

The Honorable Susan Molinari
U.S. Representative of New York (1990–1997)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Unique Proposal

Representative Molinari tells the story of getting engaged on the House Floor.
Interview recorded January 8, 2016

So, Bill proposed to me on the House Floor. It was not, not publicly and it was during those times when Congress was in session but nobody was there. And Mike McNulty, who was a Member of Congress from New York also, a Democrat, was in the chair. They were debating some bill, when my husband and I—you know, and we'd meet sometimes and, you know, chat in the back. And I don't—we ran into each other and he, and we were sitting and he said, "I just want to like let you know that like I spoke to your mom and your dad today." And then he got down on his knee and handed me the ring, and I was like, "Okay, but get up, get up, get up." But McNulty saw something. And then that night, we, we had a break. And it was like defense authorization or appropriations, I'm pretty sure, and it, and they had a quorum call because it was such a divisive bill at the time. And so, they wanted the Members there to hear the closings of the debate, but before they did, Speaker Foley gave this beautiful, beautiful, you know, speech about, "I just want to share with everybody that before we get into this debate, where we, you know, show the differences, that there are some really great things that happen on the floor of the House of Representatives." And he just gave a beautiful little speech about Bill and I getting engaged. And then the next day, there were all these, you know, one minutes and special orders, where, you know, Eliot Engel said, "Oh, may you have, you know, a bunch of children and may they all be Democrats." And, you know, it was just really so heartwarming, to like have the family of the U.S. House of Representatives congratulate us and you know be, be really happy for us.