

there continues to be a lack of focus on a culturally specific domestic violence outlook. Studies have found that minority and immigrant communities face additional barriers to seek help, such as cultural beliefs and lack of resources in agencies like translators and bilingual materials.

The "Domestic Violence Prevention, Education and Awareness Act" would amend the Violence Against Women Act to provide grants and develop informational public media campaigns specifically targeting racial and ethnic minority and immigrant communities. This will bring much needed attention to racial and ethnic minority and immigrant communities, communities that are often overlooked and underserved.

While there are services out there designed to help women combat domestic violence, how do these services help those women who are not able to communicate with the counselors at these services, are afraid of being discriminated against for accessing these services, or who don't know what services are available to them?

It is so important in this fight against domestic violence to offer these women all the support we possibly can. We need to create the avenues necessary to increase the number of survivors of domestic violence and make sure they are able to move on and rebuild their lives.

ARNOLD SAAVEDRA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary educator and patriot, Arnold Saavedra. The product of a strong family, he was raised with his three siblings to understand the importance of education.

His parents taught their children that teachers have a mighty impact on the lives of the students they teach. His father taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Duval County. The lessons of his family were not lost on any of the children; each one became a teacher, on a mission to make the lives of children better through education.

One day when he was in the 7th grade, Mr. Saavedra glanced out the classroom window and saw the football coach out in the field with the players. At that moment, he knew he wanted to be a coach and teacher.

He taught and coached at a number of Corpus Christi Independent School District schools from 1973 through this year. In July 2003, he moved to the Adult Learning Center as the Lead Administrator to apply lessons in learning to adults.

In those years when he taught classes and coached young athletes on fields of play, he taught the same lesson he'd learned in his parents' home . . . the key to success in life begins with an education. For 30 years he has shared those lessons with the young people of Corpus Christi. His legacy is in the success of his students.

While at Texas A&I College, Mr. Saavedra met and married his college sweetheart, Ida Ortega Saavedra, and she has been his most constant source of support. They have two children, Tricia Dunlap and Arnold Andrew

Saavedra, and a granddaughter, Sage Elizabeth Dunlap.

Mr. Saavedra will retire on November 25, 2003, after more than 30 years with the Corpus Christi Independent School District. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending him for his life's work.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN OPERATION RESTORE HOPE IN SOMALIA IN 1993

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of this legislation because I do believe it is important to express our gratitude to our armed forces, and particularly to remember those who lost their lives in Somalia in Operation Restore Hope. Indeed, members of our armed forces have been asked to make extraordinary sacrifices in this post Cold War era, as US military presence across the globe has, despite what many of us hoped, increased significantly and military deployments into hostile situations have also increased.

Mr. Speaker, while I do want to join those praising members of our armed forces, I must point out that legislation like H. Con. Res. 291 is dishonest and actually disrespectful to our military. It is obvious that praising the soldiers is only one small part of this legislation. Under cover of this praise is an attempt to re-write history and to praise a foreign policy that sends our military into useless and meaningless battle zones, like Somalia, where they are asked to fight and die for a cause completely unrelated to the US national interest. It is shameful for legislators to wrap themselves in the sacrifice of our troops in praise of a policy that does not serve the United States and ends up getting these same troops killed and maimed.

The legislation states, falsely, that our failed Somali nation-building fiasco was somehow related to the war against terrorism. This attempt at revisionist history is more than dishonest: it is likely interventions like these actually increased resentment of the US and may have even led to more recruits to terrorist organizations.

This legislation expresses gratitude for our troops' "provid[ing] humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia in 1993." I see nowhere in our Constitution a provision that allows the United States armed forces to be used for the purpose of "provid[ing] humanitarian assistance" to any foreign country or people. Our armed forces are to be used in defense of our homeland. Period. So I am deeply disturbed by legislation such as this. Yes, we must honor troops, but we cannot honor a foreign policy that sends them into harm's way for "nation-building" or "humanitarian assistance" or any other reason not directly related to the defense of the United States. I hope the next time we see legislation congratulating the brave service of our armed forces it is more honest. Our servicemembers deserve at least this, do they not?

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUSY ELLISON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to the adventurous spirit of a citizen from my district. Susy Ellison of Carbondale, Colorado has begun her journey to Antarctica with a group of teachers and research scientists, charged with studying a unique seal population found exclusively in that region. As Susy braves the extreme climate of Antarctica, I would like to recognize her courage and commitment to science and education before this body of Congress today.

Susy is a high school teacher at Yampah Mountain High School in Glenwood Springs, Colorado and has experience working with the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. The program with which she will travel to Antarctica is called Teachers Experiencing Antarctica and the Arctic, or TEA. TEA allows teachers an opportunity to gain experience and knowledge that can be applied in the classroom when they return. Susy will be in the field in Antarctica for approximately eight weeks, braving the elements in the name of science.

When Susy returns to the classroom, I am certain her students will be filled with wonder and excitement as she recounts her experiences from the far off land of Antarctica. I commend Susy on her adventurous spirit and wish her the best for a safe and successful journey.

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in an effort to help end the cycle of violence against women.

I have introduced the "Domestic Violence Courts Assistance Act" because it is important to recognize the prevalence of domestic violence in our community and take the necessary steps to eradicate this problem. A study released earlier this year estimated that nearly half of the adult population in my home state of California reported knowing a victim of domestic violence. In the United States, nearly 2 million women are victims of domestic violence. While there have been great strides to build upon and improve domestic violence legislation, the high rate of domestic violence victims is evidence for the continuing need for attention to this problem.

This bill will help provide grant money from the Violence Against Women Act to be used to establish domestic violence courts. Because many local court systems are overwhelmed with the number of cases that come before them everyday, many domestic violence cases are not given the attention and time sensitivity that is crucial in raising the conviction rate of offenders. The bill also makes clear that funds can be used for translation and interpretation services, which is critical for domestic violence victims who are limited English proficient.