

**The Honorable Sue W. Kelly**  
U.S. Representative of New York (1995–2007)

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

**Leaving a Mark**

Representative Kelly reflects on how her career influenced other women.  
*Interview recorded June 23, 2016*

But the fact that I was successful made a difference to, has made a difference to some women. I was stunned the other day when I went into a, I went into a town hall, and a woman came up to me, and she, she just walked up and put her arms around me and gave me a hug, and she said, "I am so glad to see you. I want to tell you, if you hadn't run, I never would be here, and here I am. I am now the supervisor of the town!" And I never, she said, "I watched how you did it, and I thought I could do it, too." And I said, "Oh, Barbara, I'm so glad for you!" But I, I didn't even really—I hadn't thought about my being any kind of a talisman. That wasn't why I ran. It wasn't because I was a woman. It was because I cared. And I think that's one of the unique, unique things about women. I think women get sometimes pretty passionate about issues. They care.