

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

A Meaningful CODEL

Representative Molinari recalls being on a congressional delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina while pregnant.

Interview recorded January 8, 2016

But at the end, we were moving into Sarajevo, to meet with President Izetbegović at the time. And all these people were standing outside, you know, applauding us, and, and you know, "send peacekeepers, send peacekeepers." You know, they wanted the U.S. to come in and help end the situation. And so, as we were walking in, there was a, a woman who grabbed my hand and she said, "Please, please send, please do what you need to, we can't, we can't continue like this. And you, you need to help us. You need to—America needs to help us." And I said, "You know, that's what we're here for. We're going to take as many facts as we can and bring it back." She grabbed my hand, touched my belly and said, "I just lost my only son. You're going to be a momma, you have to help me." Oh, you know, and, so, you know, I got some criticism for going as somebody who was about to have a baby, but relative to the conversations that we're having, I think it increased my perspective for what needed to be done.