

In her life Ernestine “Ernie” Raclin wore many hats: she was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother, a mentor, a colleague, a philanthropist, and a dear friend.

The sheer number of remembrances that have come in since her passing goes to show just how many lives Ernestine Raclin touched and shaped for the better.

I know that Ernestine’s family and many friends dearly miss her and her kindly presence. But I also know that we “do not grieve like those who have no hope,” and take comfort in knowing that God-willing, one day we will be reunited with her for all eternity.

I am proud to have known Ernestine and to help celebrate a life very well-lived. I join so many others in thanking God for sending us this compassionate soul who became a friend to so many and such a pivotal leader in the wider South Bend community.

God bless Ernestine Raclin.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT SOMERSET AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Somerset Area School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Somerset Area School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Somerset Area School District’s continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Somerset Area School District on this momentous occasion.

OPPOSING REP. LAWLER’S AMENDMENT NO. 114

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my vote against Rep. LAWLER’s Amendment No. 114 to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill.

This amendment would prohibit funding to any institution of higher education that authorizes, facilitates, funds, or otherwise supports events that are deemed to promote antisemitism. To be clear: I condemn antisemitism in all its forms and stand with the Jewish community as they mourn the losses sustained in

the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas and the subsequent increase in antisemitic incidents in the U.S. and around the world.

I concur with J Street that the amendment is “designed to pave the way for ill-considered crackdowns on free speech under the guise of combating antisemitism.” This amendment violates students’ First Amendment rights to share and debate ideas and express peaceful dissent. It is too broad and could lead to colleges and universities banning student groups that aim to provide safe refuge, community, and space to discuss issues that are important to them based on the opinion or statement of one student. This amendment would foster a chilling effect for universities, who risk losing all federal funding for an apparent violation.

This amendment also completely fails to address the concurrent rise in anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hate. It is a glaring omission not to include other protected classes and misses an opportunity to condemn hate in all its forms on our college campuses and in our communities. Every student deserves a safe environment in which to learn and live, and I wish Rep. LAWLER’s Amendment had been inclusive of all protected classes.

COMMEMORATING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY 2023

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Women’s Entrepreneurship Day, a global celebration observed annually on November 19th.

In the United States, the staggering statistic reveals that women own nearly 13 million out of the 33.2 million small businesses, employing approximately 10 million workers and contributing an awe-inspiring \$1.8 trillion in revenue. My heartfelt commendation goes out to these women and their economically indispensable enterprises.

I extend my enthusiastic applause to the Women’s Entrepreneurship Day movement, led by the remarkable Wendy Diamond. A decade ago, Wendy founded the Women’s Entrepreneurship Day organization, dedicating herself to empowering women entrepreneurs and tirelessly advocating for the prominence of women in business and entrepreneurship when the world was not fully recognizing their importance in the economy. Over the years, the organization has been unwavering in its efforts, providing microloans to 20,000 impoverished women, sponsoring disadvantaged female students to attend the United Nations, supporting the ReStart Academy for 13 to 21-year-old students in transitional settings, and spearheading WEDO’s groundbreaking initiative, the “Women’s Disability Startup Cohort,” the pioneering Accelerator Program for disabled women in business.

In collaboration with Defy Ventures, WEDO has catalyzed a transformative EIT entrepreneurship program boasting an exceptional 84 percent success rate, propelling incarcerated women to unprecedented heights of achievement. Reflecting on a decade of profound impact, the Women’s Entrepreneurship Day organization has not only initiated a global movement but has also garnered over 300

ambassadors worldwide, making a substantial impact in 144 countries, 65 international universities, and colleges.

As we mark this remarkable 10th anniversary, the Women’s Entrepreneurship Day Organization Pioneer Awards take center stage, honoring distinguished women who have emerged as leaders and innovators across multiple fields. Notable awardees include Sue Wagner, a co-founder of BlackRock and a member of Apple’s board of directors, receiving the Financial Pioneer Award; Fran Weissler, Tony Award-winning Broadway producer of Pippin and Chicago, esteemed with the Broadway Pioneer Award; Jenny Just, co-founder and managing partner at PEAK6, earning the Technology Pioneer Award; Dr. Ruth, a pioneer in the psychology of human sexuality and world-renowned sex therapist, receiving the Psychology Pioneer Award; and Nancy Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen Foundation and The Promise Fund of Florida, acknowledged with the Philanthropy Pioneer Award, Carol Reiley, co-founder of Drive.ai and DeepMusic.ai, will be honored with the Science Pioneer Award. Furthermore, Bonnie Anderson, founder of Veracyte, Inc. and Pink Dx, will receive the Health Pioneer Award.

As we celebrate this profound milestone, let us be resolute in our commitment to providing the essential tools and programs needed for young women to not only survive but to truly flourish in the dynamic world of entrepreneurship.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FOOD BANKS, FOOD PANTRIES, AND OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT FIGHT TO END FOOD INSECURITY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to declare the House of Representative’s support and gratitude for the work done by food banks, food pantries, and other community-based organizations across the United States to end food insecurity and provide other essential services.

As many of us come together with our friends and family this holiday season to give thanks and enjoy good conversation—and even better food—we recognize how blessed we truly are. But that is not true for everyone in America, as food insecurity presents a significant and present problem in many of our communities.

Even with the many federal, state, and local programs centered around this problem, 44 million people, including over 13 million children, lived in food-insecure households in the United States in 2022. This represents nearly 13 percent of all households, many with children.

In 2021, 1 in every 6 military and veteran families experienced food insecurity—the same people that have sacrificed to protect us and secure our freedoms. At the same time, 1 in 14 seniors over the age of 60 face food insecurity in America. These are the tragedies that food banks work to rectify.

Moreover, food banks are essential to the prosperity of our Nation. Food insecurity costs the United States economy at least \$160 billion each year in additional health costs and poor health outcomes. Children who face hunger are more likely to repeat a grade in elementary school, as well as experience developmental impairments, and they are more likely to face social and behavioral problems.

The employees and volunteers at the hundreds of food banks and over 60,000 community partners, including pantries and meals programs, across America tirelessly and collectively work to end food insecurity. In 2022, they served over five billion meals to the 49 million people who turned to them for assistance.

Every year during the holidays, my family and I volunteer at a local food bank, the Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC), packing and handing out nutritious food boxes and other supplies to families and individuals in need. We are proud and humbled to join the countless employees and volunteers spending their time helping others.

Food banks, food pantries, and other community-based organizations provide essential food assistance to so many across the country. They collect, store, and distribute items, as well as deliver to those in need, including to senior centers and schools during the weekdays, weekends, and summers.

The work food banks do goes way beyond simply providing food. They and their partners provide nutrition education, diapers, and other essential items to people in need. Through their efforts, food banks have rescued and distributed millions of pounds of food that otherwise would have been wasted. Their work to end food insecurity will lead to fewer chronic health problems and save the U.S. economy billions of dollars.

Food banks rely heavily on private donations. Ending food insecurity is a team effort—food banks and their partners work with private donors, volunteers, farmers, grocery stores, retailers, shippers, packers, and others to meet the demand. Even with food coming in from many different places, food banks often find themselves running out of items—but they never give up.

I am very proud to introduce this resolution. I want to thank my colleagues from Orange County, Representatives STEEL, PORTER, LEVIN, SÁNCHEZ, and KIM for joining me as original cosponsors. We all recognize the critical work done by the major food banks in our area, CAP OC and Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, and their local partners in the mission to end food insecurity in Orange County.

As you enjoy the holiday season, please consider joining me and my colleagues from Orange County in expressing bipartisan support and gratitude to the food banks, food pantries, and local community-based organizations who work year-round to assist those in need and to end food insecurity.

RECOGNIZING 2023 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION RECIPIENT
CANON-McMILLAN
SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Canon-McMillan School District for being recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as one of the best communities for music education in 2023.

The NAMM Foundation celebrates schools and school districts by recognizing their ability to train and educate the next generation of musicians. 830 school districts, including Canon-McMillan School District, were recognized for the outstanding efforts of their teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

According to NAMM, over 3 million children did not have access to proper music education in 2019. Every student deserves a chance to learn and develop their artistic capabilities, and Canon-McMillan School District's continuous efforts undoubtedly help our children in Southwest Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Canon-McMillan School District on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM P. "BILL" SEXTON

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and honor the legacy of William P. "Bill" Sexton, who passed away last month at the age of 85.

Throughout his life, Bill wore many hats. He was a teacher, a loyal friend, a successful fundraiser, a family man, a devout Catholic, and a leader who left an indelible mark on the University of Notre Dame, the wider South Bend community, and on the many lives he touched and shaped for the better.

Bill started on the faculty of the Management Department at the University of Notre Dame in 1966, an institution he served faithfully for more than half a century. From his teaching post, Bill went on to serve as Vice President of University Relations for 20 years. With Bill at the helm, Notre Dame was the beneficiary of what at the time were the two most successful capital campaigns in Catholic higher education history. His leadership also helped grow the Notre Dame Alumni Association to more than 200 clubs around the world; clubs that have become a model that other colleges and universities have sought to emulate.

His service on the Board of South Bend's Center for the Homeless is also a testament to how Bill never forgot about the obligation all of us have to remember and give back to the least among us.

In a life filled with many accomplishments and professional accolades, Bill valued the gift

of family above all else: especially his love for his bride of more than 62 years Ann, their six children, 20 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren and counting.

Now that he is gone, I and so many others will dearly miss Bill's sunny optimism, his love of all things Notre Dame, and his steadfast commitment to advancing the common good. And while we mourn Bill's loss, we above all are united in celebrating a life well-lived and in giving thanks to God for sending us this good and faithful servant.

May God bless Bill Sexton.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. JOHN PIPKIN

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable legacy of Dr. John Pipkin of Amarillo, Texas. On December 11, 2023, Dr. Pipkin will retire from West Texas A&M University, where during his 30 years of service he created one of the most successful equine programs in the United States.

At West Texas A&M University, Dr. Pipkin acted as a Regents Professor of Animal Science and the Director of the Equine Industry Program, preparing thousands of students to succeed in a career in the horse and agribusiness industries. As the head coach of the distinguished horse judging team at West Texas A&M, Dr. Pipkin led his teams to over 160 national champion and reserve champion titles, and his competitive equine and ranch horse teams have won over 60 national and reserve national championship honors.

Outside of his accomplishments in the university setting, Dr. Pipkin's legacy in the equine industry spans over 40 years, officiating over 400 horse events across the globe, including over 20 world championships. Dr. Pipkin also serves as a National Director for the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) and was the Chairman of the AQHA Judges Committee, AQHA Show and Professional Horsemen Committee, AQHA Show Council, and the World Conformation Horse Association Judges Committee. In 2022, Dr. Pipkin was named the Nutrena Don Burt AQHA Professional Horseman of the Year for his lifelong commitment to the equine industry and his development of numerous educational and testing materials for the AQHA judging program that have been instrumental in developing many of the scoring systems currently used to judge classes such as western riding, trail, showmanship, horsemanship, and equitation classes.

On December 4, 2023, Dr. Pipkin will transition to his role as the American Quarter Horse Association's Director of Officials. There, Pipkin will be responsible for working alongside the AQHA show department and judges committee to manage the direction of the AQHA judges, stewards, and drug-testing programs.

I would like to thank Dr. Pipkin for his dedication to the success of the students and faculty of West Texas A&M University Equine Department and wish him the best as he supports the AQHA membership and continues to advance the equine industry.