

The Honorable Melissa A. Hart
U.S. Representative of Pennsylvania (2001–2007)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Baseball and the Congressional Community

Representative Hart provides insight on the relationships formed between Members who participated in the annual Congressional Baseball Game.

Interview recorded September 30, 2019

We raised money for charity, we got to know each other as people. And I think that does help. People make the argument that Members shouldn't go home. They should all move to Washington because, you know, there's this camaraderie that they build because they're living in the same town and all that. And I think that's a decent argument, although I needed to go home because I needed to maintain the district, I needed to know where people were, they needed to see me. You know, if you want to do the job you actually have to be in the district and I, I'm a fan of going home, but I don't live in Hawaii, you know. I think for—it, it really is a logistical issue for some people—moving here. But you don't have to live here to play on the baseball team. You know, you get to know people and staff which was also, I think, really important. Some of the staff volunteered to come out at 6:00 in the morning because it was fun and they got to know Members. Probably some job opportunities were created for them, you know, by doing that as well, just because they got to know people. And it was a good thing.