

The Honorable Patricia Scott Schroeder
U.S. Representative of Colorado (1973–1997)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“I’m Going to Do It. Deal with It.”

Representative Schroeder advises women to be bold and seek professional advancement.
Interview recorded June 3, 2015

I think women wait to be discovered. All the books that have come out lately only confirm what I think. You know, they keep saying men will apply for a job if they’re only 60-percent qualified, but women have to be 100-percent-plus. They’re very cautious about, “Oh, well maybe,” you know. Or, “If I have all that, won’t somebody find me and ask me to do it?” You know, they’re not going to ask you to do it. They’re going to—you’re going to have to raise your hand and say, “I’m going to do it. Deal with it.” And I think that that’s, it’s getting easier because each generation is getting a little more, but telling women just to do it is terribly important, because if they don’t go out there, they’ll always find someone else to run. And they’re not just going to come knock on your door and say, “Oh, we just happened to notice, you have all of the wonderful attributes that would make a perfect person.” You know, that’s not going to happen.