

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

"That Gal's Got Spunk"

Representative Morella remembers Representative Martha Griffiths of Michigan.
Interview recorded June 16, 2015

Well, when asked about were there any female role models, I must say, sort of from afar at around that time, in the late '60s, early '70s, I developed a great appreciation of a woman in Congress, whom I never met, Martha Griffiths, from Michigan. And she introduced the Equal Rights Amendment. It had been introduced before, but nothing ever happened with it. But this time she introduced it and it was not going to get out of the Judiciary Committee because the chairman just didn't feel that this was appropriate—the right thing to do. She did it via a discharge petition and I thought, that gal's got spunk, dedication. And when you think about how difficult and arduous it is to get a discharge petition signed by 50 percent of the Members—many in the party of the chairman, many who disagree with the issue, many who just want to get along—but she did it.