

compare progress from one State to another.

It is also imperative that we keep the pressure on officials at every level of Government to continue to aggressively look for even more creative ways to make these sites more useful.

In recent weeks, I have spoken to key administration officials about what other steps we might take to promote transparency and accountability in implementing the Recovery Act.

If we do this right, it could build a solid foundation to promote longer term fiscal responsibility as we move forward in the Federal budget process.

For instance, I believe we should drill-down and reach consensus on commonsense definitions and metrics. Let me give you an example.

When I chaired the National Governors Association in 2005, we launched a major effort to reform our high schools. I was astonished to learn there was no common definition across the States of 'high school graduate.'

So we spent months working with educators, academics and policymakers to reach a common definition so we could determine whether a high school graduate in Alaska or in New Mexico was meeting the same kind of qualifications as a high school graduate in Virginia.

That now allows us to look at those programs that work—and those that don't—across all of the States.

I believe that experience provides a useful model as we work to develop a common set of metrics that allows us to honestly and effectively track Federal spending, especially with the stimulus dollars where we are ramping up so many new initiatives in such a short time-frame.

To do this, we will need to work through existing organizations, such as the National Governors Association, the Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and others, as we work to design effective measurement tools.

For example, most of us agree that expanding high speed Internet broadband to rural communities will create jobs. It will allow folks in every region of our Nation to have an opportunity to compete and win in the global economy.

Obviously, as we roll out broadband, we will track our progress by noting how many communities are served and the number of Internet connections that are added.

But what if we also came up with a way to capture information about how many rural businesses were able to launch or grow because of this expanded access to broadband? That information would allow us to measure the true value of broadband to the longer term economic viability of our rural communities.

Or consider our commitment to dramatically expand weatherization improvements to the homes of lower-income Americans. Now, certainly we will tally the number of structures

that undergo these energy-saving upgrades, and it should be relatively easy to document the number of workers in the weatherization program.

But couldn't we also come up with some way to measure what one would reasonably expect to be a reduction in the annual demand for Government-funded heating and cooling assistance? And wouldn't that information be helpful as we consider funding levels for LIHEAP and similar assistance in the years to come?

In short, I believe every level of Government should go the extra mile in laying out exactly how the Federal dollars are being spent, and we should honestly measure and disclose program outcomes.

I also think, as we roll out these major expenditures, it is a good idea to link disbursements with predetermined timelines and checkpoints to better track our progress. Let's not wait until all of the money is spent before we determine whether the program works or not.

Consequently, if we do not see appropriate progress, we could delay or defer future payments.

In addition, Federal and State governments also should be encouraged to reach outside their comfort zones and challenge individuals in the private sector to step-up and provide specialized expertise.

Again, within the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we are going to be ramping up a series of important new initiatives on a very short timeline.

How do we get the expertise from the private sector to engage in this effort? For example, this could be part of the Serve America Act, which we will consider and vote on this week, which will promote and expand public service opportunities for our citizens.

We must try to draw upon the best and brightest to bring them into Government service, even if it is on a part-time basis, as we ramp up these new initiatives.

I am talking about men and women with proven management capabilities, individuals who can move with the speed of venture capitalists to embrace new ideas, or recently retired military leaders who have successfully overseen relief efforts.

This is the type of expertise we need to draw upon if we are going to ramp-up these programs successfully. And as we do this, we must also have the courage to cut back or eliminate programs that cannot prove their worth.

As a former Governor who enjoyed line-item veto authority, I wholeheartedly support President Obama's pledge to conduct a line-by-line review of the federal budget to identify waste and fraud.

I also encourage the administration to conduct a broad-based review of Governmental programs—a review that is horizontal, not just vertical.

Based upon my experience as Governor, and the experiences of countless Fortune 500 companies, I know that an

enterprise-wide review could reveal additional opportunities to wring-out significant budget savings.

Typically, one can find sustainable savings in three areas: procurement, technology, and human resources.

That is why it is vitally important that the administration move quickly to appoint its chief performance officer, and that CPO must have the authority to act quickly, along with the chief information officer and chief technology officer. These individuals must have a mandate to work across multiple Federal agencies, and I hope they ruffle a few feathers.

Mr. President, I will say it again: what gets measured gets done.

In the short term, creating an expectation of transparency and accountability will maximize our 'bang for the buck' as we continue to implement the Recovery Act.

And over the longer-term, this focus and genuine commitment to fiscal responsibility will demonstrate that Washington can, in fact, act with both confidence and restraint when it comes to spending the taxpayer's money.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE SARBANES

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to the spouse of one of our colleagues. The entire Senate has now been notified that Mrs. Christine Sarbanes, the beloved wife of Senator Sarbanes, has passed away. I come to the floor with a heavy heart and with fond memories of, indeed, a remarkable person.

Christine Sarbanes was quite a woman in her own right. She was a woman of keen intellect, warm heart, and a compassion for the underdog. She was a woman who was a force in her own very quiet, understated way. If you really liked and admired Paul Sarbanes, which all of Maryland did, you also really loved Christine Sarbanes. Senator Sarbanes often joked that whenever he would come to an event, they would say: Where is Chris? Or they would say: Where is Christine? She often represented him in and around our State.

She had a unique way of talking that brought immeasurable commonsense and practicality but yet a connection to people and their day-to-day needs.

Theirs was a remarkable relationship that I had the good fortune of observing. I have known the Sarbanes family for more than 30 years. I met the young Paul Sarbanes, a spirited reformer, in Baltimore during the 1960s. Baltimore was dominated by political bosses. There were those of us who were bringing a new day, change that one could believe in. We reformers were running for local offices and challenging the machine. The local press nicknamed us the "shiny brights" because we saw ourselves as a new force.

Paul Sarbanes was the first to beat the machine, running for the House of Delegates and then for Congress. When he ran for the Senate, I filled the House seat held by Senator Sarbanes. It was the remarkable third congressional seat. That seat was held by Paul Sarbanes, then by me, then by BEN CARDIN, and now by JOHN SARBANES.

One of the joys of Christine's life was to see JOHN take the oath of office and to take the seat in the House of Representatives that his father held.

This was a remarkable couple, as you saw them doing good and having a strong presence in our community. They were really made for each other. These were people who really believed in the life of the intellect, but the life of the intellect lived in the community. They met at Oxford. Christine, like Paul, shared a very modest background. Her dad was an electrician; her mother was a waitress. She was a scholarship girl, as they said in those days, to some of the private schools in England that then took her to a scholarship at Oxford where she won both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree.

The Baltimore Sun has a wonderful article about Mrs. Sarbanes, which I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, Mar. 24, 2009]

CHRISTINE SARBANES

(By Frederick N. Rasmussen)

Christine D. Sarbanes, a retired educator, active board member and wife of former Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, died Sunday of cancer at her Guilford home. She was 73.

"Her life and legacy as a teacher and community servant touched thousands of Marylanders and reminds us all that a life lived for others is the greatest of gifts," Gov. Martin O'Malley said in a statement Monday. "She believed in the dignity of every individual, and that every person has potential that we, as a community, can unlock through literacy and access to higher learning."

Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin said in a statement that Mrs. Sarbanes' death is a "tremendous loss to all those who knew her" and that she had "enormous grace and presence."

He added: "She was extremely likable" and "had an ability to relate to people and make them feel good."

Christine Dunbar was born in London and raised in Brighton, England, the daughter of an electrician and a waitress. After winning a scholarship, she attended Brighton and Hove High School for Girls.

She later earned a bachelor's degree in Literae Humaniores from St. Hugh's College, Oxford University, in 1958, and a master's degree, also from Oxford, in 1974.

It was political activism that brought her and her future husband together, when both were attending Oxford in the late 1950s. He was a Rhodes scholar.

"She came to a meeting of the American Association I headed. I forget what was on the agenda. All I remember of that meeting was that was where I met Christine," Mr. Sarbanes told The Sun in a 1987 interview. "She was involved in trying to get women into the [all-male] Oxford Union, a debating society. I became very interested in that and invited her to tea to talk about it."

Mrs. Sarbanes said in the interview "People thought it was strange that an American would be so interested in this."

After graduation, she began teaching Latin at Dana Hall School for Girls in Wellesley, Mass.

After marrying in 1960, Mrs. Sarbanes became a lecturer in classics at Goucher College.

In 1974, she left Goucher. After a four year break, she returned to teaching in 1978, joining the Gilman School faculty, where she continued teaching Latin, Greek and French until retiring in 2000.

Lillian Burgunder, who taught Spanish and art history at Gilman, was a longtime colleague and friend.

"She was a wonderful teacher, and her knowledge of Latin, Greek and ancient civilization was remarkable. She was very intelligent and enthusiastic, and she brought that into the classroom," Mrs. Burgunder said.

"She was dedicated to making her kids understand, and it was common to see a child in her office she was helping because she wanted to make sure they understood the material," she said.

Nick Schloeder, a former Gilman teacher and coach, who had been an adviser to Mr. Sarbanes for 40 years, was also a colleague of Mrs. Sarbanes.

"I have a rather loud voice, and Christine had the classroom next to mine. I would hear a tap on the door, and Christine would say, 'Mr Schloeder, I'm teaching a Latin class, and you're going to have to lower your voice or get some new stories,'" he said, laughing.

"There was a great intellectual compatibility between Christine and Paul. Both were very smart, well-educated, and both loved politics," he said.

"She was not just a candidate's wife but a member of the inner circle. She was very much a part of Paul's inner circle," Mr. Schloeder said. "She was good politically and not afraid to express herself. She had a great political mind and really understood politics."

Mr. Schloeder recalled that the two were inseparable and determined campaigners.

"When Paul ran for the House of Delegates in 1966, and Congress four years later, the two worked the bus stops and would knock on 500 doors in an afternoon," he said. "And they would do that day after day. I can't imagine them any other way than as a couple."

In addition to having a full-time job as a teacher, raising her three children, and assisting her husband in his political life, Mrs. Sarbanes found time to be an active board member.

As child growing up in England during World War II, Mrs. Sarbanes developed a lifelong love of books, libraries and librarians.

"There weren't a lot of books in her home, and I think she read every book in the library in Brighton," said her son Michael A. Sarbanes of Baltimore.

For the past decade, Mrs. Sarbanes had been a member of the board of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

"I do not know of anyone who worked as hard for the libraries of our city. Her commitment and dedication was important to the recent opening of the first two new libraries in Baltimore in over 30 years," Mayor Sheila Dixon said in a statement Monday.

"To Christine, libraries were a sanctuary and a place of enlightenment and a place that could change people's lives" said Dr. Carla D. Hayden, executive director of the Pratt.

"She wasn't just a board member but an active board member who headed many committees, including community services. So much of the community outreach programs are because of her," she said.

She said the news of Mrs. Sarbanes' death hit her staff "particularly hard."

"She was a very warm person, and she mixed that warmth with a practical mind. She was a steady force for us, and everyone knew they could count on Christine," Dr. Hayden said.

She served on the Walters Art Museum board in the 1980s and continued to lend her expertise and time to several committees.

Dr. Gary Vikan, Walters director, recalled a conversation with Mrs. Sarbanes after her return from Dublin, Ireland, when she casually mentioned that museums there didn't charge for admission.

"That conversation took place in October 2005, and the next October, we dropped our entrance fee," Dr. Vikan said with a laugh.

For more than 20 years, as a member of the Baltimore Volunteer Group to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Mrs. Sarbanes delivered hundreds of presentations and organized fundraisers for the organization statewide.

She was an "eloquent representative of the highest caliber of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF," wrote William Van Pelt, who manages the organization's Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, in a recommendation for an award several years ago.

"Her interest was educating area children to the wider world and culture of the world's neediest children," said Mary Jo Marvin, a member of the Baltimore group. "We called Christine 'the Whirlwind' because of her boundless energy and torrent of ideas. She was an inspiration to all of us."

Mrs. Sarbanes was a longtime communicant of the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation. A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m. April 3 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St.

Also surviving are another son, Rep. JOHN P. SARBANES of Riderwood; a daughter, Janet M. Sarbanes of Los Angeles; and six grandchildren.

Ms. MIKULSKI. It tells the story. Senator Sarbanes has told this story as well. He went to a meeting of the American Association, where he met a young British woman who was interested in getting women in the Oxford debating union. Women were excluded from the Oxford debating union. He saw Christine. He saw her charm, her charisma, her passion, her advocacy for women when it was just coming to the fore. Suddenly, Paul Sarbanes became an impassioned supporter of getting women in the Oxford Union. He was an equally unabashed supporter of getting women in the Senate, which helped me become the first Democratic woman here.

That was the Sarbaneses. They met there. They met on a cause. The cause began their love for each other and their love of this country and the love of making this country a better place.

We all know Senator Sarbanes's remarkable career in the Senate, a man we all admired for his honesty, his integrity, his honor, and his ability to get the job done. Maryland loved him by reelecting him on several occasions, often being the highest vote getter. Christine came back and helped Paul with his career. She also continued her work in our community.

Mrs. Sarbanes was a gifted teacher, a spirited volunteer, and a civic leader, while she was raising a family of four remarkable children: three young men and a wonderful young woman who has a doctorate in literature and is in California. She also was an avid civic volunteer. Her great passion was books. She believed books would change lives. Books changed her life. They helped her win a scholarship, they got her to Oxford, and this would continue.

For her, the world of books was so important, one of her advocacy areas was libraries. If you ever wanted to meet someone who believed in the power and the empowerment of libraries, it was Christine Sarbanes because she believed ideas belong to everybody. Books should be available to everybody. There should be a public institution that no matter who you are, no matter what your economic background, no matter what Zip Code you were born in, you could have access to the great books of our world. That is why she devoted herself to that and was on the board of the Enoch Pratt Library.

She did a fantastic job there. In fact, her memorial service will be held at the Enoch Pratt Library in a few days.

In her work, she also was a teacher. She taught at Goucher College. She taught at one of the more prominent prep schools, and she taught the classics. But in teaching the classics, we should all note that Mrs. Sarbanes was, indeed, a very classy lady.

When we think about her, we will always remember her, again, for being able to light up a room while she worked so hard to light up the lives of others. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

As all of you know, Senator Sarbanes and I shared a very special relationship in the Senate, but that relationship was also shared in the Maryland community with Mrs. Sarbanes. Mrs. Sarbanes was there for everybody, and everybody in Maryland mourns for her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, when I came to the Senate in 1977, Paul Sarbanes was a colleague who came with me. There is no doubt that this was one of the true sages of the Senate. He was a great man, a brave man, with a tremendous ability, who served with distinction in this body. One of the reasons Paul was so successful in life, not that he couldn't have done it alone, but I think he couldn't have done it as well had it not been for the beautiful and wonderful wife he had. She was a tremendous human being.

I am very moved by her death. All of us feel grief and concern for Senator Sarbanes. There was a close relationship, one that was exemplary to all of us. She was a great supporter of his as he served in the Senate.

I used to kid Paul all the time: Paul, when are you going to smile? When are you going to laugh? He was always so serious. I used to dig him all the time about that. He would get a wry grin on his face. He knew what I was talking about. But he was serious, and so was his wife. She was a great human being.

I personally express my condolences to Paul and his family because I know how close they were. I know how much she meant to him and vice versa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, one of the real honors of serving in the Senate is meeting some extraordinary people. I was asked several years ago: Of all the Senators with whom you serve, can you name one you look up to time and again? At the time, I said it was Paul Sarbanes of Maryland. I liked Paul so much and respected him so much. He made such a contribution, not just for his State of Maryland but for the Nation during his time of public service.

My good fortune was not only to get to know Paul but also to meet and get to know his wife Christine. What an extraordinary woman. She was a gifted, thoughtful, articulate person whose background and interest was in the classics. She would lose me in a hurry when we got into a conversation, as we did once or twice, about her area of interest.

I can recall traveling once from London Heathrow back to the United States, picking up a book along the way that was titled "Rubicon," a story on the Roman Empire. I sent it to her, as if she needed my advice or background in that subject. She wrote me the nicest note afterwards thanking me for it.

She was a real lady and a great complement to Paul. The two of them worked so well together representing the State of Maryland and showing what a couple could do together working in public service.

I was so saddened to learn yesterday that Christine passed away. She was such a fine person. I wanted to add my voice on the Senate floor in sympathy for the Sarbanes family and so many people across the State of Maryland who came to know and respect her over the years.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL SERVICE REAUTHORIZATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1388, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I am pleased to rise once again to speak today on the Senate substitute amendment to H.R. 1388, the Serve America Act. As we heard in the statements last night, this legislation has been in the works for a long time, and I was glad last night to see it clear the first hurdle by a wide margin.

This is truly a bipartisan piece of legislation. In my opinion, it is probably the most bipartisan bill we will see on the Senate floor this year. At every stage, Republicans and Democrats have been working together to craft this legislation in order to bring it where we have it today. It is my hope that when all is said and done we will see a broad coalition of Senators voting in favor of the bill.

However, I do know, as of right now, not everyone in this Chamber is convinced this legislation is the right thing to do. So I want to take a few moments this morning to address some of the major arguments I have heard by those who appear to oppose the bill. Although many of these concerns appear to be coming from the Republican side of the aisle, I believe my arguments will be relevant to both sides.

One argument I have heard is that the bill will impose mandatory service requirements on our citizens. I mention this claim first because, quite frankly, it is the easiest to refute. Despite the rumblings of the black helicopters some imagine to be circling overhead, every program in this bill is 100 percent voluntary. In our country, no one is compelled to give service, and this bill will not change that. Instead, it will give new and expanded opportunities for people who voluntarily decide to participate.

Another more substantive argument I have heard is that given our current economic climate and budget deficit, it is simply the wrong time to invest in national service. The Government, these folks argue, does not have a role in these areas. I respectfully disagree with that.

I share the desire of many of my colleagues and, of course, of my constituents to see more fiscal discipline in Washington. But, in my view, an important aspect of fiscal discipline is investing in ideas that work. I support this legislation because I believe volunteer service is such an idea.

As has been stated, 75,000 national service participants leverage an additional 2.2 million volunteers every year—volunteers who are not subsidized by the Government in any way. That is a significant human capital return on what is, relatively speaking, a modest Government investment.