

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“You Think I’m Pat Schroeder”

Representative Woolsey recalls being mistaken for Representative Pat Schroeder of Colorado.
Interview recorded March 7, 2016

Pat Schroeder and I are friends. People all thought I was Pat Schroeder at first. They’d stop me in the hall or, and start talking to me, “Oh, I adore you!” And I’d say, “No, you don’t adore me. I haven’t been here long enough to be adored. You think I’m Pat Schroeder, don’t you?” I mean, I learned how to say that. And they’d go, “Oh!” A car passed me on the street one day, honking, and, “Pat, Pat!” and then started swearing at me. I didn’t know they were even calling me because I’m not, you know, and then I went, “Oh my gosh, I should have waved so they didn’t think she was being rude.” So, to the, just before she retired, she said, came up and she said, “Lynn, Lynn, Lynn, you won’t believe this. Somebody just came up to me and said, ‘Are you Lynn Woolsey?’” And I said, “I made it.” So, but we all, we, we, friendships are important. And coming here and just being all by yourself just would be—I can’t imagine it because this can be a cold place.