

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

“Humility and Contrition”

Representative Meek reveals the personal qualities of his mother that made her an effective Member of Congress.

Interview recorded March 19, 2019

So it really helped her in this process to, to be here in the Congressional Black Caucus, to be able to speak on behalf of people of struggle and commitment, but also work with and around colleagues who did not have that same experience as she had. And I think it made her a better policymaker. Again, her life experience is wrapped up in not only the skin she lives in, the gender that she was born with. And her struggle through segregation into integration as an educator, having to go the extra mile to get the kind of education that allowed her to be the outstanding teacher and leader that she became. She also brought, brought a, a sense of humility and contrition. You would never know that she was a Member of Congress many times when she's in her district because she didn't carry herself in a way to where that you felt that you were around a Member of Congress. It, you were really around your grandmother, your friend that you would go to the mall with and shop with.