

**The Honorable Eva M. Clayton**  
U.S. Representative of North Carolina (1992–2003)

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

**Women Members Offering Advice**

Representative Clayton discusses the important advice women Members provided to their new women colleagues in 1992.

*Interview recorded May 15, 2015*

Oh, yes, where we gravitated, yes, particularly the, the freshmen women did to each other. But also we were grateful that there were those who were still in the House, who were in the House when we came. They certainly served as models to us, and they also gravitated towards us. They also reached out to us to say, "Here's the real deal," you know. And they told us how important seniority was, you know. You know, being a freshman, you think that because you're big in the numbers, you're going to be able to do all these things. And you have the great expectation of ourselves. And I think women—I think it's instinctive of women that we can do, alright? And I think, I don't know if it's a mother instinct, I don't know if it's a female instinct, but we, we can fix it, right? If it's, if something's wrong, what's wrong? We, we get it, you know. And I think we, as newcomers and women, we thought we could. And now our, our experienced women colleagues didn't say you can't fix it, but they gave us the real dope. You know, how to maneuver and recognize that seniority trumps most things and how you could interact with the senior Members to make sure you got your agenda.