

PART II: A Stranger in the Senate

After a notable run in the U.S. House of Representatives, Boxer enters the Senate in the historic 1992 Year of the Woman. But once there, the going was anything but easy.

Carla Marinucci: Your struggle, it was landmark in 1992, Year of the Woman, when you were elected to the U.S. Senate, at that point there were 98 men and 2 women in the US Senate. You had a rough kind of Democratic primary. It was not easy, and also the whole idea of running with Dianne Feinstein, also considering running at the same time. Talk a little bit about the doubt you had about getting into that race, the challenges. What made the difference?

Barbara Boxer: Well, remember I told you before, I've always known when to hold them, and when to fold them, and when to try something else. And people said, "Why would you even run for the Senate?" Well, I'd been in the House for 10 years and I gotta tell you something. Newt Gingrich came along and he started to make it ugly in the House. I don't like ugly. I can't function that way. I don't have the energy for it, and it's a diversion. So when Newt Gingrich starts to call Democrats treasonous and unpatriotic, all of this, I'm thinking, "I don't want to be near this guy." And truly, honestly, I decided I want to get out. And so everyone said, "Oh, you'll never win." I said, "It's possible, I won't." And I remember Stu said, "Who cares if she doesn't win, I'll get her back home, it's fine." And so I start the race and I'm running against Lieutenant Governor, who's a really good guy, Leo McCarthy and another very well-funded candidate, Mel Levine.

CM: That's right.

BB: And I'm an asterisk in the race from the start, but when Anita Hill came out with her story, and everyone looked at the Senate, and they looked at the hearings, and they saw not one woman on the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, it changed people's minds. I had one supporter, Sol Price, who founded the Price Club, that led him to build Costco. I write about him in my book. What an amazing man. And I went to him to get his support, and it was a very long meeting, which I'll sum up. When we finished the meeting and he's looking at me, and he said, "You can't win," he says, "There's that other Jewish broad in there, Dianne Feinstein, what makes you think they're going to elect two Jewish broads?" And I got mad and I said, 'Mr. Price, you're wrong, we can do this thing.' But I said, 'And I'm leaving now,' because he was obviously not going to help. And I said to him, 'But I do want to thank you. I'm a young mother and I've got kids, and through all the years that they went to school, they took your wonderful little bottles of juice that you sell at Costco. And thank you for that.' So he laughed. But after Anita Hill, he calls me up and he says, "You were right, I'm for you." It was amazing. But it was a tough one.

CM: Yeah, and you had some lucky breaks in the race, in the sense of you were worried about having to run against Dianne Feinstein for that seat. She decided to go for the John Seymour seat instead. In the end she's suggesting you campaign together. That was revolutionary.

BB: Well she was revolutionary. She was so wonderful to me, because she was a shoo-in. She was so popular, and I was unknown. She had been the mayor of San Francisco, she had presided over just a great tragedy and everyone knew her, and she had a lot more funding and status and all those other things. And I was from a little congressional district who had made this big thing about the military buying these spare parts, had done a few other things. Save the dolphins, it was fine. But sort of niche things, not everybody knew my name. So I don't even know how I did it, but we did it. What happened was Leo McCarthy and Mel Levine, they all thought I was a joke, so they started to fight each other up here, and I was down here. And I talked to Barbara Mikulski who had a similar thing when she ran for the Senate, Mike Barr and some other guy, and they thought she was nothing burger, so they fought each other.

BB: So I just let those two fight and I went all over the state with my posse and my bus and my Boxer shorts, and gave out Boxer shorts and did all the stuff. And all of a sudden, I was 5% in the polls. And I remember, Leo, we went to some event together to get an endorsement, and he said, "I'm a little worried about you, Barbara, you could win this thing." And I said, "I hope so, Leo." And I wind up winning that primary, and it just was so... It amazed people. And we got a huge amount of attention. Diane and I when we did start the campaign together, and she would say her favorite line was that "Two percent may be fine for the fat content of milk, but it's not good for the percent of women in the Senate, there's only two percent women in the Senate."

BB: And then you'd have people say, "How can two Jewish women win?" And I would say, "Well, if we ever needed Matzo Ball soup in the country, it's now, so get us..." "We just rolled with it. But sometimes I really got mad. It was religious prejudice. It was prejudice against women. So once in a while, when somebody would say. "Oh, how could two Jewish women win?" And they would ask it, just out front. Just like that, which is fine. Better to be open about your prejudice... How can two Jewish women? I said, did you ever ask how two Protestant men could win? Or two Catholic men could win? Did you ever even think about it? Is that stupid? What are you saying? And so, it really was a moment. It was a good moment. And it's that song again, freedom, freedom is hard, when they... Sometimes you have these great moments. It was a great moment that transcended who we were personally and just said, "America, we're open for business for whoever you are." And of course, now more minorities are running and it's a more diverse...

CM: But you had one other lucky break in that race too, running against Bruce Herschensohn, the Republican.

BB: Yeah. I was lucky. [laughter]

CM: Last minute revelations at a press conference, the Democratic strategist Bob Mulholland announced that Herschensohn had visited a strip club on numerous occasions and was a well-known customer.

BB: Right.

CM: Right. Were you expecting that kind of a lucky break?

BB: Well, it's funny, it's a lucky break, but I didn't feel that was a lucky break. I'll tell you the reason. We were at the very end of the campaign. This is a very close race. You could look at the final scores.

CM: Yeah. It was a few days before. Right.

BB: And it was very close. But I knew the internal polling numbers because my pollster was great. And we were just moving ahead and I didn't want this to divert us, so I didn't want to talk about it. And I didn't know about it until Bob...it's not like Bob called us. He didn't. He did his presser. And I remember, do you remember Linda Douglass, who worked for ABC?

CM: Yes. Yes.

BB: She was following the campaign, [laughter] I just saw her recently, we laughed about this. She was covering the campaign and I was on a bus. It was very close to the election. We were going all over the state. And she yelled at me...She was wearing spike heels [because] she's also little. She's wearing spike heels like this, I'm wearing spike heels like this. And I'm walking back to my campaign bus, and she's running after me saying, "What do you think about the revelation that Bruce Richardson went to the strip club?" I forget the name of it, but...

CM: The Seventh Veil.

BB: The Seventh Veil!

[laughter]

BB: And I didn't want to say word one. And so I just ran. And everyone thought that between the two of us, which one was going to fall flat on their face. I ran away from her and never answered her. But what hurt him about that most of all was that he had just sent out a mailer. Remember those years, we used to send mailers to every household saying I was immoral because I supported a woman's right to choose and I was a murderer in all this. He said I was immoral. And then it turns out he's going to the Seventh Veil. It was ridiculous. But yeah, I mean, I may have won without it, but I think it hurt him, with his base. It may have kept a few people home, you know?

CM: Yeah, yeah, exactly. Your second term race also had a challenge, that was against California State Treasurer Matt Fong. And because it came at the time of the revelations regarding Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. You said that Matt Fong was your greatest nightmare because he was Asian American, rising voice in California, and so forth...

BB: And a wonderful... His mom was beloved... March Fong Eu, remember?

CM: That's right. That's right. Exactly.

BB: She did the free pay toilets and everyone loved her.

CM: How'd you get past the challenge of Matt Fong? I mean...

BB: Well... Okay. Matt Fong, his whole thing was that my daughter was married to Hillary Clinton's brother and therefore I should recuse myself from the impeachment. It was the whole thing. I didn't know how to get... All I said was, look, my personal family life is one thing, my duties to the people are another.

CM: Yeah.

BB: I'm going to do the right thing. I'm going to be fair on this issue. And it just went on and on. It was a hard race.

CM: Yeah.

BB: And we... I guess what we did was we found out his different views on subject. So we came up with a terrible slogan, but we used it because we couldn't think... It was Fong is Wrong. I mean, it doesn't even rhyme, it was so bad. But Fong is Wrong, on this issue, this issue, this issue. And we managed to pull it out. I don't know all these races become sort of a blur. And yeah, I was expected to lose every time I ran.

CM: That's right. You won that one by 10 percent.

BB: Yeah.

CM: 10 percent of the vote.

BB: But I was expected to lose every single one. And...

CM: Yeah. Yeah.

BB: I don't know how I managed to do it. But do you remember Hank Plante?

CM: Oh yes.

BB: Hank now lives near me. He's still working and... But he was also assigned to me and I remember one day, this was so terrible. I was visiting a wonderful... To change the subject away from impeachment... I went to have lunch at Alice Waters, you know she did these wonderful school gardens.

CM: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

BB: And so they made a lunch for me and I worked with them and it was lovely. And I had a presser with all the kids and Hank is there and he says, "What do you think about the blue dress?" Now this is in front of all the kids. I said, "Hank, I'll meet you up at the hill there at the corner. I don't want to talk about this." That's what... That's what that race was like. That was like the moment when I thought, 'Oh my God, how am I ever going to get through this?' But we did.

CM: That's right. You did get through it.

BB: We got through it.

CM: And then, shortly after your re-election 1998 with Matt Fong came Gore-Bush 2000. And you were very vocal about that, disputing the Supreme Court's decision saying that you would have used your senatorial prerogative to change the electoral vote in Florida.

BB: No, no, no. That's not right. Not to change the electoral vote.

CM: To challenge it.

BB: Yes.

CM: To challenge it. Yeah.

BB: Yes. Yes. Because here is what happened. The Florida was just recounting all the votes.

CM: Sorry.

BB: And I was there. I went down there.

CM: Yeah.

BB: And it was one of the scariest things. There were... Newt Gingrich had sent his hordes of people. They were screaming obscenities at me and I addressed the crowd. I got them quiet and I said, "Look, all I want is for the vote to be counted, that's all. Let them count their recounting." The Supreme Court stopped the recount, and I felt that was a bad decision. They should have allowed the vote. But I never challenged it.

CM: But there are some Republicans who sort of cite this and say, "Well, Democrats haven't always accepted the results of elections." What do you tell them? And what do you tell those critics about...

BB: Sure.

CM: The difference between 2000 and 2020?

BB: Oh, I mean, we were sick about what happened in Florida. And we felt a lot of us that it was unfair. The Supreme Court should have allowed the County to recount the vote. It was so crazy and hanging chads and all the other stuff. They stopped it and just declared in the winner. But there's a difference between saying, "I don't think that was fair" And acting on it and trying to put in fake electors and stopping the count. It's a total difference between the two.

CM: Right.

BB: Everyone has the right to think anything they want to think. I mean, did I think something was amiss when Pat Buchanan got more votes in the Jewish community than the Democratic candidate? Pat Buchanan, who a lot of Jewish community did not think much of? How could he win in that community? I mean, and I said it that we have the freedom to say what we think in this country. We don't have the freedom to put in fake electors. We don't...

CM: Yes, you're right.

BB: Or we don't have the freedom to incite violence. There's no comparison.

CM: Yeah. You were also very vocal after 911 with the war in Iraq. You voted against the resolution to authorize President Bush to use forces there. And you described it as a disheartening a difficult time. And you got a lot of pressure from Joe Biden, from John Kerry, among others to vote the other way. Was that... You've said that that was one of your biggest regrets of your time in the Senate. Talk a little bit about that time.

BB: Well, one of the biggest regrets was I couldn't stop the war. It's one of my proudest votes I've ever cast in my life. Just 23 of us out of 100. It's hard to describe to people because but that war weighed on my shoulders. Like I can't even describe it because we... California lost more people in that war than any other state because we're just a larger state. And we had mostly all the military deaths. We had about 25 percent of the military deaths. And not only the deaths but all the injuries, and the brain injuries, and the PTSDs. It was just awful in that period of time until Barack Obama basically ended it. It just weighed at my shoulders. I used to go down on the floor and I would read the names of the dead and wounded. And my Republican colleagues turned on me and said, "How dare you do that? You're politicizing them." I said, "No, I'm remembering them." And I remember I... [laughter] The chills I put. I made a whole... I said to my step, "Please write all the names of the Californians who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. And I want to put it right outside my office in the Hart Building because I was in the first one where I wanted people to see that Memorial. And the Republicans complained and made me move it inside the office, a bit petty. But we kept it in the front of the office. It was a very rough time because when I saw the photos from Abu Ghraib I almost fainted.

CM: Right.

BB: It was just rough because I'm the kind of a person who's used to solving problems. You know there are people that like to solve. I couldn't solve it. I couldn't do it. Finally you know the people... You know and Nancy Pelosi always quotes Abraham Lincoln and she says, "Public sentiment is everything." And that's true. Public sentiment turned against it and then finally we got it done.

CM: Right.

BB: But Joe Biden, after he was so pushing it with Kerry and Hillary. And they all felt we had to do this. I didn't. Once Joe changed, he really pushed hard to end this thing by making three separate sort of states. And he became a really good leader on that.

CM: I know you took a lot of heat from the right wing, from Rush Limbaugh, for a conversation you had with Condoleezza Rice during that period.

BB: Yeah.

CM: When you challenged her and I noted that she didn't have any immediate family members at stake in that war. Some of these commentators called you anti-single woman.

BB: Yeah.

CM: What... Looking back on it [laughter] What... [laughter]

BB: Well, first of all to be called...

CM: What were you trying to say?

BB: To be called anti-women is sort of a joke on the face. I will tell you this. I had an experience where we're in a closed session, not in an open session. I asked her how many people had died in the war, and she didn't have it at the tip of her fingers. And she really didn't know. It offended me. And I had also read that she was warned that planes, airplanes were going to come over and all of this and had nothing to do with Saddam Hussein. It had everything to do with Saudi Arabia, those are the people, and so on and so forth. And the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, all those awful things. And so it turned out we went to war with Saddam Hussein. And we could have avoided the whole thing. And so I blamed the people who made the decision. They were open about it. They wanted to do it, and I was so disappointed in her.

So in an open session when she was just very blasé about this war and not in the least bit regretful about this war or the people who would suffer from this war, I tried, this is so... I tried to find something to bring us together. Not tear us apart. And so what I said was, "You and I are the same in..." "Something like this, "In the sense that I don't have anybody in the war because

my grandkids are too young and my kids are too old. And you don't have any immediate members in the war." And so we should do everything to end it because we're not having a sacrifice. We don't have to sacrifice. The next thing I know, the right wing... Though which hoping to string me up on a pole. They said, "Let's nab that. She's against single women." So of course, when I saw it, I thought, "That is the stupidest thing I've ever seen." They said, "Do you apologize?" I said, "No, I'll say it all over again."

So they came after me. And then that whole right wing thing said, "Barbara Boxer should resign." That's their thing, they always do. Every time I said anything, they wanted me to resign. I'm looking at 'em and say, "Really, I'm going to give up my seat because I'm trying to end a war that you guys love? No." So the message to everyone watching, who might want to go into politics, the reason I name my book "The Art of Tough." You better be tough. You and if... And by the way, if you make a mistake, say, "You're right, I was wrong I didn't make a mistake. I knew exactly what I was saying and I'd say it again. And let them yell. So the next time I ran they ran against me, and I won again. You can't be afraid of people. Don't be afraid.

CM: But they came after you several times in that period.

BB: Oh yeah.

CM: After Rush Limbaugh called you an uppity white chick, and as he actually says that...

BB: I know. I was an uppity white chick.

CM: Then came the 'call me Senator headlines.

BB: Yes. Yes.

CM: When you made national headlines asking an Army Corps general in a televised hearing to call your Senator. Why did you make that ask?

BB: Well, I noticed that most of these guys would call the men senators and the women ma'am. It really annoyed me, and so I thought I'll tell him. I wouldn't think of calling him a mister. I called him General. So I told him, "Do you mind?" And everyone went, like I had insulted him. The irony of the whole thing, I asked could he call me Senator because I worked really hard for that job. Everything in my mind was saying, "Yeah, that's true. Be honest about it." And so I was. So everyone was horrified, they were horrified. And he and I became really good friends. He came up to me after and said, "I'm so sorry, you're right, I shouldn't do that." And he gave me his... They carry around these coins, Army Corps, he gave me his coin. And he said, "You taught me something and I think it's great." So they wanted me to resign for that. You are disgusting. How dare you tell this guy what to do. You have no right to and you're awful. Then you are this and that and the other. I said, "Sorry, I'm not."

CM: Were you surprised at how big that controversy became?

BB: On the one hand, yeah. On the other hand no. I mean, any time that a woman tries to stand up for herself, you're going to have a lot. And when the right wing thinks they have something there, they'll go after you. It just goes on and on to this day on Twitter. I write something on Twitter. You should see what they say. So, yes and no. I mean, instead of... They ought to think about what I said. It's important, and I think it changed things, and I think that now more women senators are called Senator. So good for me. It's fine.

CM: Okay. 2004, it was another election controversy. You joined representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones in filing a congressional objection to the certification of Ohio's electoral votes. What prompted you to take that action, because Republicans now look at this as evidence that Democrats didn't accept the results of the 2004 election.

BB: Well, it was one of the most, I would say, proudest moments that I've had. Because what happened was the prejudice against African-Americans has been swept under the rug in terms... Since the civil rights movement, we thought it was all better. Well, it wasn't better. And then this election in Ohio, Stephanie Tubbs Jones had been a judge and now she's a congress person, and she says, "Will, you come to see me?" I said, "Sure." So I go into her office. She says, "You can't believe what happened in the vote. John Kerry lost Ohio, but you have to know that in Cincinnati, we had very few machines and we had people waiting in line to vote for 12 hours in the rain, holding their children." I said, "Are you kidding me? Prove it to me." She did, she showed me all the articles and she said, "And we have a way to call attention to this and it won't make any difference at the end of the day, but there is this law that gives us the ability to have two hours of time to talk about it. And I need one Senator. You're the only one that will do it." "Will you do it?" I said, "Let me think about it." And I thought about it and I said, "I'll do it." Because we put out a press release and said, "We have no interest in overturning the election, we have no interest in changing the outcome, but we want to take two hours time to explain what happened in Cincinnati and how terrible it was for people really wanting to vote and it was impossible. They had to give up. And, so we did it. And yeah, it took two hours long and I... and that was another time the Republicans said "Resign, you're an idiot." and all that. And I said, "No, I'm not. No, I'm not. So, yeah... Now it's being brought up and..."

CM: It's all being brought up. Yeah.

BB: It's great because it just disproves everything. because all you have to do is look at the press release at the start where we say unequivocally, "We don't want to overturn the election. We don't want to change anything. We want to call attention." Now after that, Hillary Clinton and I, and others introduced some really good voter legislation. We almost got it through, but we didn't, to have more machines, enough machines in all these various minority areas, didn't happen. And of course the Supreme Court has made it harder and harder to vote. So as I look back at some of the things I'm proud of, I talked about voting against the war. There's other things you may or may not ask me about, wilderness areas and helping kids and all the things I've worked on. That moment in time where we called attention and I was the only non-African American to participate. I'm so proud that I did that.

CM: Your third term race against secretary of state Bill Jones was an easy win for you. The fourth term race, I certainly remember because I covered it too, Carly Fiorina, the wealthy, former HP CEO, her campaign really went wild against you with some ads that are still considered classic attack ads, one showing you as a gigantic blimp. What...

BB: I took no offense at that. I know I'm not the thinnest person, but I don't think I rise to blimp.

CM: Fiorina even attacked you personally, it was caught on a hot mic saying your hair was so yesterday.

BB: That's right. She's probably right about that.

CM: What was your sense on this race? This was a race watched all over the country because it was two women. And she was certainly well known to the business community. We...

BB: That was a hard race. It was ugly. And again, if someone's going to treat me like that, I'm going to go right back at them. And that's what you learn in the Art of Tough world. And so she said, "My hair was yesterday." It's probably true. My hair is... I don't care about my hair. So I turned it into a plus. She said... In other words what is she suggesting? Don't vote for Barbara Boxer because her hair is so yesterday. So I said, "Maybe my hair is yesterday, but anyone who's had a bad hair day should vote for me and I'll win in a landslide. So I used a sense of humor on that one. That was ridiculous. But she blamed me for the recession. She had pictures up that showed the cities deteriorating and I was to blame and she was so over the top. So our campaign showed her as an out of touch corporate executive who couldn't care less about her people. And we found people that she had fired and sent to India to train their replacements, and we had them on the screen.

And my campaign manager had pictures of her with her dog looking like... That was what you... When you walked into her company, they had pictures of her with her dog that really is what the royal families have up in Buckingham. And she... We killed her at the end of the day. I mean, she just was so... She thought she was going to win with all of this stuff and people who buy it, they don't relate to the things that she was doing. And she thought she could say all these horrible things about me and I just sit back and take it. Well, doesn't happen.

I do want to tell you one quick story about the race. You said that was easy and it was, the one... The Bill Jones race. Because I don't think you know about this and I have to share it with the people. About two weeks before election day, my staff in Washington gets a call from Tucker Carlson.

CM: Oh!

BB: And Tucker Carlson says to my chief, Laura, he says, "This is Tucker Carlson, Barbara Boxer's

been saying her husband served in the military. I don't believe it. I can't find any record of it. And I'm going with the story." And she says, "Tucker, of course he was in the military. Barbara wouldn't say it." "Prove it. Show me his discharge papers." Okay. So I say over... "No problem. I'll call the military. Just you call them and just tell them what's going on and tell... Send us his discharge papers." So she says, "What's his social security." I give it to her. She calls. So the military says, "Oh, it was so long ago, it was in the '60s. Says, "In those years we didn't use the social security. We used an ID number. And unless you have the ID number, I can't find it under his name."

CM: Oh no, [laughter]

BB: Now the clock is ticking. It's two weeks. And I'm thinking, this is the end. They're going to say I'm a liar. And oh my God. So I'm trying to figure out how to figure out how... What his number is. He doesn't remember it. He has no record of it. I find pictures of him with his military hat. I said they won't believe that. I sent him notes with funny notes and they won't believe it. So then I remembered he had sent me all these love letters - is that not sweet - from the military. And they were in a big box with a flower on top buried in my garage. And I found them and it had the ID number. We got the discharge papers [laughter] and forget it, Tucker Carlson.

CM: Saved by the bell on that one.

BB: Honestly, these people never stopped. They never stopped coming after me. To this day they come after me.

CM: Tucker Carlson, back to you. Well, he wasn't the only one, by the way, who went after you. We were talking about Rush Limbaugh. Michael Savage at one point...

BB: Oh, my God.

CM: Called you the Frau Dr. Mengele of the US Senate. Ann Coulter called you learning-disabled. And WorldNetDaily had said you were the biggest doofus ever to enter the Senate chambers. Why do you think you were specifically such the target?

BB: Why I'm laughing is everything that you said now I put in the start of my book because I wear it like a badge of honor and it made them crazy. Because they think women are weak. And they think progressives don't really care, that they're phony. And of course, it's hysterical. So every time they did this, and Savage said something else [chuckle] that you don't have there, but something of this effect, she ought to go back selling braziers in Queens. [laughter] "What? Where did that come from?" But every time they did that, it was like badge of honor, badge of honor, badge of honor, badge of honor. And I used all that to my advantage. I think I bought them because I'm not afraid of them. That's the answer. I'm not afraid. Say whatever you want, I don't care, because you're just a lying piece of whatever you are. So I don't care. And I think that's my growing up in Brooklyn. You have to be tough. You went to the subway. You better

look around, because someone was going to grab your purse or to do something. And so you just grow up that way.

And then the other thing I'd share with you and people watching us, there was a book once written about women in politics in the very early days. It was done by a psychiatrist. It was really interesting, and she interviewed all of us and women who made it to Congress. Remember, 23 out of 435 or whatever. So she wanted to find out what is it that made these people do it... And she couldn't... Some of us went to all girls' schools, others did not. What was it... And she called it inner applause. Well, what is inner applause? Somebody in your life and in my life – because you also have been groundbreaking person, and I know what you've been up against, believe me – somebody in our life gave us that confidence inside, inner applause, so that when these idiots are saying, "You can't do this. You're a woman," you go, "Barbara, you can do it." And it's the same way with now people in the LGBT community, in the minority communities. Somebody gave them inner applause, so they have to stand up and say, "No, I'm not going to take your garbage." But I think that's what... They don't like that.

And they don't believe it. They don't believe in... Yeah.

CM: It's interesting you say that because Nancy Pelosi also says too, "You need to have a skin of a lizard in politics if you're a woman." She obviously had a much different background coming from politics than you did, but how much has her friendship meant to you? How much has it influenced you along the way?"

BB: Yeah, so wonderful. Well, first of all, I think she's great. And Nancy and I met each other... We came from different backgrounds in terms of politics. I had none. She had everything. And yet I had made it into electric politics before she did. And she had been the head of the California Party. I admired her. But when I ran, she couldn't really support me, and when she ran, I couldn't support her, because we all had friends. So we were thrown together. And we were the two women representing San Francisco. She represented 75 percent of it, I had 25 percent of it, then I had Marin, a little bit of Sonoma. So we were thrown together, and we got a lot of the prejudice together. For example... We always tell the story, she tells a great story about this. We were at a DCCC fundraiser and there were a ton of people there, and the... [chuckle] The MC said, "Oh, this Congressman Smith." "Yay." "This Congressman Jones." "Yay." "Congressman this one." "Yay." "Congressman that one." "And the two Congresswomen from San Francisco." They never said our name.

I went, "What?" I mean, we went through that garbage, and we commiserated. We became very good friends on the long flights home. And she's tough as nails and I'm tough as nails. We were able to do a lot of things. In the Bay Area, I just went to visit the Presidio, to see the Presidio. I think about the days when Presidio closed and what were we going to do. We teamed up, wonderful things that we worked on together, but what she has done is miraculous. And I mean it. I kid you not. Just to have a woman go... That's a whole other conversation, but to have a woman go to speaker is unbelievable. And what it says about her is her ability to gain trust of colleagues. Very hard when most men didn't look at women as equals when we came

up. So she's a miracle person to me.

End of Part II