

March 28, 2007: In Honor of Andrew Saavedra

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez

IN HONOR OF ANDREW SAAVEDRA

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Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today in honor of Andrew Saavedra, who was recently named Orange County Catholic Man of the Year.

Andrew Saavedra has tirelessly devoted his life to helping the poor, the homeless, and disadvantaged in Santa Ana and throughout Orange County.

The recent recognition is the culmination of a lifetime of service. Andrew Saavedra was a founding member of Santa Ana's Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen 21 years ago. The soup kitchen now serves meals to 500 homeless men and women each week.

Currently, Andrew Saavedra is president of the Orange County Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a spokesman for the Second Harvest food bank, an active member of the Peace and Justice Committee of St. Joseph's church, and a board member of the Orange County Congregation Community Organization.

After retiring from his job last May as a salesman for a food-service company, Andrew Saavedra decided to dedicate more of his time to volunteer activities.

I do not know many people who choose to pursue a 40-hour workweek upon retiring, but Andrew Saavedra has a calling to help people, and he does just that.