

The Honorable Barbara Bailey Kennelly
U.S. Representative of Connecticut (1982–1999)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Memorable CODEL

Representative Kennelly recalls playing golf in China on a congressional delegation.
Interview recorded September 9, 2015

I went to China with John Murtha and one other Member—I should remember who it was. But John and I were the two golfers and we played quite a bit and we were—one day we went out and we were playing against two, I don't know, Marines. And it was very hot—very, very hot. And we finished and I went into the ladies' room and the woman came in, had a big wet towel and threw it over my head and, you know, was very concerned. I said, "What's the matter?" She said, "You have heat exposure." And I looked in the mirror and my face had blown up. I couldn't believe it. So, she kept me in there for a while and, you know, things calmed down. And I went out and I said, "John, you know, you didn't tell me how bad I looked, and I had—I was going to have a heat stroke." He said, "Barbara, we were winning." I'll never forget it. And we were. He wasn't going to tell me I—it was good I didn't fall.