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**Mary Jo Sellers** was presented with one of the 2020 Community Service Awards by Right to Life President Louis Kavanaugh Jr. at the Right to Life Banquet on Thursday. Also receiving Awards were Chuck Wichman, Steve and Nancy Wichman and Steve Collison.

# Right to Life celebrates 44th banquet

**TIM PINKHAM**  
TIMES HERALD

ODON – Protecting life was the order of the day Thursday night, whether the life of unborn babies or those living through the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 300 people attended the 44th annual Right to Life banquet at the Simon J. Graber building. Initially started just for Daviess County, it has since grown to include Right to Life groups in Martin and Pike counties.

Over the years, this banquet has

grown in size to more than 500 people in attendance. However, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, for months crowd sizes were limited by Gov. Eric Holcomb to 50% capacity. Earlier this month the governor ended the limitations.

Safety concerns were still prevalent at the banquet, as those attending were limited to four people per table, unless they were family members, said Daviess County Right to Life President Louis Kavanaugh Jr. He also said wearing face coverings was required, except when people were eating, and social

distancing was practiced while going through the serving lines.

Everyone entering the building received a squirt of hand sanitizer and had their temperature taken.

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN) was the guest speaker for the banquet. Normally, the senator would have mingled with the crowd before and during the event, but instead he was secluded in a side room until he spoke. Then he left the building without interacting with those attending.

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Photo Provided

**The Clinton and Bridget Lawyer** family was honored at the Right to Life Banquet on Thursday night as the 2020 Adoptive Family. The Lawyer's adopted four children Paige, Carter, Tyler and Ashton to join their older children Brian, Mattie and Mackenzie.

## BANQUET

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Kavanaugh said the seclusion was mandated by national Republican party officials, who want to prevent any more GOP senators from being infected with COVID-19 prior to the Senate vote later this month to confirm Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court. Two Republican senators on the Judiciary Committee are already in self-quarantine after testing positive for the virus.

Senate rules require members be present on the floor to participate in roll call votes, so that is why GOP officials are being so careful with Braun and every other senator. Republicans have a 53-47 majority in the Senate, but two GOP members have already publicly stated they will not vote for a Supreme Court nominee before the Nov. 3 general election. That means Republicans only have one vote to spare, so for party leaders it is essential to keep everyone healthy.

"I need to be there to get Amy Coney Barrett across the finish line," Braun said during his 15-minute speech. "I'm going to represent the values we all believe in."

Braun, a business owner from Jasper, was elected to the Senate in 2018. He signed

a term-limit pledge to serve no more than two terms (12 years) and said he will stick to it.

"No Democrats will support any pro-life legislation," Braun said. As an example, he cited a bill sponsored by Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), which would require babies born alive during an attempted abortion to receive the medical attention required to save their lives. He asked for unanimous consent for his bill, but Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) objected.

Based on the healthcare plan he provides his own employees, Braun said he was sponsoring the Fair Care Act, which would guarantee insurance coverage for all pre-existing conditions.

"Nobody should go broke due to an accident or illness," he said.

Every year an adoption family is recognized during the banquet. This year it was the Clinton and Bridget Lawyer family. Although they already had three children – Brian, Mattie and Mackenzie – they agreed to adopt four siblings – Paige, Carter, Tyler and Ashton.

The four children moved in on Dec. 14, 2014, a week before a planned family Christmas trip to Branson, Missouri. On Dec. 23, Bridget Lawyer ended up in the hospital with appendicitis. Due to complications, she was

there for more than two weeks.

Clinton and Bridget Lawyer credit their mothers, close friends and their community with providing much needed help during their time of crisis.

The children were officially adopted Sept. 19, 2016.

Bridget Lawyer wrote their adoption story, which was printed in the Right to Life banquet book.

"As excited as we are that they are part of our family, I do have to say this was not God's first choice for these kids," she wrote. "His first choice was a loving home with their biological parents. I know their mother loved them and we are so glad she chose to have them as opposed to having an abortion."

At the beginning of the banquet, the colors were presented by the Washington High School Junior ROTC cadets. They were accompanied by four local law enforcement officers in uniform, including Daviess County Sheriff Gary Allison and Washington Police Chief Todd Church.

The pledge of allegiance was lead by Colin Craig, a Pike Central High School graduate and current freshman at Western Kentucky University. The national anthem was sung by Jamie Moreland of Bicknell.