

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

Staying Connected

Representative Meek discusses the way his mother built close ties with her congressional district during her House career.

Interview recorded March 19, 2019

Being home was important to not only communicate to her constituents but to also understand their needs. Here's a woman—if anybody understood their district, she did. But every weekend it wasn't just, "So I can't wait to get home and hang out with my Great Dane," which she always had a dog. But it was going to not only banquets, going to churches, but going to events in the community, having town hall meetings and workshops, not only on housing but also for veterans. So there was always some sort of district activity taking place, or a meeting. And she, I think that's, that's what really preserved her in Congress, staying active. And, you know, she would always say to me, "Kendrick, you have a choice. You can run for office for three months and probably get elected, or you can treat every day as though you're running for office and always be re-elected." And I followed her model because that's easier and also you're able to get a lot done. And that's the reason why she was untouchable during her, politically, during her time here in Congress. She just worked all the time.