

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

The Women of Congress

Representative Patterson reflects on the dynamics of the group of women who served during her congressional tenure.

Interview recorded April 3, 2017

Once we were elected and then the women in Congress, there was—and I don't want to put this wrong—but no, there wasn't a lot of bonding. The ones who had been here for a while and knew what they were doing and had done a lot seemed to be together. And, and we had to sort of work our way into, into that group. So I didn't, I don't think I could say I was really close to many Members, women in Congress. Jill Long came along later, and we got to be great friends. And, of course, Lindy Boggs continued to help me and lead me whenever. But the, I never felt a part of "the women" of Congress. You know, I was there, but I never felt as much a part because there were so many strong women who had already been here, and knew the ropes, and were doing a good job.