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

Actively Involved  
Representative Meek remembers his mother’s active involvement in the community and how she enjoyed helping people.  
_Interview recorded March 19, 2019_

So she was really involved in the community. Our weekends would consist of not only Boy Scout activities for me, but also Red Cross volunteering during hurricanes and natural disasters—every weekend was an agenda. I mean, it wasn't like you—very few weekends hanging around the house. We were always involved in things. And because it was just me and her—and my two sisters, to a point—I had to go along because I couldn’t stay home. But she, what really made her my true role model was the fact that we would go shopping at the local grocery store, and, and, and people would stop her and want to talk to her about issues or just say, “Ms. Meek, I want to thank you for helping me get into my first home.” Before she made it to Congress, she was in the legislature. “I want to thank you for helping my son get into school.” And so shopping was more of a two-hour event for us versus the 30 or 40 minutes that people may have at most going to the shopping center. So, she was always, she always loved people. And she still loves people to this day. And I learned an appreciation for loving people. When I talked to people about running for public service, I said, “You can’t like people; you have to love people. And then you can be a better public servant if that’s already in your mind, in your heart, as it relates to the work that you have to do.” So she, that grew on me.