

## **Jane Andrews Hinds**

**Daughter of the Honorable George and Elizabeth Andrews of Alabama**

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

#### **Mother's Path to Congress: Part One**

Jane Andrews Hinds remembers family friends encouraging her mother to run for her father's House seat after he passed away.

*Interview recorded July 21, 2017*

Well, this friend I have spoken of, the Thomases in Houston, Albert Thomas had died, and Lera Thomas ran to fill his unexpired term. Every other office in our government has appointments—you can be appointed if anything happens—but not for the House. You have to run. So Lera Thomas drove to Union Springs and saw Mother, and said, “Elizabeth, you need to fill George's unexpired term. It would mean so much to you, but more than that, it will mean a great deal to the district, because the proposals that George has before Congress that he has pretty much secured the money for might easily be transferred to another district. George won't be there to protect it.” And so, mother checked, and the Democrats—as long as Mother said that she did not want a career but just to fill his unexpired term—the Democrats said they would not oppose it. And the Republicans—Red Blount said, “There is no way, you know, that any Republican”—the Republican Party started, back with this inauguration with Eisenhower, when the Blounts and some other people came up, and Tom McGregor, and we went to the balls to—that's, that's when the Republicans began to group together. Red Blount had said to my father, “George, you really should be a Republican. That's the way you vote.” And Dad said, “Well, you forget that I have seniority, and I would not have any if I started over as a freshman Congressman. I have, I have the ability to do more for Alabama where I am.” So Mother—Red Blount said, “You will not have any opposition.” So Mother ran unopposed and filled Dad's term.