

**The Honorable Elizabeth Furse**  
U.S. Representative of Oregon (1993–1999)

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

**Strong Women**

Representative Furse discusses the impact her mother had on her upbringing and her views on gender equality.

*Interview recorded June 8, 2017*

Well, having six, five sisters and a mother who was quite strong, very strong, I knew that I could do anything I wanted to do. My mother always said women can do anything they need, want to do; whatever you choose you can do. And she also felt very strongly that if there was something going wrong in your community, you have to get out and do it. Now that wasn't always comfortable for a, a teenager who wants to be like their friends, but I was more afraid of my mother than I was of my friends and so I did demonstrate and it was very liberating.