

Committee on Women Offenders in the Correctional System. Using these avenues, Young was able to enact meaningful solutions to a range of issues facing the people of her district and the State of Wisconsin as a whole. Becky Young gave a voice to those women and children who were not being heard in the halls of the State Capitol at the time.

I was honored to serve in the Assembly with Becky from 1993 until 1999. I witnessed firsthand her passion for helping others and improving the lives of those she could reach. It was a privilege to work with as passionate a woman as Becky and her presence will be forever missed at the Capitol in Madison.

Becky's love for helping people has been evident throughout her career as she has always maintained strong ties to the community. The YWCA recognized Becky as a Woman of Distinction for her tireless efforts to improve the quality of life for all women, and the Wisconsin Women's Network named her the 1992 Stateswoman of the Year. She has also been recognized by a variety of other organizations that have benefited from her diligence and volunteerism. Undoubtedly, Becky remains dedicated to the people of Wisconsin.

For her hard work, pioneering leadership, and service to our communities, I join the entire State of Wisconsin in saluting and thanking Becky Young. She is an inspiration to all women and I carry her legacy and mission with me as I fight for all families in our Nation's capital.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY NETWORK ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Network Act," legislation that addresses the need to increase legal services for victims of domestic violence by creating a coordinated, nationwide system of attorney referrals to assist domestic violence victims. I am joined in this effort by Representative POE.

Domestic violence continues to be a problem in our country. Nearly one in four women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime, and between three and ten million children witness acts of domestic violence each year. Domestic violence is not just physical but affects every aspect of a woman's life, including her mental and emotional well-being.

In 2005, Congress reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, continuing programs such as STOP and Legal Assistance for Victims, as well as adding new programs that focus on prevention and services for youth and children.

But there is still a huge gap in services and resources for victims who need help navigating the legal system. Obtaining effective protection orders, initiating divorce proceedings or designing safe child custody arrangements are all key components to stopping the violence, because these are often the first real steps that battered women can take to leave an abusive home.

The problem is not that the resources do not exist; in fact, many lawyers want to volun-

teer their time to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. The problem is in bridging the gap between these willing and able advocates and the victims seeking access to the justice system.

Our bill, the Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Network Act, has several components:

Creates an electronic network of volunteer attorneys. The network will be managed by the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence, which will solicit and mentor the lawyers and conduct training and provide other technical assistance.

Authorizes new funds to the National Domestic Violence Hotline to update the system and train advocates on how to provide referrals for voluntary attorneys.

Creates a pilot program to implement the volunteer attorney network in five states. The program will be administered by the Office of Violence Against Women in DOJ. After these five years, if successful, the program will be rolled out nationally.

Establishes a Domestic Violence Legal Advisory Task Force, which will monitor the program and make recommendations.

Mandates a study by the National Institute of Justice to assess the scope and quality of legal services available to battered women in each state. The GAO will report to Congress within one year.

The legislation is supported by a broad range of interests and experts, including the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the Legal Resource Center for Violence Against Women, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the ABA, National Legal Aid and Defenders Association, the National Association for Attorneys General, and the National Center for the Victims of Crime.

This legislation is an important next step in our fight to defeat domestic violence and assist victims. A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senators BIDEN and SPECTER. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

HONORING PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on March 22, 2008, Taiwan elected a new president, Dr. Ma Ying-jeou of the Nationalist Party, effectively ending the era of government rule by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). The DPP first came into power with the inauguration of President Chen Shui-bian on May 20, 2000.

During the last 8 years, Chen championed human rights and established the Human Rights Consultation Task Force in the Taiwan Presidential Office in October 2000. The purpose of the task force was to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a national Human Rights Commission. Because of this process, a number of seminars on human rights have been held in Taipei over the last 8 years. Today, Taiwan's 23 million citizens

enjoy human rights protection, a necessary component of any successful democracy.

In addition to the promotion of human rights, Chen was equally committed to using Taiwan's resources to bring aid to less-developed countries in Africa and other parts of the world. Unfortunately, without United Nations membership, Taiwan was denied access to many international organizations which would help coordinate more effective delivery of this aid. During his presidency, Chen continually argued his country's case before the world—that Taiwan's exclusion from the United Nations was a direct violation of the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights provisions. In the same spirit, Chen never gave up in his efforts to secure observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Assembly. In 2004, the 108th Congress passed a bill, later signed into law, that requires the administration to make it a long-term policy to support Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization as an observer.

In terms of Taiwan's relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC), Chen has always expressed his willingness to talk to PRC leaders, despite the PRC's passage of the Anti-Secession Law in 2005 and its current deployment of thousands of missiles aimed at Taiwan. Chen sought peace and tranquility across the Taiwan Strait without sacrificing the permanent interests of the Taiwanese people.

Chen also worked closely with the United States Government throughout his administration. He helped reduce the trade imbalance between Taiwan and the United States and cooperated fully with the United States after 9/11 by supporting U.S. antiterrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq and implementing Container Security Initiatives (CSI) in two major ports in Taiwan to enhance the level of security cooperation between Taiwan and the United States. President Chen has always expressed his admiration for American democracy and fondness for the American people.

Chen's accomplishments are many and it is difficult to enumerate them all here. Chen is a patriot who has shown the world that democracy is deeply rooted in Taiwan. This is most evident in the election of Mr. Chen and the DPP in 2000 and the upcoming peaceful, democratic transfer of power to President Ma and his new government this May.

Mr. Chen, you have served your people well and we will miss you.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING ROBERT'S MEN'S SHOP FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Robert's Men's Shop has been providing excellent service to the people of New Philadelphia, Ohio for 35 years; and

Whereas, Robert's Men's Shop has grown and prospered since 1973 through hard work and determination; and

Whereas, Robert's Men's Shop was named 2005 Small Business of the Year by the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce; now, therefore, be it