

## **The Honorable Kendrick B. Meek**

**U.S. Representative of Florida (2003–2011) and Son of Representative Carrie P. Meek of Florida**

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

#### **Sage Advice**

Representative Meek shares the memorable advice his mother gave him based on her own experience in public service.

*Interview recorded March 19, 2019*

She could roll with the best of them and knew how to get even with them, but also, you know, give them some room to make them feel they're pulling one off, pulling one over. She would always tell me, say, "Kendrick, listen. Whenever you have someone in a corner, always allow them an out. Don't corner them because now you have a very dangerous kind of badger situation." She said, "You'll keep more friends that way in this process." She also said, you know, "Don't get caught up in the emotions of debate. Many Members get excited when it comes down to another Member representing their district." She would always say, "They are who they represent, and you are who you represent. The key is respecting their interpretation of what they think is right."