

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“The Best for the First”

Representative Clayton recalls how she created a slogan for her 1992 special election campaign.
Interview recorded May 15, 2015

In fact, what I did say is I said, “We have six good candidates, but Eva Clayton is the best.” Rather than to say, “He doesn’t do that, he doesn’t do that, he doesn’t—” I just wanted to say, “If you want the very best for you, you will choose Eva Clayton.” Now that might have been arrogance, but I believed that, okay. And I said it with the—“The best for the first” became a slogan that we used. Wrote it on our T shirts, wrote it on our cars, wrote it on the plaques. You know, we had no apologies for thinking we were the best, and so a woman was the best in that candidate, whether they wanted to see it or not.