

inadequate in addressing our testing and contract tracing shortfalls.

And while Democrats want schools to reopen for in-person learning if it can be done safely, the partisan Republican proposal would put students, educators, and communities at risk.

Republicans need to abandon this dangerous one-size-fits all approach to reopening schools in-person and pass our Child Care Education and Relief Act, which would provide \$430 billion to address the national child care and education crises during this pandemic.

My question to Republican leaders is why, when things are already so hard, are you determined to make them harder for people who are already struggling so much?

It is shameful, and we are going to keep calling you to account for it until workers, families, and communities get the support they need.

Thank you.

IDB PRESIDENCY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the campaign currently underway to select the next president of the Inter-American Development Bank in September of this year.

The IDB has served as the pre-eminent development bank in the Americas since 1959. For more than six decades, it has brought together the United States, Canada, and our partners from Latin America and the Caribbean to advance an agenda for development and inclusive economic growth in our hemisphere. The United States has proudly been a leading voice to strengthen the IDB's critical mission in the Americas, and donors from the European Union to Japan and South Korea, have provided enduring support to the institution.

In September, the IDB will hold elections to select its next president. Last month, the United States announced it would nominate Mauricio Claver Carone, the current National Security Council senior director for the Western Hemisphere, as our candidate to be the next president of the IDB. Since Mr. Claver Carone's nomination was announced, more than 15 governments in the region have offered their support for his candidacy. These governments represent a wide range of ideological perspectives, levels of economic development, and different historic relationships with the IDB. In recent weeks, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, our hemisphere's other premier multilateral institution, offered words of support for Mr. Claver Carone's candidacy.

I have known Mr. Claver Carone for over two decades. During this time, Mr. Claver Carone has demonstrated a commitment to inclusive economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and he has been an outspoken advocate for democracy and human rights in our hemisphere. In his more recent roles at the National Security

Council, the International Monetary Fund, and the Treasury Department, he has worked with governments across the region and across the ideological spectrum to advance United States' partnerships in the Americas. He has also worked to address the political, economic, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, and counter the agendas of governments that seek to counter U.S. interests in the region, from Cuba's authoritarian regime to Putin's Russia to China's Government. Of equal importance, he has shown the ability to work in a bipartisan manner with Democrats and Republicans in the United States, including in the U.S. Congress.

While I have been and remain an ardent critic of many aspects of the Trump administration's foreign policy towards Latin America and the Caribbean and I have not always agreed with every policy decision that Mr. Claver Carone has made during his service to our government, I recognize his consistent commitment to advancing U.S. national security, our foreign policy interests, and an agenda of shared priorities with our partners in the hemisphere.

For these reasons, I support Mr. Claver Carone's candidacy and would welcome the opportunity to continue working with him as the next president of the Inter-American Development Bank.

I recognize that selection of the next IDB president is taking place 2 months before the United States holds general elections and that some have concerns about the implications of this timing. Given that the United States is the IDB's largest shareholder, the next IDB president must commit to working in a bipartisan manner with the next U.S. President and their administration, regardless of party. This is an essential task for the success of the IDB. As the senior Democrat in the Foreign Relations Committee, I would look forward to working with Mr. Claver Carone to ensure that this happens.

As COVID-19 continues to spread across the Americas and severe economic impacts follow, the IDB will play an absolutely essential role in the recovery of countries across the region. This makes the selection of the IDB's next president of the utmost importance. The IDB needs leadership that can achieve consensus across the Western hemisphere and set the stage for a decade-long recovery effort. The task is formidable, but I remain confident that the United States can and will play an integral part in supporting the IDB's efforts and our partners in the region.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL SCOTT SCIRETTA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I honor a superb leader, liaison, and warrior. After 3 years of service as director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office, RDML Scott Sciretta recently pro-

moted from captain to rear admiral, lower half. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Rear Admiral Sciretta's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Navy and this Chamber.

Rear Admiral Sciretta is a 1992 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University. A surface warfare officer by designation, Rear Admiral Sciretta has led our Nation's young men and women on shore and at sea, most prominently in command of USS *Jason Dunham*, USS *Cowpens*, and USS *Lake Erie*. The Navy has consistently relied upon Rear Admiral Sciretta for his exceptional leadership and unparalleled work ethic.

Rear Admiral Sciretta has excelled in numerous other leadership positions in the Navy, most recently as the director, Navy Senate Liaison. In the Russell Senate Office Building and around the globe, Rear Admiral Sciretta filled the role that was initially created and held by Senator John McCain after his return from Vietnam as a Navy captain. Decades later, Rear Admiral Sciretta had the job of coordinating a weeklong series of logistical movements around the country that enabled present and former Members of both Chambers to honor a late colleague and dear friend.

Over the course of the last few years, Rear Admiral Sciretta led 45 congressional delegations to 35 different countries. He escorted over half of the Members of this Chamber on travel and became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us. I have had the pleasure of traveling with Rear Admiral Sciretta on a number of trips. He distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every trip, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic complications.

Recently, Rear Admiral Sciretta departed Washington for Key West, FL, to serve as the deputy director of Joint Interagency Task Force South and lead operations to combat illicit trafficking. This Chamber will feel Rear Admiral Sciretta's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Rear Admiral Sciretta for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Navy. I especially recognize his patient and supportive family, Mrs. Sharon Diane Sciretta, Navy Lieutenant James Francis Sciretta and his wife, Ms. Delma Eylin Sciretta, and Navy Midshipman Adam Joseph Sciretta. I wish this Navy family "fair winds and following seas."

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN RUAIRIDH MORRISON

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Ruairidh "Ru" Morrison, chief of Clan Morrison, as he steps down from his position as the founding executive director of the Northeast Regional Association of

Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, NERACOOS. During his 10 years at NERACOOS, Dr. Morrison has been a visionary in the world of ocean observing for the people of New Hampshire, the Northeast, and this country. I know I speak for so many others when I say that we are deeply grateful and thank him for his service.

Originally from Scotland, Ru became a true advocate for New Hampshire when he began his position as an assistant research professor at the University of New Hampshire in 2003. During his tenure at UNH, Ru was an inspirational teacher whose work advanced the science of remote sensing. A primary focus of his efforts centered on building a better understanding of Great Bay, a resource that many in New Hampshire consider to be a cornerstone of our coastal environment.

When Ru transitioned to NERACOOS in 2009, he brought with him his extensive knowledge of marine science and technology, the coastal and ocean environment, and, most importantly, his collaborative nature, which was instrumental in establishing a successful regional ocean observing system. NERACOOS, 1 of 11 regional associations of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System—IOOS—addresses the ocean monitoring and forecasting needs of the people of the Northeast.

As executive director of NERACOOS, Ru's charisma and outgoing nature, coupled with his ocean science expertise, allowed him to bring together scientists, resource managers, fishermen, NGOs, and the public into a system notable for its esprit de corps. My staff and I all have many fond memories of joining him for boat rides on Great Bay to get a firsthand look at NERACOOS's work on the estuary. Anyone who's worked with Ru can attest to his warmth, wit, and self-deprecating sense of humor, which made working with him and NERACOOS a real pleasure.

Over the past decade, Ru has grown the organization's prominence and expanded collaborations among its many users. Even more impactful, though, is a decade's worth of Ru's infectious enthusiasm, which invigorated the organization and its stakeholders alike. Under Ru's stewardship, NERACOOS became a morning ritual for fishermen preparing for their day at sea, and with the formation of the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network—NECAN—NERACOOS has become a national leader in facilitating regional responses to changing ocean chemistry.

Ru's influence extends far beyond his backyard. He is the past chair of the IOOS Association; a member of the IOOS Federal Advisory Committee; councilor of the bi-national Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment; board director of the Marine and Oceanography Technology Network; and science advisory board member for the Lake George Jefferson Project. I was pleased to invite him to Capitol Hill in 2016 to testify before the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach

Committee to share his expertise with Congress. I and my staff are greatly indebted to him for all of his advice and counsel over the years. It is truly difficult to overstate the breadth and significance of his service.

Ru would be the first to say that the foundation of his success is his family: his wife Ann Michelle and their children, Alistair and Marin. I know that everyone at NERACOOS and throughout the ocean observing community joins me in thanking Dr. Morrison and his family for his instrumental leadership and vision. We wish him all the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH D. WALL

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Air Force.

Lt. Col. Joseph "Joe" Wall has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication by serving this Nation in uniform. A leader and expert communicator, he has provided distinguished service to our country while assigned to the Air Force Senate Liaison Office. He is an outstanding leader and has been the perfect airman to represent the Air Force on Capitol Hill. Joe is a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours in the T-37B, T-1A, and KC-10A aircraft with over 100 combat and combat support missions, supporting operations over Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and the Horn of Africa.

Throughout his career, Joe has demonstrated his exceptional abilities; he was a ROTC distinguished graduate at the University of Miami, graduate of the Air Mobility Command Phoenix Mobility program, and he is an Olmsted Scholar fluent in German. Prior to his current assignment, Joe had the privilege of leading airmen as a squadron commander for the 79th Air Refueling Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. As a legislative liaison in the Air Force Senate Liaison Office from June 2018 to July 2020, Lieutenant Colonel Wall performed his duties well and without reservation. His strategic thinking and foresight helped to strengthen and improve our national security. Joe accomplished this utilizing his in-depth Air Force knowledge with numerous engagements between Congress and the Department of the Air Force.

During this assignment, Joe conducted congressional engagements to provide Members of Congress and staff insights into the development of the "Air Force We Need" plan required to support the National Defense Strategy. He also actively engaged Members of Congress regarding the fielding and production of the KC-46A Pegasus Tanker. Last year, Joe led the effort to make sure that the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation was front and center to receive the first KC-46A at Pease Air National Guard Base.

Joe organized dozens of direct engagements between senior leaders at the Department of the Air Force and Members of Congress in order to convey important information on behalf of the Air Force. All of these conversations and engagements helped stakeholders understand the defense equities and the impact on national security. Due to his direct involvement, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions and ensure the Department of the Air Force was properly resourced.

After serving in this important role for the past 2 years, Lieutenant Colonel Wall will move to his next assignment, the Dwight D. Eisenhower School at the National Defense University. Joe, his wife Trysta, and their son Tavin have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Joe's service and his work with my office and the Senate over the past 2 years on issues important to the State of New Hampshire and this great Nation. I salute him, an American patriot whose service has kept our country safe and strong. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING HYDRA ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION, LLC

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a woman-owned small business known for its excellence in industry and environmental stewardship. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Hydra Engineering and Construction, LLC, of Crawfordville, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2008, Leslie Hope established Hydra Engineering after she left her position as a partner in an engineering firm to pursue her dream of being a small business owner. After graduating from the University of South Florida, Leslie started planning how to open her own engineering company. Leslie turned to her local Small Business Development Center where she enrolled Hydra Engineering in the U.S. Small Business Administration's 8(a) business development program. This program provides resources, mentorship, and training to help small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged persons compete for government contracts.

Over the next 12 years, Leslie rebranded her enterprise as Hydra Engineering and Construction to reflect its growth and expansion. She completed the 8(a) program, was certified by the State of Florida as a Minority Business Enterprise and as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Hydra Engineering has worked for several Florida private companies and