


# Senator Judith Zaffirini



## Reports to the Families of District 21

### Dear Friends:

The 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislative Session (2009) was remarkable in terms of its impact on the quality of lives of countless Texans. As the second-highest ranking senator in the 31-member Texas Senate, my goal always is to balance the needs of Senate District 21 with those of our great state and to cast every vote in terms of the best interests and needs of our families.

No matter what legislation we pass, however, funding it is crucial. Accordingly, my priorities include securing appropriations for education, including early and higher education; health and human services, especially to meet the needs of the very young, the very old and persons with disabilities; environmental concerns, including protecting our soil and water; economic development, including job creation and industry attraction; public safety; and transportation.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst again appointed me to important positions from which I can continue to make a difference.

For the first time in the history of the Texas Senate, he upgraded the Higher Education Subcommittee to a full Senate committee and named me its Chair. This empowered me to play a significantly influential role in promoting access and affordability without sacrificing excellence.

The lieutenant governor also re-appointed me to the Senate Committees on Finance, Health and Human Services, Economic Development and Administration. Most recently, he appointed me to the Texas Energy Council. These appointments facilitated my passing another 65 bills in 2009, bringing my total since 1987 to 579.



*My goal always is to balance the needs of Senate District 21 with those of our great state and to cast every vote in terms of the best interests and needs of our families.*

– Senator Judith Zaffirini

The interim at hand affords us rich opportunities to plan purposefully, crafting proposed legislation and defining funding needs wisely, prudently and realistically. To do so I will visit each county in our Senate District 21, namely, Atascosa, Bee, northeast Bexar, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Jim Hogg, Karnes, LaSalle, Live Oak, McMullen, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Wilson, Zapata and Zavala.

When the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session convenes on January 11, 2011, we will be ready. My staff and I will consider every proposal respectfully and deliberately, for some of my best legislation was suggested by constituents. We also will continue to respond to every letter, email and telephone call and to schedule meetings in the district or at the Capitol.

Effective communication enables me to be a better senator. My annual report, *Senator Judith Zaffirini Reports to the Families of District 21*, for example, always generates constructive feedback. It is more than a progress report. It is a call for action and collaboration.

As always, my prayer is that the Lord will bless us all and inspire us to excel, particularly in providing a better future for our families.

*Judith Zaffirini*

**Judith Zaffirini**  
**State Senator, District 21**  
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**VISITING LOCAL COMMUNITIES** in Senate District 21, Senator Judith Zaffirini has developed a keen awareness of the priorities and needs of this large and diverse district. She is shown in photographs 1-3 with 1. the late LaSalle County Commissioner Arcenio Garcia and his wife and son, Azucena and Arcenio Jr. 2. Frio County Judge Carlos Garcia and Mandy Hernandez at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and 3. Ray Saenz, cooking chili at the Jim Hogg County Vaquero Festival.

# Senator Zaffirini Focuses on Community Needs

Collaborating with local state representatives and leaders, in 2009 Senator Judith Zaffirini passed 14 bills to meet the local priorities of Senate District 21.

Senate Bill (SB) 2495 by Senator Zaffirini and Rep. Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, D-Alice, for example, requires Bee Groundwater Conservation District directors to own land in their single-member districts, balancing the interests of ranchers and farmers.

Senator Zaffirini and Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City, passed eight bills together, including House Bill (HB) 1178, authorizing Starr County to create a drainage district to address infrastructure needs; HB 2804 and HB 2813, authorizing Duval and Starr County Juvenile Board members compensation equal to other juvenile boards; and HB 4607, authorizing the Zapata County Commissioners Court

to regulate development around Falcon Lake's tributaries.

To empower rural hospitals to resolve workforce shortages and rising health care premiums while controlling the cost of medical services, Senator Zaffirini sponsored HB 2708 by Rep. Gonzalez Toureilles and HB 4704 by Rep. Guillen, allowing the Karnes County and Starr County Hospital Districts to borrow funds.

# Health & Human Services Improve the Lives of Texans

Of the 65 bills passed by Senator Judith Zaffirini during the 2009 legislative session, 13 were related to health and human services. Their focus included addressing the needs of Texans with chronic and catastrophic illnesses and with intellectual, physical and emotional disabilities.

Senator Zaffirini, for example, authored and passed Senate Bill (SB) 39 with Rep. John Zerwas, R-Fort Bend, requiring insurance companies to compensate routine care costs for cancer patients enrolled in clinical trials. This will allow insured patients who cannot otherwise pay for routine medical expenses to participate in studies that could improve or save their lives or those of others.

With Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, she passed House Bill (HB) 806, the companion to her SB 26. By requiring

group health insurance plans to provide coverage equal to Medicare benefit levels for prosthetic devices, it will protect medically insured Texans who lose a limb and otherwise could not afford their prosthetic devices.

Senator Zaffirini and Rep. Elliot Naishtat, D-Austin, were delighted to pass SB 37 and SB 63. These new laws allow children to receive Deaf-Blind Multiple Disabilities Medicaid services when they are diagnosed, instead of waiting until they are 18, and to benefit from interveners trained to meet their specific needs.

The two legislators also passed HB 1454, which creates Volunteer Supported Decision Making Advocate Pilot Programs to improve the quality of life of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities by helping them make their own decisions.

Continuing their quest to improve colonias, Senator Zaffirini and Reps. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo, and Guillen passed SB 2253, clarifying grandfathering provisions to utility connections in colonias, and HB 2275, establishing a task force to make legislative recommendations regarding their development standards.

Senator Zaffirini and Rep. Raymond also passed HB 4540, allowing Webb County to sell mineral rights on land held for the permanent school fund, and HB 4541, transferring a Texas Department of Public Safety building to Webb County.

To increase the accountability of emergency services district directors in Bexar County, Senator Zaffirini passed HB 527 by Rep. David Leibowitz, D-San Antonio, allowing commissioners to remove appointed directors for failure to submit required financial reports.

"The interim is an excellent opportunity to develop legislation for the 2011 session," Senator Zaffirini said.

# 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session Was Huge Success for Texas

By Lieutenant Governor  
David Dewhurst

On June 1<sup>st</sup> the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session came to a successful conclusion, ensuring that our state's economy will remain strong and our fellow Texans will have a future full of opportunity. While other states are slashing budgets and shedding jobs, we found ways to tighten state government's belt, while cutting taxes for Texas families and businesses and investing in our public schools and universities.

I am proud of the Texas Legislature for passing Senate Bill (SB) 1, the biennial budget for Texas that maintains state spending at two-percent annually—well below the rate of inflation plus population growth, excluding federal stimulus items.

The state budget meets the needs of our growing state by funding essential services for our citizens, providing tax relief for families and small businesses and investing an additional \$3.1 billion in public and higher education. The budget also leaves untouched the state's Rainy Day Fund to protect taxpayers in the event of a prolonged economic downturn. This will help us meet the challenges ahead and keep our Texas economy strong while investing in the future of our great state.

Important legislation passed this session include SB 19, which helps small businesses thrive and continue to create new jobs. By increasing the state's business tax exemption from \$300,000 to \$1 million for the first year, and later to \$600,000, it will help businesses save more of their hard-earned money and reinvest in Texas through job creation, innovation and expansion.



*While other states are slashing budgets and shedding jobs, we found ways to tighten state government's belt, while cutting taxes for Texas families and businesses and investing in our public schools and universities.*

– Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

SB 3, which improves Texas' school accountability system and raises educational standards, reforms our public schools by focusing on core skills needed to master language arts, math, science and social studies, and by emphasizing college and career readiness. This bill moves Texas toward a system that measures overall student achievement and encourages our schools to prepare students for success in college or the workforce.

We also worked to improve our universities and keep college affordable and accessible for every Texas student. Senator Judith Zaffirini continued to be a strong advocate for higher education, authoring SB 9, which establishes

a framework to create more flagship universities in Texas, and SB 1443, which limits tuition increases at four-year public universities. These measures will help provide Texas students with the necessary tools and opportunities needed to follow their dreams.

In addition, the Texas Senate worked hard to pass landmark bills to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of health care and enhance Texans' quality of life. These bills include:

- SB 6 makes health insurance more affordable for small businesses through the innovative Healthy Texas Program.
- SB 7 reforms the health care system by focusing on the quality of outcomes rather than the number of procedures performed; promotes innovation in patient care by emphasizing technology.
- SB 8 requires the state to develop and distribute information regarding “best practices” in health care to both improve the quality of care and reduce costs.

•SB 10 creates a pilot program in the Employees Retirement System by aligning payments with quality of care rather than number of procedures performed.

I'm proud of the work we completed this session on behalf of our fellow Texans. By setting aside partisan differences and putting the people of Texas first, we passed a fiscally responsible budget and found good solutions to the biggest challenges facing our state.

**Texas Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, R-Houston, is president of the 31-member Texas Senate, a position he has held since January, 2003.**

# Senator Judith Zaffirini Emphasizes Public & H

Because education is the key to Texas' future success, Senator Judith Zaffirini long has championed improving education from pre-kindergarten through high school, college and beyond.

"Our state must provide the necessary educational resources not only for our children, but also for young adults and non-traditional students," Senator Zaffirini said. "Meeting this goal enhances our success in competing with other states and countries for job creation and economic growth."

An educator with 13 years of teaching experience, her efforts to enhance education at all levels, from early childhood through high school to community colleges and universities, pre-date her election to the Texas Senate.

## Higher Ed Committee Pursues Excellence

In January, 2009, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst appointed Senator Zaffirini Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee (SHEC), which he



OLGA AND VICTOR Serna greet Senator Judith Zaffirini before the Lonesome Dove Parade in Karnes County.

upgraded from a subcommittee. For the first time in the history of the Texas Senate, a full committee exclusively addressed higher education issues.

"This enhanced our efficiency and effectiveness in passing legislation and securing funding for issues as varied as student success, financial aid, timely graduation, total academic costs and pre-K through 16 and beyond," Senator Zaffirini said.

"It facilitated my passing 13 bills in higher education, including four that authorized tuition exemptions for foster youth, inter-institutional academic programs, education aides enrolled in teacher certification courses and junior college district employees. It also facilitated our increasing funding for higher education by \$1.5 billion, 6.9 percent, for 2010-2011."

She had chaired the Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education since 2006 and was first appointed to it in 1999.

Above all, the SHEC focused on enhancing access, success and affordability, while also prioritizing excellence.

Senator Zaffirini's Senate Bill (SB) 9, and its companion bill that she sponsored, House Bill (HB) 51 by Rep. Dan Branch, R- Dallas, initially focused on research for seven universities. It developed into a bill about excellence in higher education, with additional funding opportunities for all Texas public universities.

The new law focuses on student success, centers of excellence and the development and maintenance of excellent fields of study and

programs. It offers research expenditures at graduate and undergraduate

The two higher education bills passed her SB 44 and SB 45, which created research opportunities for students and allow more funding in the Mathematics, Science and Teacher Preparation Act.

After Gov. Rick Perry's veto of a \$100 million to implement SB 1007, Senator Zaffirini, especially Rep. Burt Smith, prevailed in removing SB 1, the appropriation of \$1.5 billion.

Accordingly, the bill provides benefits for communities whose salaries are eligible regardless of how they are paid.

## Lowering Costs Enhances Access

To address one of the issues of the session, tuition and fees, Senator Zaffirini sponsored SB 9. Although the Senate passed it with 26 co-sponsors, it failed in the House of Representatives on an explosive Voter ID debate.

The bill focused on not simply on tuition; it linked them to formula-based optional four-year graduation requirements required additional costs established legislative c



INTERACTING WITH CONSTITUENTS, whether at the Capitol or in the district, is the key to Senator Judith Zaffirini's effective representation of Senate District 21. She is shown in photographs 1-6 with 1. Dr. Jake Margo, Starr County, serving as Doctor for the Day in the Texas Senate. 2. Lt. JG Julius Jackson and Dr. Marcus Nelson, Laredo ISD Superintendent, at Operation Lonestar

# Higher Education as Keys to Prosperity in Texas

matching funding for and promotes research graduate levels.

education Chairs also SB 2262, which creates for undergraduate teachers to participate science and Technology Academies.

Perry vetoed \$154 at “proportionality” in and other proponents, olomons, R-Carrollton, its negative aspects in s bill, as filed.

bill provides health ity college personnel ible for state funding, were paid.

## nces Accessibility

the most controversial ne rising cost of tuition rini authored SB 1443. passed it unanimously unfortunately, it died representatives during the ate.

n total academic costs, capped increases and la funding; offered an aranteed tuition rate; t-cutting measures; and oversight.

“Equally important,” Senator Zaffirini said, “SB 1443 pressured the legislature to control tuition costs by increasing funding. It recognized that tuition and fees have risen because state funding, although increased, has not kept up with inflation and growth.”

To enhance accessibility, however, legislators created a \$25 million scholarship program for students seeking job training or two-year degrees in high-demand fields such as computer services, nursing and auto repair.

## Public Education Lays Foundation

As Higher Education Chair, Senator Zaffirini believes strongly that student success in higher education begins with quality early childhood education. For that reason, she authored SB 21 (2009), seeking to expand high-quality pre-kindergarten programs from half-day to full-day.

Although its companion, HB 130 by Rep. Diane Patrick, R-Arlington, and Senator Zaffirini, was vetoed by Gov. Perry in spite of strong bipartisan support, proponents secured an additional \$25 million for the Early Start Grant Program administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Senator Zaffirini will intensify efforts to allow school districts voluntarily to expand their half-day pre-kindergarten programs to full-day in partnership with local Head Start or licensed child care providers, while implementing high quality standards related to class size, teacher-student ratios, highly

qualified teachers, approved curricula and school readiness components.

She also will continue to champion legislation and funding to support our most vulnerable students, including those in special education and bilingual education programs, and to prioritize ensuring accountability and effective programs for English Language Learners (ELL).

Because students in foster care face special challenges during their academic careers, the senator is proud to have authored and passed SB 2248 with Rep. Patrick. The new law requires TEA to work more effectively with school districts to ensure smooth transitions and credit transfer for students in foster care.

“Education and health and human services are my lifelong passions,” Senator Zaffirini said. “It is a privilege to champion legislation and funding to support high-quality early childhood, bilingual and special education programs.”



**WILSON COUNTY LEADERS** Gene Maeckel, Shirley Grammer and John Grammer accept a resolution from Senator Judith Zaffirini at the Texas Senate.



in Webb County. 3. Mathis kindergarten graduates Island Blanche, Elexus Sarate and Nicholas Crezo. 4. First-term San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro, visiting the Texas Senate. 5. Middle Rio Grande Development Council Staff Johnny Ruiz, Debbie Briones and Santos Camarillo in Crystal City. and 6. Persian Gulf War Veteran Hector Lopez of Zapata County at her Capitol office.



**DISCUSSING IMPORTANT ISSUES** with community leaders helps Senator Judith Zaffirini understand district needs. She is shown in photographs 1-2 with 1. District Attorney Martha Warner, Bee County; Three Rivers Mayor James Liska; Chief Deputy Bill Ainsworth, McMullen; and Commissioner Ronnie Olivares, Bee. and 2. David and Gabriel Ojeda, Dimmit.

## Senator Zaffirini Protects Lives, Promotes Safety

Passing legislation to save lives and preclude tragedy undoubtedly is the highest calling of legislators.

Senate Bill (SB) 652 by Senator Judith Zaffirini and Rep. Stephen Frost, D-Atlanta, allows driver's license holders to provide emergency contact information to the Department of Public Safety.

Used only to reach loved ones during emergencies, the database will reduce greatly the six-hour average for locating next-of-kin in an emergency and securing medical information needed for life-saving care. The bill was suggested by Laredoan Sally Vasquez and is modeled on a similar program in Ohio.

Another life-saving measure was passed via Senator Zaffirini's SB 61, sponsored by Rep. Allen Vaught, D-Dallas. Nearly 1,600 children die in motor vehicle accidents each year—the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children 14 and younger. Unrestrained children are more likely to be injured, suffer more severe injuries and die in motor vehicle crashes.

The new law requires booster seats for children younger than eight, unless they are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall. It is expected to reduce by 59 percent children's risk of serious head, spinal cord or internal organ injuries due to adult seat belts.

Senator Zaffirini long has championed organ donation, passing legislation (2005) authorizing the Texas Department of State Health Services to shape educational and promotional initiatives. Her 2007 bill renamed the statewide registry program the Glenda Dawson Donate Life-Texas Registry and enabled it to affiliate with the national Donate Life America Alliance and campaign.

In 2009 Senator Zaffirini and Rep. Jodie Laubenberg, R-Rockwall, passed SB 1803, which simplified the registration process and added registration avenues, increasing the number of lives that may be saved through the program.

"It is a joy to craft laws that increase public safety, especially when such legislation protects children and other vulnerable persons," Senator Zaffirini said.

## If at First You Don't Succeed, File, File Again

Persistence is the key to success in the legislative arena, particularly because many bills are passed only after repeated attempts.

The best example may be Senator Judith Zaffirini's passing legislation for a four-year university in Laredo.

Her efforts began in 1967, when she and her husband, Carlos, worked for Senator Wayne Connally, D-Floresville. Little did she know then that she would succeed him 20 years later and pass Senate Bill (SB) 6, creating Texas A&M International University, 26 years later (1993)!

In 1995 Senator Zaffirini passed SB 222, which prohibited compulsory lie detector tests for victims of rape and sexual assault. First vetoed by Gov. Bill Clements in 1989, the bill was passed only after her fourth attempt in four legislative sessions.

Also after four attempts, in 1993 she passed legislation to keep drunk drivers off the road by authorizing administrative license revocation.

On the third attempt she passed SB 1804 in 2009, which requires a qualified

rehabilitation professional to directly supervise the delivery, fitting and adjustment of a customized wheeled mobility device acquired via Medicaid. This bill was first suggested by the late Jack Jacobs in 2004.

In 2009 Senator Zaffirini also passed SB 28 on the second attempt. To combat unsolicited email, attacks on and hijacking of computer systems or networks and the unauthorized collection of personally identifiable information that may be used for identity theft, the new law creates penalties for secretly placing malicious programs in computers.

"In 2011 I will re-file bills to solve permanently the issue of proportionality for health benefits for community colleges and to enhance and expand quality pre-kindergarten programs," Senator Zaffirini said.

"Perseverance is the hallmark of successful legislation. Encouraged by our eventual success after repeated attempts, let us never underestimate the importance of our patience and persistence. If at first we don't succeed in passing priority legislation, we will file and file again."

# Legislature Funds Top Priorities for State, SD 21

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee that drafted the state's \$182.3 billion budget for 2010-2011, Senator Judith Zaffirini prioritized securing funds to improve education and health and human services (HHS).

Her most important work included funding to reduce waiting lists for persons with disabilities to receive community-based services. Incredibly, some have waited as long as 10 years for physical and occupational therapy, mental health counseling, respite care, home modifications, emergency alert systems and meal preparation.

Senator Zaffirini helped secure \$207.9 million in state revenue (\$464.5 million, all funds) to reshape services for persons with developmental disabilities, providing an additional 7,832 waiver-related community services slots; and an additional \$190 million (\$433 million, all funds) to maintain and expand capacity for community entitlement and waiver services by 11,504 clients, extending community services to 169,867 persons in 2010-2011.

"My goal is to ensure the necessary funding and infrastructure to eliminate all waiting lists," Senator Zaffirini said. "That is why we were elated to provide more than \$300 million for attendant care wages, affecting more than 58,000 attendants."

Senator Zaffirini also helped secure \$48 million to reestablish a Medicaid buy-in program for children with significant health concerns; \$27.1 million to serve 31,880 additional monthly clients in the early childhood intervention program; \$61.4 million for rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities; \$166.6 million for transitional and enhanced crisis services; and a \$12.3 million

increase for obesity prevention, the cardiovascular council, the Stark Diabetes model and Cystic Fibrosis screenings.

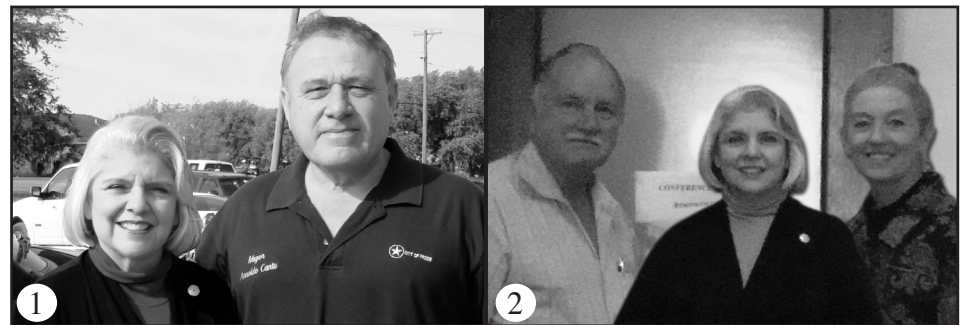
In higher education Senator Zaffirini and her colleagues increased funding for financial aid by \$260 million, for two-year institutions by \$140 million, for general academic institutions by \$221.6 million and for health-related institutions by \$159 million.

This will provide thousands of South Texans new opportunities to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees. Increases include tripling the Nursing Shortage Reduction Program to \$49.7 million, doubling the Joint Admission Medical Program to \$5 million and in-

creasing by one-third the Family Practice Residency Program to \$3.8 million.

The state budget for 2010-2011 includes funding for a 13th check, capped at \$500 for teacher retirement system retirees; a one-time retention check of \$800 for active state employees; and targeted pay increases for areas of high turnover, including the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Youth Commission and Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

"This year's budget was a good starting point, but we can and must do more for Texans, especially in education and health and human services," Senator Zaffirini said.



**LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS** collaborate with Senator Judith Zaffirini. She is shown in photographs 1-2 with 1. Freer Mayor Arnoldo Cantu. and 2. Atascosa County Commissioner William "Bill" Torans and County Judge Diana Bautista in Jourdanon.

## Federal Stimulus Dollars Reach Texas

The efforts of Texas legislators in crafting Senate Bill 1, the state's budget for 2010-2011, were facilitated by receiving approximately \$14.4 billion in federal stimulus dollars, although for limited purposes dictated by the federal government.

"Although some of us believed the funds should supplement our state appropriations," Senator Judith Zaffirini explained, "the majority favored appropriating them in lieu of such revenue."

Federal stimulus funds were appropriated to various areas of state government to create or maintain jobs and to help Texans weather the national economic downturn.

This included additional funding for road construction, the State Energy Program, home weatherization projects, job skills training, the Workforce Investment Act and technology grants for public schools.

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## Senator Zaffirini Extends 100 Percent Voting Record

When the Texas legislature adjourned its special legislative session in July, 2009, Senator Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, cast her 43,387<sup>th</sup> consecutive vote since January, 1987.

Her career-long 100 percent voting record is unparalleled not only in Texas, but also nationally.

Senator Zaffirini is the first Hispanic woman to serve in the Texas Senate

and as its President *Pro Tempore* and Governor for a Day. She has sponsored and passed 579 bills and 52 substantive resolutions and co-sponsored and passed another 365 bills.

The second highest-ranking senator, she has received more than 650 awards and honors for her legislative, public service and professional work, including more than 150 in communications.

“My awards reflect collaboration with countless persons and organizations in a rich variety of areas,” Senator Zaffirini said. “None was earned alone, and each was accepted on behalf of all who contribute to our causes and projects.”

Her 2009 awards include being named “The Best of the Legislature” by *Capitol Inside*, “The People’s Friend” by the *Texas Observer* and “Laredoan of



**FAMILY AND FRIENDS** join Senator Judith Zaffirini and Carlos Sr. and Jr. for opening ceremonies of the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session on January 13, 2009. Also shown above with the senator are (L-R) her sister, Josie Pappas; her cousin, Marilu Flores Gruben; UT President Bill Powers; her cousins, Sandra and José Carabaza; and legendary UT Football Coach Darrel K Royal.

the Year” by the *Laredo Morning Times*. They also include the “Hero Award” from the Texas Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (TALAS), recognizing her enduring commitment to early childhood and public education, Hispanic students and bilingual education.

Featured in 18 books and referenced in 33 others, Senator Zaffirini is recognized as a Texas trailblazer. Her story is chronicled in *If Judy Pappas Can Do It, Anybody Can!*

For decades the Press Women of Texas (PWT) have recognized Senator Zaffirini’s expertise in a wide variety of communication areas.

In 2009 she received 5 national and 19 statewide awards, including 11 first places and 3 second places in PWT’s

communication contest. Her success made her PWT’s 2009 Sweepstakes Award Winner for accumulating the most points statewide for entries including her 2008-2009 *Senator Judith Zaffirini Reports to the Families of District 21*, her introduction of President Vicente Fox and holiday messages to constituents.

Self-supporting since she was 17, Dr. Zaffirini

earned B.S., M.A. and PhD degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, each with a 3.9 GPA. An educator and businesswoman, the award-winning communication specialist owns Zaffirini Communications.

Judith and Laredo Attorney Carlos Zaffirini Sr. will celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. Their son, Carlos Jr., holds business and law degrees from The University of Texas at Austin.

“While I prioritize faith and family, what I hope for ours is what I work to achieve for the families of Senate District 21 and of our great state,” Senator Zaffirini said. “By balancing my senatorial, business and family responsibilities, I strive to abide by my belief that success at the expense of family is failure.”