

Judy Lemons

Chief of Staff, Representative Nancy Pelosi of California

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Congresswoman Sala Burton

Judy Lemons remembers Representative Sala Burton of California.

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And so people could never, ever underestimate that aspect of her because she could be tenacious and as politically astute in every way Phil Burton was. She might not have the, the way to deliver because he had been there for 19 years when he died but she, she had all the makings. All the makings. But she had the sweet personality where, as people would say, she could pick lint off a suit coat and then just be delivering the worst news in the world to you, but being very motherly and like, "Oh, yes, and how's your wife?" and bam. "Are you voting, are you voting with me on this California wilderness bill?" And, and, "Are you going to oppose this?" So, she, she had her own unique personality that was dear but she, she had a great softness and, and a sense of humor. I liked her sense of humor. Phil had no sense of humor. He would make you laugh but it was never intentional. You know, it was like, "That was really funny." And, you know, he had no idea what humor and fun or anything like that could be.