

The Honorable Jill Lynette Long Thompson
U.S. Representative of Indiana (1989–1995)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Fostering Relationships

Representative Long Thompson reflects on the value of the Congresswomen's Caucus.
Interview recorded June 15, 2017

Well, Olympia Snowe was somebody who was very engaged on the Republican side, Congresswoman Pat Schroeder on the Democratic side. And we didn't have regular meetings but when there was an issue that was coming up, we would, we would convene and, and have discussions. It was just a great caucus because—I don't think that women are better decision makers than men, but women come to decision making from a different perspective than men. And that may not be the case individual by individual, but certainly as a group, and so when we're looking at issues we and we frame them in our minds, we probably are looking at them differently than most men are looking at them. And it was just really useful to sit down and talk about issues and talk about how we might more effectively communicate the, the perspective that we had. And it was really, it was also very gratifying to have friends on both sides of the aisle. And I, I had, a lot of Republican friends who, who were men, but there just was much, a much stronger bond in the Women's Caucus.