



As a public official and being so highly visible, I have a responsibility to make it very clear that those people who will have cancer at one point in their lives will be able to function.

— *Lindy Boggs* —

Louisiana's



First



Congresswoman

Lindy Boggs



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Teacher Notes

Just a few notes on how I used this worksheet in class. First I used it as an opening to my government chapter, other times I used it in my studies of Women in Louisiana in March, and other times I used it after testing to fill those last few weeks of the year. Any way you choose to use it is fine. I just want students to know about some of the real innovators in Louisiana.

It is hard to find stories about women leaders in Louisiana. Other works can be found at –

<http://www.tulane.edu/~wc/text/pathfinders/LAwomen.html>

<http://www.biography.com/people/groups/born-in-louisiana>

<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=29798>

<http://www.ereferencedesk.com/resources/state-famous-people/louisiana.html>

http://www.nola.com/books/index.ssf/2009/07/writers_examine_the_contributi.html

This has never been a HUGE writing assignment but a full scale reading and limited writing assignment. I just want my students to know something extra about women in Louisiana that the textbooks generally leave out.

Please print page one and two back to back and have student write on the third page using front and back if needed.

HUGE

Lindy Boggs

Louisiana's First Congresswoman



Corinne Claiborne (**Lindy**) **Boggs** , great, great grandniece of John Francis Hamtramck Claiborne, great, great, great grandniece of Nathaniel Herbert Claiborne and first state governor William Charles Cole Claiborne, and great, great, great, great grandniece of Thomas Claiborne [1749-1812]), a Representative from Louisiana; born Marie Corinne Morrison Claiborne, was born on the Brunswick Plantation near New Roads in Pointe Coupee Parish in South Louisiana. She graduated from St. Joseph's Academy, New Roads then attended Sophie Newcomb College at Tulane University in New Orleans. She was a second cousin of deLesseps Story "Chep" Morrison, Sr., the former mayor of New Orleans, Ambassador to the Organization of American States, and three-time candidate for governor of Louisiana who for a time was her husband's law partner.



On October 16, 1972, Representative Hale Boggs' twin-engine Cessna plane disappeared over Alaska. Boggs was helping a colleague, Nicholas Begich, father of former U.S. Senator Mark Begich of Alaska, to campaign for reelection. The first bill that the House passed in 1973, House Resolution 1, officially recognized Hale Boggs' death and created the need for a special election.



Lindy Boggs ran successfully as a Democrat for her husband's vacated seat in Louisiana's 2nd congressional district, in New Orleans.



Boggs was elected to a full term in 1974 with 82 percent of the vote and was reelected seven times thereafter until she vacated her office in January 1991. In 1980, she faced her closest challenge from the Republican Rob Couhig, an attorney-businessman who raised some \$200,000 for the race, a large amount at that time for a challenger in a difficult district. Lindy Boggs still prevailed, 45,091 votes (63.8 percent) to Couhig's 25,512 (36.2 percent). Another 4.8



percent of the ballots were cast for Democratic former State Representative Clyde F. Bel, Jr., of New Orleans. Otherwise, Boggs polled more than 80 percent in her contested races. After her

district was redrawn in 1984 in response to a federal court order mandating Louisiana's first majority-African-American district, she became the only white member of Congress representing a majority-African-American constituency. Boggs was a member of Sigma Gamma Rho, one of the four traditionally African-American sororities in the United States.

She was reelected to eight succeeding Congresses (March 20, 1973-January 3, 1991); chair, Joint Committee on Bicentennial Arrangements (Ninety-fourth Congress); chair, Commission on the Bicentenary of the United States House of Representatives (Ninety-ninth through One Hundred First Congresses); was not a candidate for reelection to the One Hundred Second Congress in 1990; United States Ambassador to the Vatican, 1997-2001 when President Bill Clinton appointed her official U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, a position she held until 2001.



In 1994, Boggs was inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield, one year after her husband had been among the original thirteen inductees.

In 2005, Boggs's home on Bourbon Street in New Orleans' French Quarter sustained moderate wind damage from Hurricane Katrina. In 2006, she was awarded the Congressional Distinguished Service Award for her time in the House of Representatives.

The Boggs Center for Energy and Biotechnology Building at Tulane is named in her honor.

Boggs died of natural causes at her home in Chevy Chase, Maryland on July 27, 2013. A funeral Mass was held on August 1, 2013 at St. Louis Cathedral at 615 Pere Antoine Alley in New Orleans. Interment followed later in the day at St. Mary's Cemetery in New Roads. Governor Bobby Jindal ordered all U.S. and state flags in Louisiana to fly at half-staff until August 2 in Mrs. Boggs' memory



She was influential in composing the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974. When the Banking committee marked up the ECOA, she added the provision banning discrimination due to sex or marital status without informing the other members of the committee beforehand, personally inserting the language on her own and photocopying new versions of the bill. She then told the other committee members, "Knowing the members composing this committee as well as I do, I'm sure it was just an oversight that we didn't have 'sex' or 'marital status' included. I've taken care of that, and I trust it meets with the committee's approval." The committee unanimously approved the bill.

Boggs was the first woman to preside over a national political convention, specifically the 1976 Democratic National Convention.

Name _____ Date _____ Class Period _____

Lindy Boggs

Louisiana's First Congresswoman

Directions: Respond to the following questions after you have read the story on Lindy Boggs.

1. How is Mrs. Boggs related to the states early history?
2. How did she become a congresswoman in the first place?
3. How long did she serve as a congressman?
4. How do you think Boggs thought she was being treated by the other congressmen?
5. What job was she assigned to by the President of the United States?
6. What 'Hall of Fame' was she inducted to and when?
7. What is now 'named' in her honor?
8. What did she want added to the 'Banking' law in 1974?
9. How do you think African-Americans thought about her as a congresswoman?
10. Find at least one quote of hers using an internet search.

Louisiana History Teacher

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