

**Allyson Y. Schwartz**  
U.S. Representative of Pennsylvania (2005–2015)

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

### **Pennsylvania Delegation**

Representative Schwartz describes the resistance she faced from an all-male state delegation.  
*Interview recorded April 12, 2017*

People do start to sit in certain areas, either by state or by caucus, or stand in certain areas, so. But the Pennsylvania delegation was, I think, the only one that was actually known as that's, you don't sit in Jack Murtha's seat. And, actually, what's funny about being on the rise is, if you wanted to talk to Jack Murtha, you were sort of at eye level if you were standing and he was sitting. So it was definitely a power thing. You know, it was always about that. And then there were several other Members from some other states who actually also just have hung out in that corner. And except for one or two other women who actually would often sit there, and I actually had really good relationships with that team, they weren't used to having a woman in the delegation. I mean, the most recent was somebody who had served one term. And they weren't as—they were, it was a mixed welcoming experience. They, again, didn't know what to make of me. They were told to be wary of me. They, they were told I would be pretty aggressive, I think. So they weren't too welcoming. And it, and it shook up who they were and the kind of conversations they had.