

Beyond Berta Caceres's case, the central question is whether the Honduran Government is serious about fighting the corruption that permeates not only the justice system, but practically every crevice of Honduran society and Government.

A government that is serious about fighting corruption would enact the plea bargaining law that has languished for years, without which it is extremely difficult to investigate and prosecute crimes involving top public officials or corporate executives.

A government that is serious about fighting corruption would put an abrupt end to legislation referred to as the "impunity pact." That legislation would bar the attorney general from bringing charges against someone for stealing public funds until the Supreme Auditing Tribunal, whose members are all loyal to the President, has investigated and ruled on the alleged theft. It is a transparent attempt to ensure that cases of public corruption are never prosecuted.

A government that is serious about fighting corruption would support strengthening the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity, not seek to "renegotiate" its mandate to eliminate or substantially weaken its investigative authority.

The Honduran Government, which professes to be a partner of the United States in fighting corruption, is not doing any of these things. The inescapable truth is that it is not serious about fighting corruption, which is apparent to anyone who is not easily fooled.

Until that changes and until all those involved in the murder of Berta Caceres are brought to justice and until Hondurans who speak out against corruption and impunity are no longer vilified and attacked, the amount of assistance we provide to the Honduran Government will be far less than it would otherwise be.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL IAN BRYAN

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I honor Col. Ian Bryan of the Tennessee Air National Guard for his outstanding service to our country and congratulate him on his retirement from the U.S. Air Force. Colonel Bryan has worked closely with me, the Appropriations Committee, and across Capitol Hill to inform and advise Congress so that we may ensure a strong and ready National Guard. He has also helped the Pentagon work more productively with Congress, promoting a strong national defense.

Colonel Bryan has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication to serving this Nation in the military for over 25 years. He has done so selflessly. He has quietly, but tenaciously advocated for the Chief of the National Guard Bureau's prior-

ities to make the National Guard a ready, capable force for operations both in the homeland and overseas.

As the Chief of the programs division in the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison from April 2017 to February 2019, Colonel Bryan performed his duties deftly. His strategic-level thinking and foresight contributed to the completion of numerous high-level engagements between the National Guard and Congress. He was vital in the establishment of the first ever National Guard liaison office in the Senate, greatly increasing the communication between the National Guard and Congress.

Colonel Bryan is a 1990 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, with masters from The Ohio State University, and a law degree from the University of Virginia. He has served as a KC-135 Pilot, professor at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, air team leader in the National Guard Bureau, Office of Legislative Liaison, and as a division chief at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

After serving in his latest role for the past 2 years, Colonel Bryan will retire at the end of the month. Ian, his supportive wife Emily, and their two children have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I join my colleagues today in congratulating Colonel Bryan on his well-earned retirement and in expressing our gratitude for his selfless service.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JON "JR" RODGERS

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I honor one of my constituents, CAPT Jon "JR" Rodgers of the U.S. Navy, who is retiring in June after three decades of dedicated service to our great Nation. JR has spent the last 2 years of his career serving the U.S. Congress as the Navy's Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs. In this role, JR maintained oversight of the Navy team that provides Members and committees of Congress with information concerning the programs of the Department of the Navy.

JR's Tennessee roots run deep. The son of an air traffic control chief, he began life in Humbolt, TN, married his beautiful wife Sherry Masters from Celina, TN, and plans to return to our great State once his naval service has ended.

This patriot's naval career began by enlisting as a nuclear trained electronics technician until receiving an NROTC scholarship to Cornell University. He graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in agriculture engineering technologies and received his commission as a surface warfare officer in 1990. JR continued his education by attending the National Defense University, graduating with honors from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with a masters of science degree in national resource strategy. He also attended the Naval War College in New-

port, RI, with a masters of arts in national security strategy.

His sea duty assignments include tours on the USS *England*, CG 22, and the USS *Bonhomme Richard*, LHD 6, as a plank owner, where he received the Surface Navy Association's Arleigh Burke award for Operational Excellence. He also served as executive officer aboard the USS *Cleveland*, LPD 7, during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as part of Amphibious Task Force West.

More recently, JR commanded the mighty USS *Makin Island*, LHD 8, the first Navy ship with hybrid electric propulsion, where he completed a successful deployment to 5th and 7th Fleet. He also commanded USS *Ponce*, AFSB 15, as the Navy's first dedicated afloat forward staging base permanently deployed to Fifth Fleet.

JR's overseas experience is just as impressive. He served as the U.S. European Command J3 chief of staff and branch head for the crisis action group during Operations Odyssey Dawn and Unified Protector. He commanded Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Six, where he led over 600 Active and Reserve sailors on worldwide security missions that included the USNS *Comfort* Theater Security Cooperation missions throughout South America. He served as commander Task Unit Northern Arabian Gulf on the Iraq Al Basrah, ABOT, and Khor al-Amaya, KAAOT, oil terminals point defense mission, Panama and Suez Canal Embarked Security Team transits, and Operation Vigilant Mariner in Rota, Spain.

I want to thank JR for his almost 30 years of loyal service to this Nation. He has made a lasting and significant contribution to the U.S. Navy and our Nation. I wish him, his wife, and their daughter all the best as they begin this new chapter in their life.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM "BILL" MURRAY

• Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today, it is with a heavy heart that I wish to recognize the life and legacy of William "Bill" Murray, a tremendous advocate for kidney disease patients in my home State of Delaware. This week, advocates from across the country will travel to Washington, DC, to meet with their congressional representatives, share their stories, and ask that we remain committed to investing in kidney disease research.

Like Bill, who became involved with the National Kidney Foundation and the kidney disease community in 2014, many patients, family members, and caregivers throughout the country will meet with their legislators and government officials to increase awareness of and improve policies focusing on kidney disease.

I am proud to say that Bill made being involved with the National Kidney Foundation a family event, often bringing his partner Linda, daughter-

in-law Danielle, grandson Emerson, sister Michelle, nieces, friends, and others to as many events as possible.

Bill worked tirelessly to increase awareness about kidney disease in Delaware, spending time volunteering at local events, helping with community health screenings, and organizing support for World Kidney Day. True to character, even in his death, he helped those in need by being a deceased donor for patients waiting for organ transplants. As my family, staff, and I extend our deepest sympathies to all those who had the privilege of knowing Bill, I take comfort in knowing that his impact, passion, and determination will continue to bring hope to the kidney disease community for years to come.●

RECOGNIZING HOG TECHNOLOGIES

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the value of hard work and the storied American entrepreneurial spirit. It is my privilege to honor a Florida small business that exemplifies what it means to overcome adversity and to succeed as both a company and as a community leader. Today, I recognize Hog Technologies, of Stuart, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Previously known as Waterblasting Technologies until a rebranding effort last year, Hog Technologies has grown significantly since its founding in 1988. Founder and chief executive officer, James P. Crocker, bought a single pressure washer from a friend and began knocking on doors to find work. Since then, Hog Technologies has been a one-of-a-kind entrepreneurial success story that has revolutionized an entire industry.●

After discovering the niche industry of paint removal, James took a leap of faith and bought a 10,000-psi waterblasting machine. Soon, Hog Technologies was being awarded major contracts for their services. After years of success in this field, Hog Technologies expanded to create fully functioning models of a makeshift water-blasting vehicle. In 1997, the Original Stripe Hog was developed, effectively changing the landscape of the hydroblasting industry.

Today, Hog Technologies holds more than 20 patents, has products operating in 56 countries worldwide, and is a world leader in marking removal and pavement maintenance. Through strong investments in research and development, Hog has a diverse line of products, ranging from rubber and paint removal, to pavement marking equipment and machines, to industrial vacuums and hydro-excavators. In 2012, the team at Hog Technologies calculated that, over a period of 13 years, they have placed more units worldwide than their five largest competitors combined. With international success, they continue to expand by looking to

hire 130 new employees over the next 3 years. Hog Technologies is an incredible American industrial success story. Having remained local, Hog Technologies constructs their machines in the United States and continues to support Florida's economy.

In addition to supporting the local Stuart community, Hog Technologies has financed a large portion of the construction of a home for underprivileged children in India. In 2017, James was awarded the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year. Mr. Crocker has also recently followed his creative passion and began authoring children's books that aim to teach children leadership skills. Hog Technologies and their employees are very involved in their community and pride themselves on charitable endeavors. Annually, they participate in the Toys for Tots holiday gift drive and in local parades where they drive their machines through the streets of Stuart.

Hog Technologies is an outstanding example of a Florida manufacturing success story. In true American fashion, James and the team at Hog saw a problem and created a solution. They have seen incredible success, while remaining committed to supporting Stuart and its surrounding communities. I would like to congratulate Mr. James Crocker and the entire team at Hog Technologies on being named the Senate Small Business of the Week. I wish them good luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1112. An act to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 617. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide disaster tax relief, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8. An act to require a background check for every firearm sale.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1112. An act to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-462. A communication from the Air Force Federal Register Public Liaison Officer, Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sale to the Public" (RIN0701-AA83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-463. A communication from the Air Force Federal Register Public Liaison Officer, Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delivery of Personnel to United States Civilian Authorities for Trial" (RIN0701-AA85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-464. A communication from the Air Force Federal Register Public Liaison Officer, Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visual Information Documentation Program" (RIN0701-AA86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-465. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on appropriations legislation within seven days of enactment; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-466. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Kentucky River Locks and Dams 1, 2, 3, and 4, Disposition Study and Integrated Environmental Assessment; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-467. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-468. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-469. A communication from the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-470. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and Privacy Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-471. A communication from the Director of the Office of Financial Reporting and Internal Controls, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2018 Agency Financial Report"; to