

The Honorable Nancy Lee Johnson
U.S. Representative of Connecticut (1983–2007)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Women Representing Rural Districts

Representative Johnson discusses the challenges women from rural districts faced when running for Congress.

Interview recorded December 3, 2015

But a lot of women from rural areas of the South, they were terrific. They were really terrific—a lot of them minority. But they're—you know, to get known in an area that big, you had to have been very constructive. You have to have done something good. And men's, you know, Rotary, and those things made it easier for men to find a way to do that in a community. But there weren't many women who were at a place in their job where they could go to Rotary. I mean, there were some, but, but not a lot. And so for you to become known in a rural community was really usually through church work and that ladder, the nonprofit, religious ladder. But they, they were savvy. I loved them. I worked with a number of them well.