

The Honorable Beverly Barton Butcher Byron
U.S. Representative of Maryland (1979–1993)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Touring a Submarine

Representative Byron recalls touring military facilities with then-Representative Barbara Mikulski of Maryland.

Interview recorded June 15, 2016

I, as a member in Armed Services, was given a great opportunity to look at, see, go out, kick the tires, fly in the aircraft, go in the submarines. I took Mikulski out on a submarine once, and she said, "Well, now, what about mail?" I said, "Well, they don't get any mail." She said, "What do you mean, they don't?" I said, "They go submerge for 90 days." And she said, "Well, what do they do? Who do they talk to?" We went out. Took her out on an aircraft carrier. And I said, she said, "There are 5,000 men on this?" I said, "Uh-huh." This is before women were permitted to go on, on many of the ships. And she said, "Well, it's about 5:00. Don't you think we ought to go have a beer with the boys?" I said, "Barbara, there are no beers onboard." She said, "What do you mean there's no beer?" So, it's an education process.