

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

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Singing for Equal Access**

Representative Oakar remembers when she and Representatives Barbara Boxer and Marcy Kaptur used music to make a case for equal access to the House Gym.

*Interview recorded March 2, 2017*

And so we would have an evening of entertainment. So that's when Barbara and I and Marcy had written a song "Can Anybody Use Our Gym?" to "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue," that melody. And, and Cokie Roberts was there because Lindy Boggs was her mother and Cokie was with public radio. And so we sang this song that I can't remember all the words. But the essence of it was that can't, we can't use the gym. We're not allowed to use the gym. And I played basketball when I was a kid. And our little team won the championship, you know, girls' basketball. So I mean, I didn't use it very much even when we got to use it. But so Cokie heard the song and then she asked us to sing it again and we did. And we got, you know, they giggled and laughed and all that. And she played it the next day or a couple days later on public radio and that's, that embarrassed the heck out of everybody and so the rules changed and we got to use the gym. Included in that was the swimming pool they have. But I like to swim more than go in the gym with all those guys. But we were able to have access at least to that.