. I love football. I've always loved football. When I was, I think, 12 years old I played football, but then they wouldn't let me play anymore because I was a girl and I've always been a little annoyed by that. And so when the opportunity came to play on the Congressional Football Team I actually thought other women were going to play and so when I showed up and it was all male Members I was a little hesitant at first. But they were like, "No, come on, you've got to do it. You've got to do it." And so I did. I'd get up in the morning, practice with them. We'd practice on the west front of the Capitol. And we did that, and then I went out and played with them. And we had some, a couple of professional football players who played with us, and there was one woman who plays on a professional women's football league. And she played with us, and her name was Donna, too. So they would call us "Donna One" and "Donna Two" or she was "Big Donna" and I was "Little Donna." And, so that was great. And when we played that first year I actually won the Most Valuable Player award. So I don't know if they were giving it to me as a sympathy award but I think it's because I actually really played.