

**The Honorable Constance A. Morella**  
U.S. Representative of Maryland (1987–2003)

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

**“Out of the Box”**

Representative Morella remembers working across party lines to find support for legislation.  
*Interview recorded June 16, 2015*

If you know my record in Congress, Jeannette Rankin would probably approve, approve of it. I was perhaps the most independent and the most liberal Republican in Congress, but I had, I had that kind of district. I had a district that was a majority of the other party, which was really, when I think about it, retrospectively, I wish more districts were like that. Yes. Because it, it inevitably, when I put a piece of legislation in—but a number of my colleagues were doing the same thing at the same time—when I put in a piece of legislation, I would immediately hunt the Democrats to get on it. I wanted to show that it had the scope of both parties' support. The same time the Democrats would run to me. You know, "Would you please get on my bill," so they could show a bipartisan piece of legislation. And, and so, my whole record shows that I was sort of out-of-the-box, independent and, yes, kind of issue-oriented.