

**The Honorable Elizabeth J. Patterson**  
U.S. Representative of South Carolina (1987–1993)

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Building Relationships on Capitol Hill**

Representative Patterson remembers the bonds formed between her family and Senate colleagues.  
*Interview recorded April 3, 2017*

Friendships off the Hill played into lot of successes. There was a group of Senators who were good friends of my dad that we did things with, and my family traveled with. So, and there were people who were not like my father. Senator—I always have to hesitate—Senator Kerr, Senator Kerr—from Oklahoma, you know, was not like my dad, but they were big buddies. You know, Daddy didn't, didn't play poker, but Daddy was always there when they were playing poker. Daddy didn't drink, but he, he and Rob Kerr were good friends. And then the Senators from Mississippi, of course, were friends of my dad. And a Senator from Louisiana that was a very good friend, Allen Ellender, he and his wife were good friends of my parents. And they traveled together. So, so there were, there were friendships that were important, especially to my mom. You know, when Daddy was down here working all the time, it was important for her to get to know some of those folks a little bit better, more intimately.