

Throughout his distinguished career in public service, Mr. Sweeney has held multiple positions at the Library, including Chief of the Preservation Reformatting Division, Chief of the Serial and Government Publications Division, Chief of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and Director of Preservation, among other roles.

On behalf of the Committee on House Administration, Ranking Member MORELLE and I commend Mr. Sweeney for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the Library of Congress.

HONORING SOPHIA L. REID FOR
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of Sophia L. Reid, a true champion for seniors and community empowerment in the Bronx. In celebration of Women's History Month, I proudly honor Sophia for her tireless commitment to enhancing the lives of older adults and for her selfless dedication to building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Sophia has served as the Program Director of the R.A.I.N. (Regional Aid for Interim Needs) Eastchester Neighborhood Older Adults Center since November 2016. Prior to her current role, she was the Program Director at the R.A.I.N. Boston Secor Older Adults Center, where she laid the foundation for her distinguished career in senior services. In her role, Sophia is responsible for fostering healthy aging and well-being for older adults by offering a wide array of programs, including physical exercise activities, mental stimulation sessions, and health awareness initiatives. She ensures that every member of the community has access to the resources and support they need to live a fulfilling life.

Sophia's journey in service began at the Eastchester Center in 2006, when she joined as an Administrative Assistant. Over the years, her dedication, hard work, and passion for community service led her to rise through the ranks, ultimately becoming the Program Director in 2016. Sophia's educational background, which includes a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The College of New Rochelle, a Certificate in Information Processing from New York Business School, and a Medical Assistant Diploma from Blake Business School, has provided her with the foundation to thrive in both healthcare and community services. She has also pursued additional certifications, including training as a Diabetes Self-Management Program Peer Leader and a Certified Trainer for Bronx Health Corps. Her commitment to ongoing education underscores her dedication to improving the lives of those around her.

Sophia's impact extends far beyond her professional roles. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her exemplary service, including a Certificate of Appreciation from the New York City Department for the Aging, a Citation of Merit from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and the Live On New York Appreciatively Certificate. In 2023

alone, Sophia received the Phenomenal Woman Award, the Women of Influence Award, and a Proclamation from the New York City Council, among other honors.

Sophia has created an environment at the Eastchester Older Adults Center where members feel safe, valued, and supported. As one of her seniors put it, Sophia is like a "mother hen," always looking out for everyone, and no one is too far out of reach for her care. Sophia's love and commitment to her community, particularly her "seasoned Seenagers," is not only reflected in her numerous awards but in the lives she touches every day.

It is with great admiration and gratitude that I recognize Sophia L. Reid for her remarkable dedication to the Bronx and to the well-being of our senior citizens. Her exemplary service and her unwavering commitment to the community exemplify the qualities we celebrate during Women's History Month.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-
ORY OF PASTOR EDDIE D.
SMITH, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of a dedicated pastor, loving father and husband, visionary servant leader, and friend of longstanding, Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. Sadly, Pastor Smith passed from labor to reward on February 28, 2025. A celebration of his life was held on March 8, 2025, at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia.

Pastor Smith, a native of Macon, Georgia, was born to the union of the late Pastor Jack Smith, Jr., and Mrs. Mattie Mae Myers Smith. A highly educated man, Pastor Smith attended Bibb County public schools and went on to earn a Bachelor and a Master of Science from Fort Valley State College, now Fort Valley State University. On April 26, 1969, Pastor Smith received a calling that would change his life forever—he was called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Smith served as a classroom teacher and a media specialist in the Bibb County Public School system for fourteen years before retiring to serve full-time at Macedonia Church, accepting the role of pastor in 1972. While Pastoring, he was also called to public service, serving as a Macon City Councilman from 1975 to 1978, as well as a member of the Bibb County Board of Education for two consecutive terms.

The scripture reminds us in Proverbs 29 that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Pastor Smith's vision for Macedonia was evident from the very beginning of his ministry. In his early years at Macedonia, Pastor Smith led the congregation in raising the funds to pay off the church's fifteen-year mortgage in a record five years. In 1999, Pastor Smith led Macedonia Baptist in the purchasing of a struggling sister church. Together, they relocated and revived the church's congregation and liquidated its \$1.35 million debt in under three years. In more recent years, he oversaw the funding and construction of the \$1.7 million dollar Family Life Center, a comprehensive faith-based service ministry which edu-

cates clergy across Middle Georgia. Over the course of his ministry, Pastor Smith licensed and ordained more than forty-five ministers, extending the reach of his servant leadership to the members of many congregations throughout the region. Also, he led his flock through the COVID-19 pandemic, establishing community-wide food distribution services and virtual church services and tithing, while ensuring all bills were paid and no church staff lost their jobs.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Pastor Smith gave so much to so many for so long. His service extended beyond the walls of the church, as he was affiliated with several social and civic organizations throughout his career. He served on the boards of the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the Macon Ministerial Association, and the Macon Police and Fire-fighter Disciplinary Hearing Board.

Pastor Eddie Smith always fought for what is right. He was guided by his love of God and his love of people. Mother Teresa once said that "at the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in." This is how Pastor Eddie Smith lived his life and served people in the name of Jesus Christ.

At the center of Pastor Smith's accomplished life was the unwavering love and support of his family and his loving wife, Martha Kate. Pastor Smith was the father of five children: Suwandia; Eddie, Jr., Corey and the late Alvy Smith and Edwanna Smith Stephens. He is survived by fourteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, Pastor Smith was my friend for many years. He never told me what I wanted to hear, but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for his wise advice and sage counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that all will be consoled by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for the following Roll Call Vote on March 10, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

TRIBUTE TO SALVATORE RIZZA

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Salvatore Rizza, a prime example of an Italian immigrant who came to this country, started his own business, married the woman of his dreams, raised three amazing daughters, and at the age of 90 is still going strong and contributing to the country he loves. Born in Siracusa, Italy, to Antonio and Nancy Rizza, husband to his beloved Josephine, and father of Nancy Larson, Susan Mahoney, and Cynthia Campbell, Sal's story is an example of the rich contributions immigrants make to our communities, our culture, and our Nation. Sal is the former owner and operator of the S & G restaurant in Hartford and was a star soccer player. He was the captain of the Italian-American Stars Soccer team that won the 1967 amateur soccer championship and was later inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame in 2018. And while he himself never had the privilege of a college education, Sal worked hard and sacrificed to make sure all three of his daughters did.

It is in tribute to Sal and his accomplishments—his love of family, his Italian heritage, his community, his state, and the Nation he loves. On behalf of his daughter, Nancy, his grandson, Matthew, his granddaughter, Arianna, and his son-in-law, Tim, it is a privilege to honor this remarkable man—another great story in American history.

HONORING ROSETTA KIRKLAND
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Rosetta Kirkland, a dedicated community leader, advocate for workers' rights, and steadfast supporter of her neighborhood in the Bronx. In celebration of Women's History Month, we recognize Rosetta for her exceptional contributions to her community, her advocacy for social justice, and her ongoing efforts to improve the lives of working people in the Bronx.

Rosetta is a pillar of her community, serving as the President of the Board of Directors for Concourse Village. As an active leader, she has worked alongside elected officials, including Congress Member RITCHIE TORRES and Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, to improve the quality of life for her fellow residents. Through her tireless work, Rosetta has become a vital force in making her community a better place for all.

In addition to her leadership in the Bronx, Rosetta has been deeply involved in her faith community, contributing to the Greater Universal and New Seasons Churches. She has served in various capacities, including as a Choir Member, President of the Pastor Aide Committee, Deaconess, and Chair of the Prayer Warriors. Her commitment to her faith

and her community is an integral part of who she is, inspiring others through her example of service and devotion.

Professionally, Rosetta has had an impactful career, having worked for 21 years at MTA/NYCT, and today serving as a proud member of 1199 SEIU. Her peers elected her as their Union Delegate, a role in which she demonstrated tireless advocacy for the rights of workers. As a Delegate, Rosetta has been instrumental in grievance procedures, ensuring that workers' rights were upheld and protected, as well as engaging members in campaigns to preserve essential healthcare funding. She also serves on the 1199 Candidates Screening Team, where she plays a crucial role in helping the union choose and endorse political candidates who share their values and commitment to improving the lives of working people.

In her personal life, Rosetta enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, attending Broadway musicals, watching movies, socializing with friends, cooking, and studying God's word. She finds fulfillment in encouraging others to remain faithful, regardless of the challenges they may face in life.

It is with immense respect and admiration that I honor Rosetta Kirkland for her dedicated service to her community, her advocacy for workers' rights, and her ongoing commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Her leadership, compassion, and tireless work on behalf of others exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

PULASKI DAY SPEECH BY JUSTICE
AURELIA PUCINSKI

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks made by Justice Aurelia Pucinski on Pulaski Day, March 3, 2025, at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

We celebrate Casimir Pulaski as twice a hero. First, he sacrificed everything: his home, his family, his freedom, fighting the evil Czar of Russia to protect his beloved Poland. Then he came here, to help the American Colonists fight the tyranny of King George. He died for our freedom and liberty. It was worth his life. It was everything.

LIBERTY: THE CORE OF OUR POLISH IDENTITY

We've had other Polish heroes in America. The Polonians who came to the shores of Jamestown with Captain John Smith in 1609, not knowing what in the world they faced, but knowing it was better than the life they left behind. Those brave glassmakers led the first labor strike in the new colony for the right to vote and own land: Liberty. They fought for it and won.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko joined our Revolution for the principles of freedom from tyranny and the goal of independence: both values etched into the heart of every Pole. So fiercely did he believe in liberty that he provided in his will for the freedom of slaves.

There are more modern heroes too: Thaddeus Senzimer, the inventor of modern steel techniques. Henry Magnuski, who developed the WWII walkie talkies that became out modern cellphones. Paul Baran, an internet pioneer. Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple. Roman Pucinski, who had to fight

tooth and nail to get Black Boxes into all commercial airplanes.

Poles started coming to Chicago in 1830. By 1920 there were 400,000 in Chicago. Today there are 900,000 people of Polish heritage in Cook County.

The first and largest immigration was between 1850-1920. Then huge numbers of immigrants were displaced by World War II. Many left in the 1980's after martial law was declared in Poland and the struggle to bring democracy to Poland took new strength from "Solidarity."

John Napieralski, is believed to be the first Pole in Chicago, arriving around 1830. He dreamed of a vibrant Polonia in our City. He might have predicted the hard-working men and women of Polonia building neighborhoods anchored by beautiful churches: St. Stanislaus Kostka, Holy Trinity, St. Adalbert, St. Mary of the Angels, St. John Cantius and so many more.

We have benefitted from major Polish language newspapers, a vibrant Polish theater, radio and now TV community. And our truly remarkable Polish organizations: the Polish Museum, the Polish Roman Catholic Union the Polish National Alliance, the Polish American Congress the Highlanders, the Alliance of Polish Clubs, the Legion of Young Polish Women, our hundreds of Polish schools and more.

Generations of Poles have come to Chicago. A very few of us actually remember the horrors of the Nazi invasion of Poland, the death and destruction of Nazi occupation, the cruelty of war, the horror of Russian genocide at Katyn, the death of freedom under the new Russian czars of communism. But if we are not old enough to actually remember it, we certainly have heard the stories from family, or read the history.

Whether your family came here in 1830 or later we are here because someone in our family decided to leave behind the life of uncertainty and oppression for a life of opportunity and freedom. To seek free speech, economic opportunity, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and most important, the freedom of ideas. Things that are unreachable in nations under Russian influence. Would we trade our freedoms here for the slow death of the new communism?

Poland is democratic and free now. Some of us plan to return, and why not? It is a beautiful country. How much do we want to keep it free? What about the nations in the former Soviet bloc?

WHAT WOULD PULASKI DO?

Those who left that life behind are heroes too. They forged for us the opportunities we enjoy here. They gave us freedom. They gave us liberty. They gave us everything. We honor those who fought to get here. We recognize that some of us did it ourselves. Some of us rest on the shoulders of those who made the choice to leave that empty life behind. But no matter what the history of your family, it requires that we always remember what we left behind and why.

RECOGNIZING 150 YEARS OF BAY
VIEW ASSOCIATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and celebrate Bay View Association for 150 years of dedicated service and charity. Bay View Association serves as an inspiration to the community, standing by their mission of