

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-4624, by Representative Senn

1           WHEREAS, Deborah Senn, born on March 8, 1949, was a tireless  
2 consumer advocate who was elected in 1992 becoming the first woman  
3 elected to serve as the state's insurance commissioner; and

4           WHEREAS, Commissioner Senn was a national leader on a broad range  
5 of issues, including implementing the nation's first regulations for  
6 environmental clean-up claims, protecting victims of domestic  
7 violence from insurance discrimination, guaranteeing women have  
8 access to obstetrician gynecologists, lowering the waiting period on  
9 preexisting conditions, and implementing equal recognition of all  
10 licensed health care providers; and

11           WHEREAS, Commissioner Senn was the first insurance commissioner  
12 in the United States to call for regulatory action on behalf of  
13 Holocaust victims denied insurance benefits, leading to the creation  
14 of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims in  
15 1998, and resulting in tens of thousands of elderly claimants around  
16 the world receiving long delayed compensation; and

17           WHEREAS, Commissioner Senn, through the United States Department  
18 of Treasury, consulted with finance ministries and central banks in  
19 developing and transitioning countries to strengthen their ability to  
20 regulate the insurance sector and effectively safeguard consumers;  
21 and

1       WHEREAS, Deborah Senn represented a container ship captain who  
2 won a major gender discrimination case after being denied a license  
3 to become the first female vessel pilot in Puget Sound; and

4       WHEREAS, Commissioner Senn loved supporting and mentoring women  
5 in public service; and

6       WHEREAS, Judaism played an important role in developing Senn's  
7 commitment to Tikkun Olam, the Jewish concept of "repair of the  
8 world"; and

9       WHEREAS, Commissioner Senn loved watching baseball, showing  
10 vizslas at dog shows, singing and writing plays, playing tennis, and  
11 spending time in Hawaii; and

12       WHEREAS, Commissioner Senn was married for 38 years to Rudi  
13 Bertschi who called her "his magic"; and

14       WHEREAS, Commissioner Senn died on February 18, 2022, from  
15 complications of metastatic pancreatic cancer;

16       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
17 recognize the contributions and positive generational impacts of  
18 Deborah Senn's service on this day.

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