

The Honorable Sue Myrick
U.S. Representative of North Carolina (1995–2013)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Taking Work Home

Representative Myrick shares memories of women Members working after hours.
Interview recorded March 14, 2016

But the other thing we learned early on, as women, was that we were pretty much all alike. Because one time we were together and some of the old women who had been here before—Nancy Johnson, Tillie Fowler, and some of the others—and we were talking, and I said something. You know, one of us said, “Well, I’ve got to go because I take my work home.” You know, and the other one said, “You do that, too?” And somebody else said, “You do that, too?” And we learned, what we realized was, we took our work home, and went home at night and worked. And the guys went out and had a good time. Not all of them, but, I mean, that’s really what happened, you know? Or, they played golf, or sometimes in the afternoon they’d go to a matinee, you know, while we’re working all the time. We, we realized, as women, that was the difference. And it’s probably still true today, but I mean you, just have a different—I think because there’s always this, been this, you have to work harder and try harder to be accepted, in a man’s world, as a woman. I think there’s a lot of that that doesn’t really exist today but it’s kind of built into you, if you came along through all those years of having to do that.