

The Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey
U.S. Representative of California (1993–2013)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Out of Iraq

Representative Woolsey reflects on her colleagues' resistance to vote against war in 2005.
Interview recorded March 7, 2016

Then from that, I, I had the first piece of legislation on the floor to ask, tell President Bush to get out of Iraq. And it got on the floor, and people would come up to me, good liberal Democrats, and say, "Oh, Lynn, take that off. I mean, talk about, debate it, but then don't, don't ask for a vote, because we'll be so embarrassed, because we're going to lose so badly. And it'll take us backward." And I said, "Ah, come on. If I'm the only one that votes for this, I will not be embarrassed. You just do what you want to do." Well, we had 156 bipartisan votes. And that was the beginning of Members of Congress knowing they could be against that war and not get killed by their constituents. And, because the country was way ahead of us. They were against the war. They didn't want us in there, fighting for something that wasn't, that wasn't even real.