

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