

The Honorable Mary Rose Oakar
U.S. Representative of Ohio (1977–1993)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Congresswoman Sala Burton

Representative Oakar shares her memories of California Representative Sala Burton.
Interview recorded March 2, 2017

Sala Burton was my favorite, a darling fabulous woman. And, she was probably one of my best friends in Congress. And I knew her before she came to Congress. Phil Burton was a great guy. And Sala had a way about her. I, I gave the eulogy at her, when she passed on in San Francisco. And she would go up to these fellas and she'd say, "Oh, you have dandruff on your thing, you don't want that to show on camera, you know." And she'd do something like that first, you know. Or she'd say, "Do you need some Kleenex?", if somebody would cough or something. And then she'd say, you know, "You've got to be reasonable." "Sala, you know I think the world of you, but blah, blah, blah." Somehow she always succeeded. But she knew how to—it wasn't flirtation, it was more like I'm going to do something nice for you, and I think the world of you. And they liked her a lot, you know? I think, I think when people feel that you're not always mad at them and angry, and so forth, it really helps.