

Born to Italian immigrants, Dr. Selvaggio came from a modest upbringing. Her father was a baker and worked hard to support her and her five brothers and sisters.

After graduating from Hampton High School, at the behest of her parents, Dr. Selvaggio postponed college to help support her family. However, she never lost sight of her desire to further her education. She eventually left home to pursue her degree at Penn State University. She completed her bachelor's degree in science in just two years.

Completing her bachelor's degree in just two years was only the beginning of Dr. Selvaggio's long list of accolades and accomplishments. She applied that same work ethic and determination to her studies at Temple Medical School and Boston University Hospital. Highly regarded by her colleagues as one of the country's top doctors in the field of Nephrology, she has opened several dialysis centers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Recently, Dr. Selvaggio completed her eight-year term as the president of UPMC Shadyside's medical staff. She was the first female to serve as president in the hospital's 135-year history. Dr. Selvaggio is married to Dr. Steven Heilbrunn. They are the proud parents of two remarkable children, Max and Evi.

Dr. Adriana Selvaggio is truly a woman of great courage and perseverance. She has built a legacy that will be talked about in medical classes and passed down through generations. Her son, Max, said this of his mother's character, "To this day, my mother is more proud of the strong willed character that her adversity has built than the accolades she has earned having overcome them. The profound content of my mother's character is something that I will praise and cherish for the rest of my life."

The medical world is lucky to have her as their colleague, her children are blessed to call her Mom and I am grateful to know her as a great friend.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring the character and achievements of Dr. Adriana Selvaggio.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DEFENSE STRONG ACT

### HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 2010*

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Defense Sexual Trauma Response, Oversight and Good Governance Act (The Defense STRONG Act).

Sexual assault in the military has reached epidemic levels. While 1 in 6 women will experience sexual assault in her lifetime, the numbers are much higher in the military, where as many as 1 in 3 women leaving the services report that they were sexually assaulted. By the Pentagon's own estimate, as few as 10 percent of sexual assaults are reported. Additionally, while 40 percent of sexual assault allegations in the civilian world are prosecuted, this number is a staggeringly low 8 percent in the military.

As a strong advocate for women in the military and a strong advocate for equal opportunity in the workplace, I believe that the military should be a place where women are supported and can succeed.

We ask women who serve in the military to put their lives on the line for our country, and they shouldn't fear or experience harm from their fellow service members. A recent New York Times article chronicled the experience of a female Captain deployed in Camp Taji, Iraq.

This young Captain stated that she stopped drinking water after 7 p.m. so she would not have to go to the latrine at night alone, out of fear of attack from a fellow male soldier. "It got to the point that I felt safer outside the wire," she said, referring to operations that take soldiers off of their heavily fortified bases, "than I did taking a shower."

While the military has made strides to address this problem, victims of sexual assault in the military still report a lack of confidentiality, protection and support, and lack access to advice and counsel from a military lawyer once an incident is reported. The military has not established the proper infrastructure to deal with sexual assaults. Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates in the military receive very little training and have little experience dealing with sexual assault. The DOD allows contractors to serve in these positions part-time, making them ill-equipped to deal with incidents that arise. As the 2009 Defense Task Force Report on Sexual Assault in the Military Services reported, one military victim advocate explained, "I would truly be unprepared if a sexual assault were to occur and my services were needed." . . . She said, "It is my opinion that active duty Unit Victim Advocates are not prepared to deal with sexual assaults and could potentially deter individuals from coming forward."

Women report receiving inadequate support and experiencing backlash when they tried to seek care while they were in the services. A GAO report from 2008 stated that "many individuals do not come forward in the military out of fear of punishment because they have done something (i.e., drinking) that they could also get in trouble for." The same report concluded that victims were reluctant to report attacks due to the belief that nothing would be done, they would not be believed, or that reporting an incident would negatively impact their careers.

The systems in place to prevent and respond to sexual assault lack sophistication, and the culture around sexual assault in the military needs to be fundamentally changed.

This is why I am introducing the Defense STRONG Act. My bill strengthens the legal protections for victims of sexual assault in the military:

(1) It requires that they have access to a military lawyer, and can maintain their right to confidential reporting even if they receive legal counsel;

(2) It ensures that conversations between victims and Victim Advocates are confidential and immune from discovery by military lawyers if the case goes to court.

My bill also strengthens the systems in place to prevent sexual assaults and provide support and guidance for victims that do report an incident:

(1) It standardizes the training of service members, Commanders, Victim Advocates, and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators;

(2) It requires that service members are trained around sexual assault prevention and response as they move up in the military structure; and

(3) It requires Victim Advocates and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators to be full-time positions, and prohibits DOD contractors from fulfilling roles.

Sexual assault weakens the readiness and morale of the military, and erodes trust between service members. The Defense STRONG Act strengthens the sexual assault prevention and response program in the military services, strengthening the military as a whole.

#### HONORING ANDREW PAUL DANIELSEN

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Paul Danielsen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 900, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Paul Danielsen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### COMMEMORATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2010*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today marks the 40th year in which the United States has set aside a day to reflect upon our responsibility to protect the environment and preserve it for future generations.

In 2007, the scientific community confirmed that the evidence of warming is "unequivocal." The consensus of this finding should not be understated. Global warming is real and human activity is the main cause.

Consider these facts: The 10 warmest years on record have all been since 1990. Worldwide, 2005 was the hottest of all. In the United States, 2008 was the warmest year ever. These rising temperatures have been accompanied by many changes. Hurricanes are more severe. Water levels are rising. Droughts are becoming longer. Mountain glaciers are receding around the world.

While these facts are daunting, the good news is that there is still time to enact policies that will curb the harmful impacts of climate change. The House of Representatives took an important step last year, when we passed legislation that will put caps on the amount of greenhouse gases we emit into the air each year. It also facilitates the research and development of renewable energy sources that will

not only reduce our dependence on foreign oil, but also create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

On this Earth Day, I also want to reiterate my commitment to ensuring that Congress fully funds Great Lakes clean-up programs. The Great Lakes are a national treasure and having spent my entire life living in or near Chicago, I have a tremendous connection to the Great Lakes; my home in Evanston is only a few blocks from Lake Michigan.

As anyone who has spent any considerable amount of time in a Great Lake state knows, the Lakes are more than just a group of fresh water lakes—they play a significant part in shaping our way of life, our traditions, and our future. In addition to its sentimental value, the Great Lakes, including Lake Michigan, serve as an important resource, providing 20 percent of all the surface water in the world.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2010 RECIPIENTS OF THE MCGOWAN COURAGE AWARD

##### HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share positive stories about young people from my congressional district who overcome adversity. Today, I am pleased to share the stories of seven such individuals.

Nella Blackford, St. Peter's High School. Coping with many physical difficulties stemming from the effects of spina bifida and numerous surgeries, Nella is an inspiration to everyone at her school, where she participates in the volleyball and softball programs. She is undertaking an advanced placement coursework and was active in her school's spring musical.

Steven Broeske, Clear Fork High School. Steven has earned the respect of his peers and teachers for the selfless way he deals with cystic fibrosis. He prides himself on his independence and goal-oriented work ethic, carrying a demanding workload in the classroom and dedicating countless hours to his school's Future Farmers of America chapter.

Jackie Bucksbaum, Ontario High School. Jackie's positive attitude in dealing with a lymphatic disorder is a model to her fellow students, who admire her leadership skills. Although challenged recently by medical emergencies and some family-related setbacks, she maintains an aggressive academic schedule and plans to continue her studies at the University of Findlay.

Christian Lauber, Madison Comprehensive High School. Despite the physical challenges presented by cerebral palsy, which he has dealt with since birth, Christian is active in numerous sports. He also enjoys participating in his school's media and technology programs and plans to study business and computer technology in college.

Michael Lupo, Mansfield Senior High School. Michael has worked through many autism-related difficulties in recent years with the assistance of family members and his teachers. He excels as a mainstreamed student—especially in his mathematics and science classes—and routinely ranks in the top ten percent of his class.

Timothy Ritchey, Lexington High School. Tim was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma earlier this year and has been undergoing monthly chemotherapy treatments. Although he has missed many school days as a result, he has kept up-to-date on his studies and continues to work in his school's athletic department. Tim plans to study nursing.

Travis Stone, Crestview High School. In addition to his many academic achievements, Travis has amassed 73 career wins as a four-year varsity starter on the wrestling team—all this despite a birth defect that affected the development of his arms and hands. He received the 2010 Team Attitude Award and was ranked third in his conference.

Madam Speaker, the Rotary Club of Mansfield, Ohio, will present these seven students with the McGowan Courage Award on May 11. I am proud to join the Rotary in acknowledging their significant achievements and wishing them continued success in everything they do.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP VISA ACT OF 2010

##### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the StartUp Visa Act of 2010, the companion bill to Senator JOHN KERRY's bipartisan legislation of the same name, which he introduced with Senator RICHARD LUGAR this past February.

What do American household names such as Google, eBay and Procter & Gamble have in common? They are all former start-ups founded by immigrants.

In 2009, the percentage of U.S. residents creating new domestic companies fell to 8 percent from 12.4 percent in 2005. Over the same period, the percentage of residents in foreign countries creating new companies rose to 11 percent from 8.7 percent. Despite this trend, our current visa laws have made it unnecessarily difficult for immigrants to launch new companies in the United States. I am introducing the StartUp Visa Act of 2010 because the economic dynamism of foreign-born talent has always been a crucial factor in our country's growth, and we must take steps to enable it to continue. By allowing immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to American visas, we truly can drive American job creation and channel the power of innovation.

Currently, the EB-5 category visa permits foreign nationals to obtain a green card if their efforts invest at least \$1 million into the U.S. economy and create at least 10 jobs. This bill creates a new EB-6 visa for immigrant entrepreneurs. After proving that he or she has secured initial investment capital (totaling at least \$250,000) and if, after two years, an immigrant entrepreneur can show that he or she has generated at least five full-time jobs in the United States, attracted \$1 million in additional investment capital or achieved \$1 million in revenue, then he or she would receive permanent legal resident status.

The entrepreneurial spirit is ingrained in our country's history and success. I believe that this legislation is a vital component of promoting our global competitiveness. We must

ensure a strong foundation for foreign-born, highly-skilled talent to create American jobs and promote economic prosperity and this bill works toward that end.

#### HONORING NATHAN T. WILSON

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan T. Wilson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan T. Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### SARAH STARNES NAMED SOCIAL WORK LEADER OF THE YEAR

##### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the House's attention today the recent award of "Social Work Leader of the Year" by the Missouri-Kansas Chapter of the Society for Leadership in Health Care to Sarah Starnes, of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sarah Starnes received a M.S.W. from the University of Kansas in 1977 and went on to receive a M.P.A. in 1984 from the same institution. After working with the Missouri Division of Family Services, the University of Kansas Upward Bound Program, Project New Pride/Kansas Youth Trust Upward Bound, and Transitional Living Consortium, she has spent the last nineteen years serving the interests of our veterans at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, where she works with them on a daily basis, doing casework, group work program administration, and community organization.

Active in politics during her free time, Sarah represents the best of comprehensive social work practice. As the NASW Code of Ethics states: "Social Workers should facilitate informed participation by the public in shaping social policies and institutions. Social workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully. Social workers should be aware of the impact of the political arena on practice and should advocate for changes in policy and legislation to improve social conditions in order to meet basic human needs and promote social justice."