

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

Underestimated

Representative Meek recalls his mother being discounted and underestimated during her long political career.

Interview recorded March 19, 2019

There's a picture online, say, that says that a woman's place is in the house and the senate when she was in the state legislature. And she wore, like I said, many hats through her life experience. I mean, we talked about segregation, we've talked about, you know, her work ethic, being a working woman, being in the room and being second-guessed, second-guessed, not only one, two, three, maybe 50 times, and understanding that and still marching on. Coming into Congress with a historical, at that time, number of women, coming to Congress she knew that, that carried a great responsibility. And just because she was a woman did, did not mean she could not, how would you say, spar, you know, with men on public policy in debate and not kowtowing, one may say, or bowing to men of equal power in this process.