

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

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

**“Women at the Table”**

Representative Long Thompson describes the necessity of including women in all political and policy discussions.

*Interview recorded June 15, 2017*

This is what I think women bring to the table. I think, and I think that if you really want to include all the brainpower and all the talent, you have to recognize that women and minorities, as well as white males, have something to offer, and you get better decisions. And when you bring women and minorities to the table and/or not bring them, we should just come to the table, that the stereotypes that we have get broken down. And when you, when you eliminate those stereotypes, then you actually get people in good positions to make good decisions. But it's not, it's not just women. There's research out of Duke University, for example, that shows that CEOs actually have a similar look. And it's a white male look, but they do have a similar look, and even within the group of white men, they have a similar look. There's some really interesting research on that out of the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. The more we can break down these stereotypes and actually see who can do the job and who can make a contribution in the best way, the better we're going to be led as a nation, the stronger we're going to be in government, in corporate, in not-for-profit, in, it doesn't matter the field. And that's why it's so important to have women at the table, so we can break down the stereotypes.