

The Honorable Barbara Bailey Kennelly
U.S. Representative of Connecticut (1982–1999)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Political Family

Representative Kennelly describes growing up in a political household.
Interview recorded September 9, 2015

Living with a state chairman—my father—I met all sorts of politicians. Adlai Stevenson stayed at our home for a week with his family. John Kennedy took a nap at our home. I mean, I, I, I lived a political life as a young woman—as a child, really. So, I had a lot of role models, but I didn't think of it then. I just thought it was a great life to meet these famous people. And I never thought it would be me and—not famous, but be in that role at that point. My father always said—and he took us everywhere, to the picnics, to everything—and he always said, "If you behave you can come." And I went to my first National Convention in 1952 when I was 15. I was a page. And then four years later I went again as a page and I've only missed two conventions since then, which is quite amazing.