Oral History Interview of Sheila Burgess

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Interviewed by: Julia Howington

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Interview Summary:
Sheila Burgess, a former member of Congressman Moakley’s staff, reflects on her time working for the congressman in his district office and on his re-election campaigns. She touches upon Moakley’s character, his influence on people, his dedication to his staff, and his kindness to her. She goes on to talk about his final years in office, including setting up the Moakley Foundation, his illness, and death in 2001. She ends the interview with a reflection on his ongoing relevance and his lasting legacy.
Subject Headings
Burgess, Sheila
Moakley, John Joseph, 1927-2001
Political campaigns
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This interview took place on July 29, 2011 in Boston, MA.

**Interview Transcript**

**JULIA HOWINGTON:** Today is July 29th. I'm Julia Howington from the Moakley Archive and Institute interviewing Sheila Burgess as part of the Moakley Oral History Project. I would just like to begin by asking Sheila to give us your full name and talk a little bit about who you are and how you were involved with the Moakley family?

**SHEILA BURGESS:** My name is Sheila Burgess. I was Sheila Burgess Hill at the time that I worked for Congressman Moakley. I work for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts right now as the Director of Highway Safety. And was hired—well, I first met Joe in 1992 after redistricting. My brother, Jim Burgess, was asked to—Randolph became part of Joe’s congressional district. And my brother was very active in the town of Randolph. And we had recently run a selectman’s campaign, and he was asked to run Randolph for Joe. So, I met him first during that campaign. And when in ’94 when my brother actually went away to—he was going to Suffolk and he went away to school to D.C. for a semester and they needed—they were looking—they asked for his help again. And he was not around, so he recommended me, and so in ’94 I coordinated Randolph for Congressman Moakley. I was coordinating for some other candidates at that time, just as a volunteer.

**HOWINGTON:** And what does coordinating mean? What do you mean—what’s the typical—?

**BURGESS:** Coordinating means you're looking for people who will commit to voting for Joe. And you do everything from putting up signs, going door to door and asking people to put up signs. You get people to cover polling locations, do stand-outs on street corners holding Joe’s sign during busy days and at busy intersections. They do outreach. We’d do leaflet drops so you'd get political—he passed out what looked like a political newspaper and that was his standard campaign piece. And what we would do is get people to put one on every door of the town. So at the same time, I was working for a number of candidates that were for Randolph, just
kind of coordinating Randolph for all the Democratic candidates. And Joe was my primary— the largest ticket candidate on the ticket as he was running for Congress.

Shannon O’Brien was running for treasurer. She was an unsuccessful candidate for treasurer that year, and she—at the end of the ’94 campaign, she had a debt. And when at that time I ran a small fundraiser in the local Knights of Columbus, and asked Congressman Moakley, Senator Kerry and a number of other local politicians, Senator Paul White, and various locals, to come and support Shannon O’Brien in retiring her debt.

And it was really funny because that day, Joe showed up and I was still pretty star struck at this point and was very surprised and fortunate that I was able to get Senator Kerry and Congressman Moakley to attend a small Randolph—no less retire the debt—fundraiser. It’s hard enough to raise it for the regular race, but just to retire debt is even less popular. But they were all true Democrats and willing to help her retire her debt. So they came out. And Joe came in, and he came in with Fred Clark. And was very unassuming, came in and he went to a table at the back of the room. I had had tables set up and I went over and I said, “You know, Congressman, I’d love to have you sit up at the head table and say a few remarks, and what not.” But he came in very unassuming, very—

HOWINGTON: Like a regular guy?

BURGESS: Just like a regular guy. And it was very, very interesting. And at that point, he still was not really in great health.

HOWINGTON: Because he had just gone through a liver transplant, was that—?

BURGESS: Right. And he was not— most of the time that I worked for Congressman Moakley, he was this big huge teddy bear looking guy with a white beard. When I met him, he was very small, very frail and a lot older looking. He got younger looking after—

HOWINGTON: He filled in.
BURGESS: —his transplant, and what not. That's the Joe that I knew the most, was the one that kind of everybody now remembers as Joe. So, we had had that fundraiser and he had been so gracious to come. And a little bit of time went on, it was ’95 and frankly, I was going through a very difficult time in my life. I had lost a daughter, an infant, from a tragic playpen accident, like a— in ’91. And I was going through a very difficult time. During one of my, I think, probably darkest moments, I ended up getting a call, and I was out of town, and they said— Fred Clark had called and said Joe wanted to talk to me about coming to work for him. And I had my brother call him back and say that I would be back in town next week. And so I called and set up a meeting and he hired me to work in the congressional office.

HOWINGTON: In Massachusetts, in the district?

BURGESS: In Massachusetts, in the district office, which was at that time in the World Trade Center. And he had asked me to work— I worked part-time in that office and part-time in the campaign office. And in the congressional office, I worked on housing, education and employment issues. And in the campaign, I was doing primarily fundraising and events stuff, volunteer coordination, those types of activities. Mind you, it’s the middle year, the off-year, of a campaign cycle so it wasn’t full all out, but the fundraising was an important piece.

And the person who was in that position before me was Anne Marie Lewis, and she had moved on to another position and they were looking to fill that position. And Joe will tell you that he took a little housewife and turned her into this. [laughter]

HOWINGTON: A political beast, right? [laughter]

BURGESS: It was—I one day told him, he made an opportunity in my life that made me become the woman that I am today and in many respects was— he wasn’t a boss, but he was certainly a mentor I think, to everyone he worked with and worked with him. And probably for people that didn’t work for him. He changed my life and he— I thought of him as a friend, I
thought of him as a father figure, a mentor, and a boss. And those are qualities you don’t find all bunched up into one person very often in your life.

HOWINGTON: That’s true. So, was it unusual that you worked— because a lot of times they separate campaign staff from regular full time staff— was it unusual that you had your feet in both doors sort of—?

BURGESS: I think a lot of different campaigns do— campaigns of congressional or political offices do that somewhat. But there’s definitely a distinct line drawn in the sand between— there’s no campaign work and no congressional work mixed in either office. So, it actually became a point where it did— my fundraising activity and the campaign stuff became more of a need and I switched completely over to the campaign staff.

HOWINGTON: Full time?

BURGESS: Right. You know, and I think that Joe wanted to make sure his people were taken care of. And at the same time, if I worked for the congressional office, I’m building a retirement and all those things. So he wanted— he was very conscious of that. But my heart was— like I loved the campaign stuff so much. It was great to be able to work in the congressional office and get to understand and see how he touched people’s lives day-to-day. But it was funny because in the campaign staff— the congressional staff, yes, it was policy stuff and things that were different from just constituent services. But when you worked on the campaign, there was also constituent services. And you would refer them to the—

HOWINGTON: Appropriate staff member?

BURGESS: The appropriate staff person, so you weren’t really crossing the lines. But no matter where you were with Congressman Moakley, whether you were out grabbing a lunch or at a political event for him or someone else, and/or if you were— whether it be town hall visits or wherever we were, people would be asking for his help, his advice. It wouldn't be unusual for you to— for him to get back in the car or walk into the office and have scrap pieces of paper or
trash, the top of a coffee cup or a napkin, with—or the corner of a newspaper—with somebody’s name and brief information that he wanted someone to get in touch with them and help them with their problem. I loved that about it, and I loved that about the campaign. I loved that about—you know, he was always with—I worked more closely with him on the campaign than I did the days that I worked for the congressional office. And to be able to see him first hand, it was just an incredible opportunity.

And, you know, the same quotes are repeated over and over. The Seneca one about loyalty, the holy good in the human heart. Well, Joe was loyal and the beauty about, I think, all his staff is they were loyal to him. That's why I think he had the same staff for such long periods of time and that they didn’t often move on. And then he truly was the person who would say—he wanted to say yes. He wanted to be able to help people. The quote that he didn’t like to—the powers and the ability to say yes and not no. And I try to carry that with me through now not having the opportunity to work with him and working somewhere else and the rest, and as I continue with my career, I say that to people in my staff. We want to try to figure out a way to make this happen if we can. Because that's what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to try to make things happen, not to be able to say no, not to be able to hold it over someone’s head and say no.

So, I mean, that was the—to go back to your question—we moved—when it became more difficult and the campaign became more busy, I moved completely over to the campaign.

**HOWINGTON:** And what changed about the campaign process or the campaign cycle that needed you to go to full time, actually?

**BURGESS:** Well, we were moving into 1995 when we had the end of ’95, going into the 1996 campaign year, and not only did Joe have an opponent who we took very serious—

**HOWINGTON:** And that was who?

**BURGESS:** Paul Gryskas.
HOWINGTON: Paul Gryska.

BURGESS: I mean, we took it very seriously. We went through debates. He had debate prep. People came in from Washington when we were doing the debates, as well as Boston, the Boston staff. We took it very seriously, but he took every race very seriously because he never took any—he never took his seat for granted. And, it’s funny, he always finished with such very high margins of error. So people kind of said, “Oh yeah, serious campaign.” And when you were trying to raise money and you'd say, “Oh, he's got a serious campaign,” to Joe, it was a serious campaign. But to other people, it never really was. But he always took every campaign very serious. And I think not only did we have the race with Paul Gryska that year, but he also had—he was a leader in the Democratic Congress and he felt a real responsibility to raise money for other candidates to help people in that congressional delegation like Congressman McGovern who would have had a race, like Congress Delahunt, or any other candidate locally, whether it be for the congressional office or otherwise.

And in addition to that, there was the Democratic [Congressional] Campaign Committee, the DCCC, which, I believe, it was that year that he received the gavel for raising over $100,000 from one of their events. And it was funny, he would never get on the phone. And that was from one event. I mean, during the year, he raised a lot of money for Democratic candidates.

HOWINGTON: What would be a typical ball park? Like how much would he need for his own campaign, like a typical campaign where there wasn't the strongest opponent? And what would he be—?

BURGESS: The last couple of years that he had opponents, they were million dollar races. So it was still—you still had to be able to go up on TV, you still had to be able to put out the signs regionally and do the radio and all of those components. So campaigning is expensive, and a million dollars isn’t really a lot of money in today’s congressional race scheme of things. It's only ten years later, or twelve years later probably since his last race.
But he felt a real responsibility to help Democrats get elected. A lot of times, let you know it was just so important to him that we win back the House. So we did like a taking back the House event. There were so many things that he did to try to raise money for other candidates.

**HOWINGTON:** Was there anybody in particular that was in trouble that year that faced—I think we were talking about the 1996?

**BURGESS:** Right. I don't think Congressman McGovern was in trouble with the race, but he was not—he needed extra money for his campaign, and I know he was always helpful to Congressman McGovern. But I think it was mostly the other Democratic national candidates for taking back the House. So there were certain candidates that the DCCC would pick as a winnable seat or a vulnerable seat. And those campaigns across the country would be targeted, and that was in both the '96 and the '98—no, the 2000 races that we—and '98, there was—he had no opposition that year, so his focus was completely on national—helping to get national candidates and local candidates elected other than himself.

**HOWINGTON:** So, I'm trying to think. So we were sort of talking about campaign strategy and how the national Democratic Party would sometimes need Joe helping out with the national campaigns. Generally, how did Joe feel about his obligations to fundraising and certain things like that?

**BURGESS:** Joe often would attend other people’s events and help them with fundraising and local sponsor events for other candidates. And he felt a real—he not only believed that it was important for him to raise the money for to take back the House, because it wasn't just about—it was still looking at his constituency at home. If he took back the House, he would be again Chairman of the Rules Committee, and then—and every other member, as he put it, in the Massachusetts delegation would be in a leadership role to be able to make a difference and bring back revenue to the Commonwealth, whether that was in transportation or whether that was in education. He felt very strongly that it was important to support the Congress and the congressional races as a whole. And so he took that very seriously.
To that end, though, he hated raising money. He hated raising money. He said that he— I don't think the whole time I worked for him he ever got on the phone— many candidates that I've done fundraising with, you get the candidate on the phone and they pick up the phone and they make the ask. And the fundraiser is merely prompting them with the lists of people and the names and the phone numbers and saying, “Here, you're going to call this person. You're going to ask them for X.” Joe never got on the phone and called somebody for himself. If he did, it was rare, very rare. He would get on the phone for other people. He would get on the phone and ask to raise money for the Massachusetts delegation or the national party. He would get on the phone and he would call the people and he would make the big asks. And he didn’t—

HOWINGTON: But for his own?

BURGESS: For his own campaign—

HOWINGTON: Was that you making the call, or someone else on staff?

BURGESS: We would send out invitations, we would put together finance committees, ask certain people in certain areas. We tried to do different events. There would be, you know— we would have his birthday fundraiser at Anthony’s every year. Was more of what they call a “time.” It wasn’t really a fundraiser, it was Moakley’s time, you're going to Moakley’s time, people would say. There was always, before the whole night was out, there might have been 500 people who came to the door. I would probably say that 125 of them never wrote a check. And they were there to see Joe and it was his birthday and they were there to show their support. And they might not have had the ability to write out a check. But they were not not welcome in the room or at the event.

And so, you never really— although we had finance committees and we had many smaller events, there would be all kinds of people who would come in, we would also then do certain business-type events so that we would talk— so he would talk more policy, more public things relative to if we were going to be, say, talking about transportation or construction development. We would have kind of bring those groups of people together and he'd talk— what's going on in
Washington, how things are moving with, like, say transportation bill and different things like that. It was more of a business roundtable and people would— they would come in for the breakfast and it would be a fundraising type of event. So we had those types of fundraisers as well.

HOWINGTON: Like where you'd actually buy a ticket or something?

BURGESS: Well, people would just—

HOWINGTON: Donate?

BURGESS: They would make a contribution. But he hated fundraising. Do you want to talk a little bit about the charitable foundation or…?

HOWINGTON: Maybe, we’ll save that for later.

BURGESS: We’ll save that?

HOWINGTON: Yeah, until the end. And so I guess we covered the fundraising, so most of the—it seems like most of the money went towards media costs, signage, printing, all that kind of stuff. It sounds like you also had quite a few—quite a good band of volunteers that would help get the vote out. How important were the volunteers, and how did that work?

BURGESS: I think the volunteers were an integral part of Joe’s organization. I think prior to redistricting, I don’t have a lot of knowledge as to the volunteers during that time, but I worked very closely with them after redistricting. And, I mean, he had a—it was an unbelievable, unbelievable organization. And not only did people ask him for help financially, but they asked him for help with his organization. If people needed help, he could count on his organization, his people, to be supportive. And he would never—if somebody wasn’t in support of another candidate, he wouldn’t force them. But he could always count on his organization to be able to help other candidates.
It was broken up by region, so we had the Boston region, which was run by Arthur Fritch who did South Boston and that greater Boston area. And then we had John McKay who worked under Arthur, but did the Jamaica Plain/West Roxbury area of the district. We had George Lally who coordinated the suburbs for the Congressman. And then, John Montagno did like the Brockton/Taunton area. So it was like a pyramid, Congressman Moakley at the top and his campaign, and then he had—each one of these campaign coordinators had armies underneath them. So for every community that, say, George Lally had, whether it be Randolph, Norwood, Westwood—for instance, my brother ran Randolph. One year, I ran Randolph. Patty Stanton would run Westwood. George would not only run his region, but Norwood was his community, so he ran Norwood. And Representative Bob Coughlin, his family had been with Congressman Moakley since forever doing the Dedham area. And so each one of those areas had people who ran, then broke it down into the small community. Who’s in charge of running that community?

And then within those communities, you often had precincts, or wards. And in those precincts and wards, you’d have precinct ward captains. And so it was broken down into the neighborhood level because that's how Joe was. Joe touched the person’s hand, you know. It was get right down to the grassroots. That’s how his campaigns were run. So, I mean, if somebody—it wasn’t very—it wasn't unheard of to have, say, George Lally get a call from somebody in Norwood who needed George’s help, who then George would then call the congressman’s office. Because they knew George. George was Joe’s guy when Joe wasn't in the district. And Joe made a point every year to go out to each one of the communities—not the regions, the communities. He would have town hall visits and he would go out and go into a town hall and sit there for the entire afternoon and people would be lined out the door, lined up out the door waiting to talk to him. Waiting to say hello, waiting to say, “My child’s going to this school. Can you help me?” Or they want a nomination to one of the academies. Or, “I can’t pay my utility bill, and they’ve shut off my—my mother’s on oxygen and they're shutting off her gas because she can't afford to pay it.” Those were the kinds of things that he took care of.

I remember when I was working in the congressional office, we had this woman who was getting her electricity shut off and she was on oxygen. Her gas, her electric, were so off the charts there
was no way that the woman could have ever caught up. And she was on retirement from her husband. She was an older woman, she had never worked. And he had—so the utility programs, if there's an elderly or a child in the house, they won't turn it off and they’ll try to give you assistance. But that's how the bills got so high, because they were trying to work with her but she was ill and not able to do it. So they were going to shut it off and Joe stopped them from—you know, said, “Look it.” And the bills were—you know, the utility companies wrote off the bills and gave the woman a fresh start and moved it forward.

And those were the types of things that he would do to try to help someone he didn’t know. But they were someone who lived in his neighborhood, whether it was, as he would say, upstairs, downstairs or over the back fence. It didn’t matter how far over the back fence they were. And it was funny because many people would call Joe for help that didn’t live in his district, that had a different congressman or hadn’t reached out to someone locally but they just knew from someone else that they could count on Joe Moakley to help them. And so they gave Joe’s office a call. You know, sometimes we’d try to get them to call their region, because you don’t want to step on the toes of another person, either. But we’d also—he would help them. It didn’t matter where they were from or what they needed, he wanted to try to be helpful because that's what he believed public service was. That's what he was in it for. He was in the job to help people.

HOWINGTON: All right, so we were also talking about sort of the campaign cycle and how that—so you had the volunteers. Were there other things that happened year to year that you had to take care of to keep the momentum going into the next campaign cycle?

BURGESS: Sure. There was never really, with Joe, like I said, there was never a down time because if he was going to be doing town hall visits, and although that might have been more of a congressional—

HOWINGTON: Official duty?

BURGESS: Official congressional duty, he would be telling his people, his team, his campaign workers, that he was going to be out in those neighborhoods. And so therefore, they’d be doing
outreach to try to let people know. You know, like we said during the campaign year, you'd be doing a drop. But there were other public events that he would go to in different communities and would try to make sure that we were—we would get them out across the whole region. So there were those campaign workers’ responsibility to say, “Hey Joe, there's a frank and beans supper over here at this place. Or there's a big blah, blah, blah, going over in this community. We’d love you to attend it.” So we would work to try to make sure that he was out in every community to give him an opportunity to see everyone.

So if we were short in a particular area, you didn’t want to feel like you were neglecting part of his district. And a lot of people thought, “Oh, Congressman—When we were first redistricted, “Oh, he’s a city guy. He’s never going to pay any attention to the suburbs.” Well, that was not the case. Joe Moakley was down in Taunton, in Brockton, and he shared the district in Brockton with Congressmen Delahunt and Studds. And he didn’t draw a line down Main Street or wherever the congressional district line was. He served Brockton, all of Brockton. And he was there for all of Brockton. And he was in West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain as much as he was in Randolph or Dorchester or Milton. He represented, Braintree, all the communities. And he would try to find events and opportunities to go out and meet the people in those areas.

He thrived on it. He thrived on going to meet them. And I think that's why right after I started working for him—oh, it had to be two weeks in, or maybe not even. We were going out to drop off nomination papers. And so we're driving out to the town halls and Jim Mahoney is driving Joe’s car. And Joe wasn’t feeling great, but we were pushing him. And we said, “This is the schedule, we got to stick to it,” blah, blah, blah. And so we're driving down the street, and Jim was driving a little bit faster than he should have. And we got pulled over, and so Joe goes—so the two of them start getting out of the car. He goes, “I'll take care of this,” and he starts getting out of the car. And he says, “Let me talk to them.” And he gets out and the young police officer, who was just pretty new on the job, he even had said it, drew his gun and said, “Get back in the car,” because you're not supposed to get out of the car when you're at a stop. He didn’t know who he was. You know, he just drew—So I'm like dying in the back seat. He gives him a warning and they let us go.
And the next thing you know, we get through one town hall, it’s in Brockton and we're on our way to Taunton and the engine’s smoking, smoking like it’s on fire, smoking. And so, we get it to—I think we got it to Taunton's library or maybe we almost got there, or something. So then John Montagno had to meet us, put us in his vehicle, get us to Taunton and then back to Boston. And it was just like, oh, man. I'm like, is this—you know, it was like that was the experience. And Joe just—he kept calm, cool and collected the whole time. It didn’t stop him from making sure he got to Taunton, but it was a fun day.

But he just—he loved, loved working for the people. And I think that's why when—he almost stepped down, there was an event, a press event, at I think it was Marion Manner in South Boston. And his wife was dying. He had just been through the whole operation. And like I said, he still wasn't feeling great. And he stood up there on the podium, and it was about—we were all ready to hear him resign and he evidently had had a conversation with his wife earlier that day and she and he both knew she was dying, that she—what are you going to do? You know, what are you going to do if you retire? So, and I think he was—looked out at the constituents in the room at Marion Manner, which was his home base and people he had known probably all his life, and he looked at them and I think he just—he changed his mind midstream. I mean, the press was there to hear him say he was stepping down and he didn’t step down and he changed his mind and he ran.

I think he probably became a more vibrant candidate once he started feeling better, probably than he ever was in the last years that he served. I mean, he was incredible, he was unstoppable. He had an incredible energy and it was just an incredible experience, it was incredible just to be around him.

HOWINGTON: I guess what do you think is probably for you the most memorable campaign? Would it be that one or would it be one where there was particularly strong opponent?

BURGESS: I think that the most memorable campaign for me was when in 2000 when he gave me the opportunity to be campaign manager. I've had my kids involved in politics since very young, and they all took an active role in that race, too, and we had the victory party downstairs,
at again, the K of C in Randolph. And all my kids were there and we all had a big picture with
him. The numbers were just incredibly great, but we didn’t take back the House. And we were
setting there downstairs afterwards because we kind of had a boiler room setup downstairs where
we were watching the results come in all day and running the operation from there. And upstairs
was where we had the event.

And he was sitting downstairs and we were watching the numbers come in and he just— just a
sad look came over his face and the twinkle kind of went out of his eye and that was it, he went
home for the night. So that was kind of the— you know, it was— it didn’t matter that he finished
with, you know, seventy or eighty percent of the vote. I think we were in some places that night,
he had eighty-something percent of the vote. It didn’t matter because the ultimate goal at that
point was not just him, it was about what he saw as the overall picture for everyone. And he felt
like he fell short on that goal. And you could see it, and that was— I don't think it was— yes, I
think it was about taking back the House and being chair of the Rules Committee, but I don't
think it was about him. I do believe that it was about— it was more than about him. It always
was.

It was always about everybody else because I remember we were having a Christmas party and it
was the December before he told us he was sick. So, I put together the whole Christmas party
and we were going to have a cocktail reception and then appetizers and then a dinner. And we
were at Anthony’s and he came in and he said he wasn't feeling great, he thought he had gout
and he was limping a little bit. I could tell that he was limping worse because he— ever since he
had had his hip done, he was always— he would always put his hand on your shoulder and it
was— he was doing it for two things. He was just very comfortable with you and also he was
leaning on you. But it always felt like a real personal, like, kind of like a fatherly kind of thing.
But you could tell that he was leaning more on me when he was walking in than normal.

And he had said he wasn’t feeling good. I said, “Well, why don’t we just— we don’t have to
have a cocktail. Why don’t we just have everybody order and then we’ll have dinner. And if
people want to stay and drink afterwards, they can have some drinks afterwards and you could
just get going.” And it wasn’t too long after that that I was sitting in the office and found out that
he was sick. And it was Fred, Shawn Ryan, Joe Moynihan and myself who were there. We were on our way to Bill Schaevel’s 50th birthday party and Bill Schaevel was his treasurer and former lawyer and law partner and close friend. He was not going to let the news that he just received ruin Bill Schaevel’s night. Before, he wasn’t going to ruin the Christmas party, you know, he didn’t feel good. And now he’s not going to ruin Bill’s birthday party that he was supposed to be going to. So nothing was supposed to be said to Bill, nobody was supposed to know.

So we get to Bill’s party and one of the newspapers had gotten a hold of the fact that he was sick. And they said they were going to release it before the 11:00 news. And they got the information from someone at Mass General.

HOWINGTON: Oh, really?

BURGESS: Joe was devastated that they were going to just run with it. And so we left Bill Schaevel’s party a little bit early and Joe was talking to the reporter in the car. Because right after he found out, he was going to make his own time to— I mean—

HOWINGTON: Because he knew he had been diagnosed with leukemia?

BURGESS: Diagnosed with leukemia and he knew he wasn’t going to be— he wasn’t going to make it. So that’s something a normal person would get to do on their own time. Decide who they want to tell, when they want to tell them. And it’s not the case in public life, unfortunately. And so they said they were going to break the story.

So Joe got on the phone— Joe was mad because they wouldn’t hold it for him. And he got on the phone and he gave it to a different reporter and—

HOWINGTON: Stick it to them.
BURGESS: And then they broke it. But, he said, “Give me X amount of time.” We went back to the office and this was a Friday night, and we went back to the office and it’s the weekend and we’re trying to get a hold of the congressional delegation and his brothers.

HOWINGTON: Oh, so they’d find out from—

BURGESS: Because they were all about to find out on the Channel 5, 7, whatever, breaking news on the internet. You know, they were about to find out. And there were certain people that he wanted to call and make sure that they had heard— they heard it from him. And Joe was not someone who— he didn’t bother most of these people on the weekend, so it wasn't like he had the delegation’s cell phones or anything. So it was relatively a challenge at that hour to— none of the congressional offices were open, so we were trying to track down these people, important people, with non-published numbers and get them— and friends— and get them the information before— like, he wanted Tip O’Neill’s wife, Millie, not to hear it on the TV. Him and his wife were very close with them. Some of his, you know, key staffers and obviously his family and the delegation. He wanted the delegation to know. And then—

HOWINGTON: I guess how was that news received, once it didn’t sort of get broadcast? How was it received in the district, and then also on the national level?

BURGESS: It was devastating for anyone who knew him. And even people who he represented, because he had been such a— he was and was still such a huge figure and the idea of losing him was just, I think, so overwhelming to people. There was a press conference, press conference the next— two days later or the next day, on a Monday, I believe, where he announced at the courthouse that he was stepping down. It was an incredible turnout of people, of key volunteers and supporters and press and other politicians and what not that came. And, of course, at the same time there's a frenzy about who wants to fill his seat.

HOWINGTON: And who came forward at that point saying— and how did they do that?
BURGESS: Well, it was—well, at the event, it was—you know, he got up and he told everyone, and I was unbelievably devastated. It’s like sitting there listening to your—basically your father telling you he’s dying and he’s not running for office anymore. I was sobbing. People were just crying and it was just—you know, you're working and you would hope you'd be able to keep your—

HOWINGTON: Be professional?

BURGESS: Be professional, keep it in. But there was no keeping it in. We were—I think his staff was just so close to him that that just wasn't happening. I mean, we went back to the—what bothered me that day was Victoria Block asked him—I mean, there were a lot of questions. And then she asked him, “Well, Joe, are you scared?” And I was like so offended that she would ask him that question. But I wasn’t the only one so offended. Senator Kennedy stood up and he said, “Well, thank you very much, we're going to end. This is the end of the press conference.” I mean, it had been a full press conference, but he was not going to let them put him on that spot. I mean, how difficult a day to get up there and do it anyway. And he really, truly did die with dignity and, you know, with class and all of that. But I appreciated that at that time, Senator Kennedy stood up and kind of said, “Thank you very much, we're—“

HOWINGTON: Let’s preempt that.

BURGESS: We’ll preempt that.

HOWINGTON: Line of questioning.

BURGESS: And then it was funny because we went—you can look at almost any picture of Joe Moakley and you see this incredible twinkle in his eye. And that had kind of, after we knew he was sick, it kind of—it kind of went away. And he was in the office and people are calling him and members of the House calling him, from the Senate, people from the Senate. Everyone calling him and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton had called him quite early, at that time, I don't think she was Senator at that point. And she had come out during one of her most difficult times
in her life during the Monica Lewinsky scandal and did a huge event for Joe. And they just had an incredible personal appreciation for each other. I mean, he had for her, the day, seriously, the day that it was on the front page of every paper across the country, she was doing a fundraising event for Joe in Boston, black tie, huge event and she came and she did it. And he couldn’t believe she actually, you know, he wouldn’t have— he would have understood. But she came and she did it.

So she called him up— one of the first people to call him when we get back to the office and express her, you know, sympathy and what not. And so a little while later, President Clinton had called. He said, “Well thank you, Mr. President.” He said, “But your wife called me hours ago.” [laughter] And he sort of just chuckled and he had that sparkle in his eye when he’s laughing because he had sort of like zung (sic) Bill Clinton, President Clinton, and he had given him a little zinger. And he was like— like, that’s Joe. And he was just so pleased with himself and there weren’t too many times after that you saw the twinkle.

And he was such a proud person. I mean, he went after, I think, not only the fact that Mass General, somebody leaked the information, he spent most of the rest of his time at the Bethesda Naval Hospital where he got incredible, impeccable treatment, and the people were just so incredibly great for him. And we were doing— we had formed— one of the things we discussed with Joe and his senior staff had discussed, we had talked about wanting to put together some kind of a foundation to remember, to keep his memory alive. And he made us swear that we would do no fundraising after his death because he hated fundraising and he thought it was embarrassing if thirty years later, people are still fundraising for someone for their whatever, and people go out of sympathy and the crowd gets smaller every year, and all that other stuff.

So he said we could do it, but we couldn’t fundraise for it afterwards. And so we had said we could— I said I think we could raise two million, everybody pretty much laughed, couldn’t believe that. And I said, “Well, here it is.” Because the difference was that because it was a nonprofit, you could get corporate contributions. There were no limits to how much could donate— like there aren’t political things, because this was for education and primarily education and—
HOWINGTON: Scholarships?

BURGESS: Scholarships. So that was a 501(c)(3) and that was primarily what the money was for. There's a few other things for healthcare and stuff like that listed in the document, but primarily it’s—the mission is scholarships. So we did, we had two huge events and we raised two point something million dollars for scholarships. But while we were doing it, so we had the first one that was in Washington, D. C. and Joe was really starting to get pretty sick and we had worked with a couple of advance people to kind of help us make sure that everything went smoothly for him and that—make sure that everything just went perfect. We couldn’t have a lot of people very close to him because of the germs, his immunities were down. If he caught a cold or something, it could kill him.

So we had coordinated a way for him to get through the whole hotel and down to where the reception area and he was very weak and he was in a wheelchair, but most of the time nobody knew that. And then we got him to there and we were going to bring him back through the kitchen where he was going to come out in front of the stage rather than walking him through the entire crowd, which was more Joe Moakley’s style. Joe Moakley never would arrive to an event through the kitchen. And a lot of times, that’s how the President comes in, or a lot of congressional people, they do that. But Joe was the type who just showed up. He walked in the front door and he walked in the room. But because of the whole germ thing—so we're not used to doing this whole back door thing.

So, Senate President William Bulger was emceeing the event down in D.C. and so in the reception and we're coming out of the reception and President Bulger said, “No, I'm supposed to go through and come out with Joe.” And I said, “The plans have changed,” because he was too weak, really, to even walk through the kitchen. We were going to have to put him in—

HOWINGTON: The wheelchair?
BURGESS: In the wheelchair. And he didn’t want to be seen like that. And I was, pardon the expression, damned if I was going to let anyone see him like that. But, of course, I'm—Congressman Moakley was a powerful man as well, but I was intimidated by Senate President—no reason to be, but just was. I was very apologetic, very, you know—and so I convinced him that the plans had changed and he was coming in through the crowd and Joe was going up that way. He was so sick, I mean I was one of the people helping to run the event. Susan O’Neil was the major event coordinator in the D.C. event, and she—but he asked for me to sit with him during dinner. So I was sitting with him and Ted and Vicki Kennedy at the head table and President Bulger. Which was totally not where I would be. You know what I mean?

HOWINGTON: Under normal circumstances?

BURGESS: Right, because I'm a back stage person. I'm the person who is making everything happen. I'm not his escort. But he just was so—he was so frail at that point and he was so sick, even sicker than really any of his staff knew because he wasn’t going to let on because he wasn’t going to disappoint all these people who had contributed money to this event and showed up. He went on with it and he ended up back in the hospital that night right after.

HOWINGTON: Oh, because it was too much?

BURGESS: Right after the event, he ended up back in the hospital. Right after that, my mother passed away and Joe was in the hospital. And it was funny because weeks earlier I had come home and I had told my mother he was sick and here I am spending all this time with him and not realizing that my mother was going to die. She was even telling me earlier she had had a heart attack and she had said, “You're supposed to be at your—getting ready for his event. What are you doing in here, blah, blah, blah. I'm fine.” And so here I am doing this. And so then he checked himself out of the hospital in D.C. and came home for my mother’s funeral.

HOWINGTON: Oh, that’s nice.
BURGESS: And he gave me this great big hug and he said, “You never get over the loss of your mother.” He says, “I’ve never gotten over mine.” And it was just incredible, touching, just the fact that he came. You know, that he’s that sick and that he would come home to go to my mother’s funeral. And then we had the Boston event.

HOWINGTON: And where was that?

BURGESS: That was at—I want to say it was at the Westin Hotel, the Sheraton—or the Sheraton over—

HOWINGTON: Near Copley?

BURGESS: Yeah, by Copley. And we sold out the event. People were buying tickets for the reception. People just wanted to be there. “Well, if I can't have a ticket to the dinner, can I just have a ticket for the reception?” I mean, it was just—everybody had to be there, they just had to be there. We had an incredible finance committee of people trying to raise money for the foundation. Jack Connors was absolute—from Hill Holiday was just—and Partners, president of Partners at the time, I think, he was just absolutely incredible helping us to get the support of the events. He was the emcee of the evening and it was just a fabulous, fabulous night for Joe.

I think it was just quite the tribute. And you asked, what was people’s reaction, and that's kind of what got me on this whole thing. But that was the reaction. Just an outpouring of people. I'll be honest, there were some clear people who I had on that list when I said, “we can raise two million” that I thought would be there, that these were Joe’s people, they would be there. And it was about the fact whether or not he was powerful anymore. And they weren't there. There was a handful of people that were always there and he was always there for them. But just all of a sudden now, not even for a ticket, never mind a table. I mean, they weren't even there for like a ticket, and this was a must be at event. So you would think that—so there is some of that—there is always some of that, you know, you're only in power when you're in power. But here we are ten years later talking about one of the sweetest politicians the world has ever seen. And he is
still remembered today in the newspaper, to these kids who are applying for the scholarships, to the unions, to the regular people who he had an impact.

I mean, those people, everybody wanted to be there. It was a pricey dinner and we had other tributes as well that were free so that everybody could be there. We had the dedication of Moakley Park and other—so many things were, as you know, put in his name. But that was the tribute, was the accolades that so many people get after they’ve passed that he was able to see.

HOWINGTON: Oh, that's true. That's nice.

BURGESS: That he was able to see what people really—what he really, really, really, meant to people. And then there were the people you will never really—well, maybe he did see them from looking down, but it was the people that, like—which even gave me a totally different perspective when the day the funeral, when we're driving, we were driving from the State House to the Courthouse and we're in the limos riding by virtually part of the Big Dig, South Boston part of all that construction, which Joe was instrumental in, make happen. And there's this lone iron worker standing out in dirt, like just a big empty lot on an iron beam with his hard hat placed over his heart.

HOWINGTON: Oh, that's nice.

BURGESS: And it was just—that has to be one of the most touching moments and memories that will probably be stuck in my head forever that gave me a perspective. I've always known how much the unions had loved him, but it’s—you think of the unions and the unions are like as a whole, as a group of individuals. But this was one individual who Joe Moakley maybe never met.

HOWINGTON: True.

BURGESS: Probably never met this man and he had enough respect for him and felt that he had made a difference, whether it was in his life or enough so that people of the Commonwealth, or
the nation, that he stood there virtually at attention on an iron beam with a hard hat over his chest. And to me, that was just—and you saw that all along the route going to the cemetery from the State House. I mean, it was unbelievable. But after the Boston event, he went back to Washington and I think it was the week after the event, it wasn’t much longer than that.

But, Fred called me and we had a finance committee follow-up meeting and he told me, he said, “You’re going to have to do the meeting yourself. And you can’t tell anyone what I’m about to tell you.” And he said, “And then I want you to come to D.C.” Or he said—I asked, I said I need to be there, and he said he wanted me to come to D.C. He said, “Joe’s dying.” And it was Memorial Day weekend, so it was probably Friday that we had the event. I couldn’t tell some very close people, because it would be in the paper. You know, it wasn’t something that was going to be kept secret. There were people already campaigning for his seat and—

HOWINGTON: Which is not unusual, I guess?

BURGESS: Not unusual, but it just was—

HOWINGTON: Because he was staying in office until the very last day he could?

BURGESS: Right, until he passed away. But then everyone knew there’d be a special—but people weren't really waiting for a special, so they were already starting to kind of campaign for it. But so I went to D.C. and several of the senior staff and Fred Clark and his brothers, Barbara and me were there and we were—and Deborah Spriggs. And the hospital was just incredible and the people that were taking care of him. We ended up staying there overnight. They just kind of let us—it wasn’t very crowded and we were kind of—it was in the lounge and they offered us a couple of beds. I mean, it was just—it was really, really incredible.

I won't say what we were talking about, but on a couple of occasions there were me and another person in the room and one time Deborah was like, just like, tickling his feet and he was in a coma, but they told us that maybe he could hear us. And so she was going, “Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman,” and kind of rubbing his foot. It was like he got aggravated with us because we were
like— you know, you're tickling his foot. So he goes, “What?” And so it was like you knew that he was still there. I was having a personal conversation with Barbara—

**HOWINGTON:** And this is Barbara Cheney?

**BURGESS:** Yes, who was very close to the Congressman. And they— we were talking and saying how basically that if he was— I knew how difficult it was, hopefully that he was— he knew we were there and what not. A tear ran down his cheek while we were having the conversation. And it was just beautiful and difficult all in the same time. So next day, everyone kind of went out for some fresh air, get something to eat, bring some food back. I stayed at the hospital, I didn’t have a car or anything. His breathing started getting more and more difficult and he was actually trying so hard to breathe, he was lifting himself up off the bed.

So I called our— I called Fred Clark who was with some of the people in some of the places and we called everyone back and then his— I left the room and his family— so his family and Barbara and what not could be with him. We were downstairs for a minute and George came down to get us and he— within fifteen minutes, he had died. It kills me that I left, but I know that as close as I was to him, those people had to be there at that time. But it was— it was a horrible but beautiful weekend to kind of be able to be there for him.

And then we took him back on— we flew back on a military carrier plane, so like in jump seats. And his casket was in the middle of the— like in the plane strapped in. And we brought him back to Boston and starting from that point on, there was just incredible crowds to pay their respect, whether it was from the airport to, you know, the Statehouse, the Statehouse to Braintree where he was buried, there was just—

**HOWINGTON:** There was two—a vigil service? Was it at the Statehouse?

**BURGESS:** There was a vigil at the Statehouse and then at his church.

**HOWINGTON:** Oh, St. Brigid’s South Boston?
BURGESS: Right. And then he was buried in Braintree with his wife at the Blue Hills Cemetery. So we riding down the expressway in the procession at the end and there were people standing on the highway.

HOWINGTON: That's nice. Like, they had pulled over to—

BURGESS: They had pulled over and people were standing at exits with flags. Right to the—there was big signs posted on trees, “Goodbye, Joe.” They never have called him Joe. Most Congressmen, the D.C. staff always called him Mr. Chairman. We always called him Joe, but I think it’s because of the atmosphere in D.C. But everybody here called him Joe. You know, it was— he was Joe.

HOWINGTON: He wasn’t formal?

BURGESS: No, and I sat for— I was fortunate enough to get to sit for his portrait, he had his portrait done in Boston. I forget the gentleman’s name who did it, but—

HOWINGTON: Bachrach?

BURGESS: Yeah. No, it wasn’t Bacharach, it was— I forget who it was. It was a guy— I'll have to find out what his name— I don't think it was Bachrach. I don't know, but the gentleman who did it, I was from the first couple of brushes, you could— it was an incredible thing to watch. You could see Joe appear on the paper and the only thing I regret about that— that his formal portrait is he doesn't have the twinkle in his eye. It was after he had found out. And like I said, after that there was very few times that I was fortunate enough to see the twinkle in his eye. So that's the one thing I think is missing out of that picture. Other than that, that's the true robust teddy bear, loving Joe Moakley that I knew during almost the entire time that I had the pleasure of working for him.
I mean, I was fortunate enough—I mean, he came to my house for Easter dinner, and I mean after he lost his wife, he—his brothers were with their families, or whatever, and he just, you know, wasn’t—he wasn’t going anywhere, so I would invite him and he would come and spend time with us. I miss that still sometimes. You have the archive folder here, and the picture inside is from the 2000 campaign. I think it was the 2000 campaign when we were doing some political ads. And it’s funny, because Joe had just had his hip replaced and my son was only about two and a half three years old, because he was born in ’93 and so maybe it was the ’98 campaign. Yeah, so he’s a little guy and we got pictures of him, Joe in the park with the kids. Joe was pitching the whiffle ball to all these kids and they all kept missing it, these bigger kids. My other kids were older, some of the other kids that were there were older. And he’s pitching the ball to the kids and what he called Little Joey—my son is John Joseph also—he called him Little Joey. And he threw the ball to Little Joey and John somehow miraculously hit the ball a line drive, almost knocked Joe off his one good leg and Joe fell in love with him ever since.

And it was funny because he said, “I don't know about you, Little Joey,” and he wrote a—he signed a book to John for—he did Read Across America, went to John’s class for Read Across America, and he signed a book for him. John is 18 years old now, he goes to Learning Prep in Newton. And he was watching a video about the sewer treatment plant out on Deer Island and all of a sudden, Joe Moakley comes up on the screen. And he goes, “I know him.” And they talked about Joe Moakley and the Harbor Islands and what he had done in making it a national park. And then that was two years ago. And then this year, he ended up doing a biography on—book report—on Joe Moakley.

So, it’s not just because he’s my son. Every kid at Learning Prep in that grade saw that video and are still learning about Joe Moakley even two years ago. And I just think it speaks to the volume of the amount of stuff that he's done and how he's impacted everybody’s life, but how he’s still being remembered today.

So those are the kind of fun things, when you see that he’s still out there being remembered in one way or another. Or you'll see that out in Norwood they had a memorial mass for him this year for the ten year anniversary. I mean, the people still—you go down to the cemetery in
Braintree and once in a while you'll see a political button on top of the stone or you'll notice that somebody’s been there or there'll be a little flag on top of the stone or something. It’s nice to know that he’s remembered.

HOWINGTON: Well, I guess some of the examples of his— maybe we can talk about sort of his living legacy since you just brought that up. One of the things was the Moakley Courthouse, I would say. Do you remember, because the naming of the courthouse was quite a big deal and that happened in the last year of his life as well? Do you remember that event?

BURGESS: Yeah, I do. It was right at the end, right before the last two fundraising events we had for the foundation. And it was a great event. They had carved his name into the courthouse and it was— at one point it said Jose, that's all they had done, because they hadn’t finished it that day. So we rode by and we called him Jose and he thought that was pretty funny. But we actually collected little pieces of the brick. I don't know if the archive has any, but we collected them and we put them in boxes and gave them out at one of the events. But it was great, they had the Irish tenor was here, and Ted Kennedy was here for the naming of the courthouse. It was a celebration of his life. It’s nice, every time, unfortunately, there's a criminal arraigned, you see Joe Moakley’s name and they say Joe Moakley. And then people have to wonder who he is. And I think once they start— they look and they see some of the quotes that are there, one dedicated completely to him. I think they begin to realize who Joe Moakley was and such a public servant.

I rode into that part of South Boston the other day and it’s so much different than it was even ten years ago. Ten years ago, it had grown up into an incredible, vibrant part of the community and I think Joe was so proud of that because he talked about how he used to— when he was young in South Boston, a boy, and they would come down and they would wait for, as he put it, the guys to drop a watermelon so they could pick it up and have it. And how that's all it was, was this barren train yard for many years. And how he brought his vision by talking them into putting the courthouse there, just as the federal courthouse. And then to bring the silver line in would just totally make such a vibrant part of the city.
And if you think about the difficult economic times we've had over the past ten years, and still currently are in, what a dramatic impact that part of the city being created and the convention center and everything. Without that, so many fewer jobs. I mean, and that’s where his joke came from, the crane. But so—

**HOWINGTON:** Being his favorite bird?

**BURGESS:** Favorite bird was the crane. And he talks about how they— he was so proud to be able to tell the bricklayers how many bricks were in there and it was all going to be red brick and how proud he was of the courthouse to be able to be in that location. And really, what I see of that courthouse, it’s— what I see that I feel like he saw was that it wasn’t just a courthouse. That that courthouse built that community. And that, I think, is his legacy around the courthouse. It wasn't just that he brought that courthouse there. It was that he brought an entire little city to that area.

And it’s still growing and it’s still amazing. My children went to the ICA, has outdoor concerts on the water for free. And my son was at one the other night. You know, there are so many— it’s a community, it’s a small community, and it’s open to the public and I just think that that's so Joe Moakley.

**HOWINGTON:** And it looks out also— its big glass windows look out onto Boston Harbor, which was another—

**BURGESS:** Right, the Harbor Islands and making it the national park to preserve it and everything he did to clean the water with that legislation and all the work he did for the Harbor Islands. I mean, that's just— that whole— it’s just amazing that there almost is nothing that you can look at in the city that he didn’t [touch]. Every time the kids go to Faneuil Hall and the plaque that’s in the ground there. I mean, he was instrumental in making sure that the Meeting House and all those places were kept on the Historical Register and make it so that there was funding available for them to keep those things.
And then he did projects, you know, in every community. The money that he gave to Bridgewater State— got for Bridgewater State College through federal legislation that put technology, brought technology first to Bridgewater for laptops and computers and all of that. To all the hospitals that he’s done so much for. Boston Medical Center, the old Boston City Hospital, the funding he brought to make that cancer wing and the impact that that has on people of low income and—I mean, it used to be just a low income hospital. People would say Boston City, oh that's the city hospital. It’s a place to go now for renowned cancer treatment. I mean, it’s much more than just the small city hospital that it was. And part of that is through the responsibility of everything Joe was able to do for that.

He has quite a legacy. I only know twenty years’ worth of it and there was so much more. Like the El Salvador stuff where I know that they’re—you’ve had experts that worked on, and his staff, that have talked about that in detail. But that was so not his project. He was like, you know—

HOWINGTON: It’s not his area.

BURGESS: “I'm not a foreign policy person. That's not me.” And yet, he said, “Fine, I will go and I will do it.” And he understood— once he realized what the issue was and the importance of it, and he was going to make that change happen. And not from an office. He went down and, you know, down to the ground level just like he does at home. And he wasn’t just going to have someone report back to him. He went out and saw the problem and he felt so proud probably twofold for the strong Catholic and personal faith that he had, and to see what happened to those poor innocent people and priests and women. And then also, I think, just because he saw, you know, that wrong was being done and how personally important that was that he could make a change and that he wasn’t going to stop. They asked him to go over and do it and he said yes, so he was going to make sure that it was done. He was like that. He put his mind to something and I think that's why it’s so important that we do keep remembering him, especially through the Joe Moakley scholarships. And when I review the applications and I think back to when he said, you know, “I took this little housewife and made her into this incredible fundraiser and political—“
**HOWINGTON:** Operative?

**BURGESS:** I try to see if I could find a person— it’s not the person with the highest grades or the most ability to succeed. Joe Moakley reached out to people he knew had potential and just needed something to get them there. And whether it was someone who was not working because they decided to stop and have children for a little while, like myself, and looking to get back into work and really at an opportune in my life. Or whether it was some person he helped get into college or the people that he brought onto his staff or people from out in the street who asked for help, he just gave them that one extra step.

That's what I'm trying to find when I review an application for the scholarships. Is the people I think Joe Moakley would want to help, the ones that if you just give them this little bit of help, with a $5,000 scholarship is significant. It’s not a little bit, but it’s a little bit in the grand scheme of things. If you just give them the hand up that they would be able to make a success and a difference in other people’s lives, and Joe had an incredible ability to be able to do that and in my life, if I could do that for just a small amount of people, I would feel that, you know, I was successful. He was just incredible.

Yeah, there aren’t politicians like him anymore. After I left—

**HOWINGTON:** Why do you think that is?

**BURGESS:** I think it’s a generational thing, too. I hope that it turns back towards simpler basic values. I think he came from like out of wartime and when life was much simpler back then and there was a clear right and wrong. And I think there's so much gray— people think there is so much gray. I'm not sure I believe there's so much gray. But people think there's so much gray to the right and wrong and it’s just so clear cut, the values that Joe Moakley had and carried through his entire life. It’s difficult, because I've loved working on campaigns, I've loved it. And I learned so much working for him that I would love to continue to keep doing it.
You've got Congressman McGovern, who’s incredible. There are a few different people out there that are cut from the same cloth, I hope, that will continue to carry on the traditions. But, I think that people have to go back and go to the basics of what's important in life and right from the neighborhood, because that's what it was about, his neighborhood. And then, as he said, his neighborhood just got bigger.

HOWINGTON:  Included Central America.

BURGESS:  Right. So it’s just like you have to— It's hard to work on a campaign now because there will never be another Joe Moakley for me and people say he spoiled us for anything to come after that. After working for him, there are few people who probably— few jobs that will ever be able to match up to that. I don't know for me if one ever will and I am lucky to have had the opportunity and to have had him in my life. This was very hard for me to come out and kind of talk because I feel like to me it’s so personal and I feel like I'm almost— on the loyalty issue, it’s almost like telling a secret and telling— not a secret, but it’s— it’s personal and I miss him. And I just— I'm doing this because I guess I just wish that everybody had the chance to meet Joe Moakley, know Joe Moakley and have Joe Moakley in their life. And hopefully, we're giving scholarships to a bunch of little Joe Moakley’s who will be out in people’s lives.

HOWINGTON:  Great. Well, I guess did you have anything else you wanted to add?

BURGESS:  I don't know, unless you have a specific question of something I haven’t answered?

HOWINGTON:  I think we're— maybe this is a good point to end. I thank you very much for your time today.

BURGESS:  Well, thank you. I mean, it was tough, but I'm glad I did it.

HOWINGTON:  Good.
BURGESS: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW