

The Honorable Martha Elizabeth Keys
U.S. Representative of Kansas (1975–1979)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Married Couples in Congress

Representative Keys recalls how she balanced married life with Representative Andy Jacobs of Indiana and her job as a Congresswoman from Kansas.

Interview recorded June 14, 2016

Well, there was no, you know, people always thought how impossible it would be. Of course, there was nothing—that was the easiest thing in the world. We both understood our responsibilities to our work in Washington and to our district and there was never any disharmony about anything. You had to do what you had to do. And, I spent, I didn't go spend much time in Indiana but I usually, I came through there on my way home. There were, there was only one direct flight that Braniff flew and it very seldom flew at a time that I could take it. So, I would always have to stop in either Indianapolis or St. Louis. And, so I often stopped, maybe for a few hours or something like that. But I didn't go there much obviously. I spent my time—and we were very careful when we were married that we had it, made clear—we kept our finances and everything separate and we had it registered, something, in both states. We would each keep our own names, that kind of stuff. So, a lot was trying to be done to alleviate. But you still had, had a lot. And, of course, there were Members that thought it was terrible that both of us were on Ways and Means. A lot of Members that were—thought that was really terrible.