

high school, but only about 60 percent enroll in higher education right away. Unfortunately, an even lower percentage of Maine students go on to actually earn a degree, often leaving them with debt and without the credential.

The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act would help by encouraging the creation of community partnerships to promote strategies that make it easier for rural students to access college and career pathways. Community stakeholders—such as local school districts, colleges and universities, regional economic development entities, and community organizations—would join together to help students and their families navigate higher education opportunities and address barriers that too often stand in their way.

For example, many of these students are the first in their families to attend college, so they may have a more difficult time finding information about financial aid or selecting an educational program that meets their needs. Partnerships could work together to expose students to college campuses, courses, programs, and internships. They could also focus on the enrollment and completion rates of rural nontraditional students who did not pursue or complete postsecondary education after high school but may find they need additional credentials to pursue their chosen career path.

To help rural students gain the skills and experience needed to enter and succeed in the workforce, partnerships would also be encouraged to develop strategies for putting students on pathways into the high-demand jobs available in their communities. For example, partnerships could test various work-based learning opportunities, including apprenticeships, internships, and a sequence of courses on the path to a certain skill or job. By helping to connect students with good-paying jobs where they live, this bill would also ensure that rural communities benefit from their students' success.

In Maine's Aroostook County, the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative is using this model to help put students on pathways to academic and career success in their communities. The initiative collaborates with local community colleges and universities and with area businesses to offer seminars that guide students throughout their college educations. These seminars cover topics like time and stress management, budgeting and finances, goal setting, and transitioning from college to career. Certain seminars are focused on providing a more detailed look at various career fields, such as nursing, education, criminal justice/law enforcement, and banking/financial services. Students can also team up with employers in the area through internships that give them experience in the careers they wish to pursue.

Since 2012, the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative has served over 190 students, known as Gauvin Scholars, named for

Ray and Sandy Gauvin, who started the program. According to the initiative, their students have a 94-percent college graduation rate—well above the rate for their local colleges overall—and more than 90 percent of Gauvin Scholars remain in Aroostook County to live and work. Students who have participated in the initiative say it has helped them develop networking skills and make connections with employers throughout their communities.

The Success for Rural Students and Communities Act would support dynamic programs such as the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative and help students across the country who are seeking to achieve their college and career dreams. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 118—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLELA ROREX, A PIONEERING COUNTY CLERK WHO, IN 1975, ADVANCED CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL COUPLES SEEKING TO BE MARRIED

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 118

Whereas Clela Ann Rorex (referred to in this preamble as “Clela”) was born in Denver on July 23, 1943;

Whereas Clela's mother, Ruby Rorex, was a dance and theater teacher, and her father, Cecil Rorex, served for 30 years as clerk of Routt County, Colorado, where Clela grew up in Steamboat Springs;

Whereas Clela earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1973 and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver in 1981;

Whereas, in January 1975, at the age of 31, Clela became Boulder County Clerk and Recorder;

Whereas, in 1975, when a same-sex couple requested a marriage license in Boulder County, Clela consulted the assistant district attorney and learned that Colorado state laws did not specifically prohibit granting a marriage license to a same-sex couple;

Whereas, as a newly-elected county clerk, Clela issued a marriage license to Dave McCord and Dave Zamora, the first marriage license issued to a same-sex couple in the United States;

Whereas Clela was quoted in 2016 as saying, “After having been so deeply involved in the women's rights movements, who was I to then deny a right to anyone else? It wasn't my job to legislate morality.”;

Whereas, after issuing the first marriage license to a same-sex couple in 1975, Clela issued 5 more marriage licenses to same-sex couples over the next month;

Whereas national news outlets circulated Clela's groundbreaking story, after which she reported receiving a deluge of death threats and condemnation in hundreds of letters and phone calls to the Boulder County Clerk's office;

Whereas, despite the threats, Clela continued her advocacy efforts on behalf of the LGBTQ community, including by marching,

volunteering, and donating to LGBTQ efforts for decades;

Whereas, in 2014, a series of court rulings cleared the way for same-sex marriages in Colorado, and, in 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, 40 years after Clela issued the first same-sex marriage license in the United States;

Whereas Clela was 78 years old when she died on June 19, 2022, in Longmont, Colorado;

Whereas, due to her advocacy for human rights, Boulder County, Colorado, declared July 23, 2022, to be “Clela Rorex Day”;

Whereas Clela should be recognized for her leadership as a national civil rights leader, paving the way for countless individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the contributions of Clela Rorex as a pioneer for civil rights and same-sex marriage;

(B) the respect and bravery Clela Rorex demonstrated when issuing the first same-sex marriage license in the United States; and

(C) the courage Clela Rorex exhibited following the threats she received when she issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples; and

(2) designates March 26, 2023, as “Clela Rorex Day”.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 119—RECOGNIZING THE 202ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 119

Whereas the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States;

Whereas Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander in Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, “It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.”;

Whereas, in an October 21, 1823, letter to Greek scholar Adamantios Koraes discussing

the ongoing Greek struggle for independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that “[n]o people sympathise more feelingly than ours with the sufferings of your countrymen, none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success”;

Whereas, on January 19, 1824, in a speech in support of his resolution to send an American envoy to Greece amid its struggle for independence, then-Congressman Daniel Webster recognized “the struggle of an interesting and gallant people...contending against fearful odds, for being, and for the common privilege of human nature”;

Whereas individual American Philhellenes, including future abolitionist Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, future abolitionist Jonathan Peckham Miller, and George Jarvis, traveled to Greece to fight alongside and provide aid to the Greek people in their struggle for independence;

Whereas the people of the United States generously sent humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence, often through philhellene committees;

Whereas Greece heroically resisted Axis forces at a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on Russia;

Whereas Winston Churchill said that “if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been” and “no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks”;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Greeks were killed during World War II;

Whereas Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated its support for the trilateral partnership of Greece, Israel, and Cyprus by enacting into law the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (title II of division J of Public Law 116-94) and through joint engagement with Greece, Israel, and Cyprus in the “3+1” format;

Whereas this support was bolstered in the United States-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021 (sub-title B of title XIII of Public Law 117-81), establishing a 3+1 Interparliamentary Group to discuss the expansion of co-operation in other areas of common concern;

Whereas the United States and Greece’s commitment to security cooperation led to the conclusion of a Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement, which was updated in 2021, in order to enhance defense ties between the two countries and promote stability in the broader region;

Whereas the ongoing United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue reflects Greece’s importance to the United States as a geostrategic partner, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans, and as an important NATO ally;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to Greece in February 2023, for the fourth United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue and along with the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias reaffirmed the importance of the United States-Greece relationship and pledged to continue and increase cooperation based on shared values and interests;

Whereas Greece and the United States have joined their democratic allies in standing in support of Ukraine following Russia’s unprovoked invasion and in December 2022, Foreign Minister of Greece Nikos Dendias said Greece’s “support towards the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Ukraine is principled and unwavering”;

Whereas the Government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe;

Whereas Greece remains an integral part of the European Union;

Whereas the Greek-American community has greatly contributed to American society and has helped forge the strong ties between the United States and Greece;

Whereas the Governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the peoples of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2023, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 202nd anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed;

(3) commends the Greek-American community for its contributions to the United States and its role as a bridge between the two countries;

(4) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 202 years ago; and

(5) commends Greece’s support for the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom against Russian aggression.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 120—DESIGNATING MARCH 23, 2023, AS “NATIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE DAY”

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

#### S. RES. 120

Whereas the United States proudly recognizes agriculture as one of the most impactful industries of the United States, and acknowledges the countless women who

help agriculture prosper both in the United States and abroad;

Whereas there are more than 1,200,000 female agricultural producers in the United States, making up more than 1/5 of the agricultural producers in the United States;

Whereas, in 2017, farms operated by women in the United States sold \$148,000,000,000 in agricultural products, accounting for 38 percent of the total agriculture sales in the United States for that year;

Whereas, in addition to leading farming operations, women working in agriculture make a difference across the United States in various commodity and industry fields, including research and development, manufacturing, sales and distribution, agricultural education, and agribusiness and advocacy, which extend benefits to individuals across the globe through the international trade of the United States;

Whereas the United States recognizes that women are vital in fostering the next generation of the agricultural workforce by promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (commonly known as “STEM”) and agricultural education and entrepreneurial and community initiatives by serving as mentors for the 4-H Program, the National FFA Organization, the Cooperative Extension System, and numerous postsecondary agricultural science educator programs;

Whereas March is National Women’s History Month; and

Whereas female professionals, instructors, and leaders in the agricultural field should be celebrated for their efforts during National Ag Week, which takes place between March 20 and March 24, 2023: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 23, 2023, as “National Women in Agriculture Day”;

(2) recognizes the important role of women in agriculture as producers, educators, leaders, mentors, and more; and

(3) encourages all citizens to—

(A) recognize women working in agriculture; and

(B) praise the significant positive impact those women have on the food resources and the agricultural workforce of the United States by encouraging and empowering women to—

(i) enter the agricultural field, which is a high-demand field of work;

(ii) cultivate opportunities to lead; and

(iii) feed a hungry world.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 121—DESIGNATING APRIL 5, 2023, AS “GOLD STAR WIVES DAY”

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

#### S. RES. 121

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services, support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;