

Jane Andrews Hinds

Daughter of the Honorable George and Elizabeth Andrews of Alabama

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

George Andrews Elected to Congress

Jane Andrews Hinds describes her father's unique election in Congress in 1941 while he served in the military.

Interview recorded July 21, 2017

Steagall won, and Dad knew that he would, but at least he got his name before the public. And as county solicitor, he knew almost everybody in the Third District, so it was no surprise that he didn't win. But he went ahead and joined the Navy, and was a lieutenant JG in Hawaii, stationed in Hawaii, when Steagall, after a year into his term of office, died—heart attack. So Winton Blount, Red Blount's father, called my mother. My uncle joined, and they thought, well, if George runs, we need to run him. Winton Blount checked and found out that if you are in the military service, you can run—have your name on the ballot—but you cannot campaign. So all of Dad's friends got together again and they elected him to Congress. I have a huge picture on my wall of Dad in his military whites pointing to a map of Alabama, the Third District. When he was elected, in Hawaii, this picture was taken. And he said the admiral had never spoken to him before inviting him for drinks. It was quite a change once he became a Member of Congress.