

fresh salads, and more with Amanda and her team always ready to host live performers, providing entertainment and supporting local entrepreneurs.

Barn Wired prioritizes community involvement. Amanda introduced initiatives such as Ladies' Night Around the Square and a community farmers market to showcase Sigourney's amazing businesses. She also collaborated with welding students, an autobody shop, and a local family to design planters for the town. Amanda herself sits on the July 4th planning committee, is a former board member for the Keokuk County Expo Fair, and was selected to be a representative on the Empower Rural Iowa Taskforce.

Barn Wired is also a member of the Keokuk County Economic Development Coalition, which helps businesses across the county not only survive but thrive.

Amanda's journey with Barn Wired is a testament to the power of hard work, passion, and community engagement. I applaud her entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering dedication to the Keokuk County community. Congratulations to the Snakenberg family and the entire team at Barn Wired. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING BLACK SHEEP COFFEE BAA

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Black Sheep Coffee Baa of Greene, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

After spending 30 years in the law and tax industries, Connie Debner founded Black Sheep Coffee Baa in 2015. The coffee shop offers a space for customers to gather and relax while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea and roasts coffee beans locally. They offer a wide selection of products including lattes, frappes, coffee flights, tea, and smoothies.

In 2018, Black Sheep Coffee Baa partnered with Clayton's Bakery to add food to their menu including cinnamon rolls, scones, pies, pizza, and even options for Taco Tuesday. Always prioritizing the customer experience, Black Sheep Coffee Baa also developed a mobile app for folks to conveniently place orders online. The business has grown into a community hub that provides catering services and rental spaces for folks in Butler County.

Black Sheep Coffee Baa has been featured in numerous food blogs across the State and is an active member of the Iowa food scene thanks to their great customer service, welcoming storefront, and top-notch food. Connie is also actively involved in the Iowa Restaurant Association, National Federation of Independent Business, and

the Butler-Grundy Development Alliance. This year, the team at Black Sheep Coffee Baa is celebrating their ninth business anniversary.

Black Sheep Coffee Baa's commitment to providing not only high-quality coffee, teas, and food but creating a community hub in Greene, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Connie Debner and the entire team at Black Sheep Coffee Baa, and I look forward to watching their business continue to thrive.●

RECOGNIZING L&J INDUSTRIES, INC.

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize L&J Industries of Charles City, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

L&J Welding was founded in 1965 by James Garden as a welding and repair shop in Charles City. In 1986, James's son Chris started his career at L&J Welding after graduating with a degree in business from North Iowa Area Community College. In 1989, L&J Welding changed its name to L&J Industries, and James continued to grow the business with the support of his wife Lillian. They passed the torch to their son and daughter-in-law Chris and Lisa Garden in 2003.

L&J Industries renovated their space in 2018 and converted it into an employee breakroom while simultaneously expanding their manufacturing plant. Today, they are known for manufacturing "Free-Flow Floor Supports" for grain bins both domestically and abroad.

L&J Industries is a three-generation, family-owned-and-operated business with Chris and Lisa's children Jacie and Brady joining the team in 2022. The Garden family has been instrumental in connecting L&J Industries to the Charles City community and ensuring they remain in the same location on Cleveland Avenue.

In 2002, it had been 37 years since James Garden founded L&J Industries when he sadly passed away. Prior to founding L&J Industries, James served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was an active member of VFW Post 4335. James Garden is succeeded by his wonderful family who continue his legacy of leadership, hard work, and service to his country and community.

The Garden family is actively involved in the Charles City and Floyd County communities. For example, Chris is a member of the Charles City Rotary Club that leads the planning of the Santa's Shining Lights Show to provide the community with holiday festivities, and Lisa served on the board of The Learning Center, as well as a spokesperson for their fundraising. The city recognized their efforts, and

in September 2010, L&J Industries received the Renew Rural Iowa Entrepreneur Award from the Iowa Farm Bureau.

Three generations of the Garden family exemplify the American dream. I want to congratulate the family and the entire team at L&J Industries for their continued commitment to the Charles City community. As they move forward and continue to provide quality manufacturing services for the agriculture industry, the next generation of the Gardens will be inspired to uphold the values of the family business and take it to new heights.●

RECOGNIZING MILLHOLLOW

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Millhollow as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2024.

Established in 1982, Millhollow was the first soft-frozen yogurt shop in southeast Idaho. Founded by Joe Romney after he moved from San Luis Obispo, CA, to Rexburg, ID, the shop brought a "taste of California," job opportunities, and real-world experiences to the community and Joe's three children. When Joe's son, Aaron, returned from his church mission in Argentina, Aaron took over the family restaurant. Over the years, Millhollow gained significant popularity, and Aaron and his wife Connie decided to expand the restaurant. In 1995, they opened a new location in downtown Rexburg, extending the menu to include toasted sandwiches, salads, catering, and more.

Driven by Joe's vision to provide his children with the chance to learn about responsibility and instill in them a strong work ethic, Millhollow continues to give the next generation an opportunity to give back to their community. Aaron and Connie carried forward this "all hands-on deck" approach to foster a work environment where Idaho's youth can actively contribute to the restaurant's operations and growth.

Congratulations to the Romneys and all the employees at Millhollow on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2024. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE DOWNING

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay a special tribute to a very special Alaskan, Suzanne Downing. Suzanne turned 70 this year, and—big news for Alaska—sold her news site Must Read Alaska to businessman Jon Faulkner of Homer, who has already

done a great job with it. So thank you, Jon.

Established in 2015, Must Read Alaska is a conservative online site that has a huge impact in Alaska. Suzanne's reporting gives voice to issues and opinions that a large part of our State can't get elsewhere, particularly in her unwavering commitment to holding the mainstream media accountable or, as Suzanne puts it, "at least on their toes."

Tens of thousands of Alaskans read Suzanne's stories on Must Read every day, in part because of her crisp prose and her point of view, but also because she is so prolific. She works 10-hour days, at least, writing two, sometimes three or more stories a day, covering local political races, national issues, foreign policy, you name it. Must Read Alaska has been so successful in Alaska in large part because she offers an outlet for conservative voices and ideas, but also because of her knowledge on many different subjects, particularly on all things Alaska. This is knowledge that comes from real world experiences, the kind of varied experiences that so many journalists lack today.

So let me talk briefly about Suzanne's interesting background. Suzanne moved to Alaska as a child in 1969, only 10 years after statehood. She lived with her family along Auke Bay near the capital city of Juneau in a small cabin on the water. Juneau would eventually be her home as an adult. In Juneau, she worked in various capacities: in the state legislature, at the University of Alaska Southeast, in shops in downtown Juneau, and as an editor of the Juneau Empire. She worked in commercial fishing in Cook Inlet and on a crab boat out of Kodiak. As I said, she has an interesting background, and there is more.

Eventually, Suzanne became a mom and finished her technical writing degree at Oregon State University. She got a job as a reporter and editor on Bainbridge Island in Washington State for the island's weekly newspaper. After 3 years, Alaska called Suzanne home once again, and she was hired as the Sunday editor of the Juneau Empire, eventually working her way to full-time editor.

Suzanne then moved to Georgia, where she was the editorial page editor for 3 years for the Augusta Chronicle before meeting her husband Patrick Yack. They moved to Florida, where she worked in the inner city for Fresh Ministries, an Episcopalian group which offered wrap-around services for the poor.

After Hurricane Katrina hit, she created a ministry called "Neighbors to the Rescue," which connected volunteers to families who had escaped the path of the hurricane and could not return to their Louisiana homes.

The cutting-edge technology she deployed in "Neighbors to the Rescue" caught then-Florida Governor Jeb Bush's attention. She was hired as the

Florida State Director for faith and community based programs, expanding "Neighbors to the Rescue" statewide.

After 7 years away, Suzanne returned to Alaska in 2007, where she worked as a philanthropic program developer for the newly-founded Alaska Community Foundation. This position reconnected her with people across the State, and the next year, she was hired by then Alaska Governor Sean Parnell to be his speechwriter. Suzanne stayed with his administration until Governor Parnell left office in 2014. The next year, Suzanne started Must Read Alaska, which indeed turned into a must-read for Alaskans of all political persuasions.

In addition to news and opinion, the site serves as a community message board of sorts, celebrating the success of local Alaskans, small businesses, and highlighting events throughout the State, uniting a large State with a small population. Importantly, in addition Suzanne's own reporting, Must Read Alaska also offers space for other conservative columnists. In fact, it is one of the things that Suzanne is most proud of. Other outlets across the State tend to shut these voices out—to their detriment. In fact, one of the sites most-read stories was by Juneau sage Paulette Simpson, who wrote a column about the ferry system.

Suzanne's job is not easy. It is grueling to write as much as she does. And I can image that it takes an emotional toll, too. She is often under attack—sometimes viciously—from those who take issue with her politics. But I know she has thick skin and takes strength from so many in Alaska who defend her. They, as well as I, fervently believe that defending your beliefs, and giving others a space to do so, is the right thing to do. And Suzanne is doing that. I also know that she is buoyed by her love of our State, our country, and by something her grandfather, the Presbyterian Reverend Robert H. Price, used to tell her: "The world will hear from you." Indeed, the good reverend, whom Suzanne was very close to, was prophetic. The world has heard from her.

The sale of Must Read Alaska is thankfully not the end of Suzanne's news career. She is still one of the board members, as well as the day-to-day manager of the publication. While remaining very hands-on, Suzanne is now happy to spend more of her summers in Skagway, AK, where she and her husband Pat plan to dote on their granddaughter Aven Rain Call.

I know I, as well as thousands of Alaskans, look forward to seeing Must Read Alaska's continued success as the conservative news source for many more years to come. With Suzanne's guidance, I know it will be. Congratulations again, Suzanne, on all of your great accomplishments, happy birthday, and thank you for all you do for our State and our country.

REMEMBERING
COLONEL SIDNEY Z. LAWRENCE,
M.D.

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the tremendous life of the late Dr. Sidney Z. Lawrence of Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Lawrence was born in Paterson, NJ, where he attended local schools and went on to St. Lawrence University before receiving his M.D. in the Netherlands. He spent 21 years in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and served as a skilled surgeon, providing critical care to servicemembers around the world. In 1986, he spent 6 months in Honduras where he helped to establish a clinic to provide care to women requiring vascular surgery and performed over 400 operations at that facility. In 1990, during the first Gulf War, he was a member of a medical unit serving in Saudi Arabia that provided care to injured combatants. When he returned home, Dr. Lawrence's last posting was at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

After retiring from the Army, he spent 14 years as an emergency room doctor. With an indefatigable dedication to his patients and the practice of medicine, Dr. Lawrence then worked in the field of occupational health until he was 78 years old.

Dr. Lawrence was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on May 16, 2024, with full military honors. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife of 59 years, Louise Lawrence-Israels; their three daughters Judith, Naomi, and Jordana; their six grandchildren; and their great-grandson.

I trust that all members of the U.S. Senate join me in expressing our deep appreciation to Dr. Lawrence for his devoted military service helping those in uniform and their families along with the many Marylanders he cared for throughout his medical career. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched and through his many good works.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by