

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“It was Important That I Be Popular”

Representative Woolsey recalls the lessons she learned growing up in the 1950s.
Interview recorded March 7, 2016

Well, okay, remember, I'm 78 years old. So I was—I grew up in the '50s. *Good Housekeeping* magazine was my Bible as a young mother, and it was important that I be popular, that I be pretty, that I dressed well. And there were no expectations for what kind of a career—I on my own knew I was going to go to college, and did. With support from my family, but it wasn't because they thought, “Well, of course, she goes to college.” So, I'm kind of unique that way, but not too different than most women in the '50s. I mean, we grew up to be wives and mothers.