

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

Tireless Campaigning

Representative Meek describes the strategies his mother taught him during his own campaign for public office.

Interview recorded March 19, 2019

Because she would call me, this, at this time she was in Congress, and she would say, “How many doors did you knock on today?” And I’m like, “Today,” I said, “Well, Mom, I covered half of this precinct or this, that and the other” and she said, “Okay.” Then at the end of the week she would come home, and we would look at the precinct maps. And she would say, “Okay, now when you’re finished knocking on doors, what you need to do is go to the grocery store, and like a little bit after seven because many of the parents have now cooked and have their kids ready for bed, and that’s when they shop. And you go out and you, you do that and I need you to do that two days a week.” Of course, me being a young man, “Okay, Mom.” You know, I would do it one day a week, and she would be like, “What happened to the two? Okay, now you owe me three next week. And which grocery stores are you doing?” And that’s the kind of strategic hard work person she was as it relates to the application of serving. And we won that election.