

continues today, as I lead my colleagues in working to recognize ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Second, I want to recognize Rachel Carson, a marine biologist and nature writer, who catalyzed the global environmental movement. In her home in Silver Spring, MD, Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring," which outlined the dangers of chemical pesticides to humans and the environment. The pesticide industry pushed back against her, branding her as crazy and communist, but she persevered. Through her continued research and advocacy, "Silent Spring" led to the banning of DDT and other pesticides and ultimately led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. She has been an overwhelming influence on my work to preserve our environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

I also want to honor Irene Morgan Kirkaldy, a Black civil rights activist who took a stand against segregation. Kirkaldy, a Baltimore native, was riding a Greyhound bus back home from Virginia in July of 1944 when she was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a White couple. When her case made it to the Supreme Court, she was represented by Thurgood Marshall, and the Court ruled that segregation violated the Constitution's "protection of interstate commerce." Her bravery paved the way for the Civil Rights Movement going forward, including the monumental *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and Rosa Parks' similar act of resistance in Alabama. Strengthening civil rights and promoting equity has been a major part of my legislative agenda in Congress and before that in the Maryland House of Delegates.

Another incredible female activist I would like to highlight is Pauline Woo Tsui, a Chinese-American anti-discrimination activist who immigrated to the United States during World War II to escape Japanese occupation. A Montgomery County resident, she supported her family by working at the U.S. Army Map Service, while she also served as manager of the Federal Women's Program, advocating for the rights of around 700 female employees. She cofounded the Organization of Chinese American Women and served on the advisory board for the State Department for International Women's Year in 1975. As a civil servant and activist, Pauline set a standard for gender equity and ensuring girls had access to education worldwide.

I would additionally like to honor Carmen Delgado Votaw, an author, community leader, and public servant. She was born in Humacao, PR, and settled in Bethesda, MD, in 1962. Serving as cochair of the National Advisory Committee for Women and president of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, she was instrumental in the civil rights movement for Latinx people. She also became the first

Latina chief of staff to a Member of Congress, and she worked to address challenges faced by Puerto Ricans.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Sharon Brackett, an LGBTQ+ rights activist who became the first transgender woman elected to public office in Maryland. She pushed Howard County to pass a bill that added gender identity and expression to its anti-discrimination laws and served on the Democratic Central Committee starting in 2018. Further, she was named CEO and president of Tiresias Technologies, as engineer-in-residence at the 3D Maryland Innovation + Prototyping Lab, in Columbia.

While these are only a sampling of change-making women in Maryland, they are a symbol of the drive and power that women have brought nationwide. Women outnumber and outvote men, and their continued leadership will be instrumental in promoting the values of the United States: liberty and freedom for all.

TRIBUTE TO CONNIE FLOHR

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, I rise today to recognize the career and service of Connie Flohr, manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project. For more than 22 years, Flohr has been a key member of the Department of Energy—DOE—and the Idaho Cleanup Project, ICP.

Flohr joined DOE's Office of Environmental Management—EM—in 2001 as a program analyst, before moving into positions as chief financial officer, EM budget director, and EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resource Management. In these roles, she managed the budget, planning, strategic analysis, human resources, and information technology activities for EM's 1,450 Federal employees and over 20,000 contractor employees.

Since moving to Idaho in 2017 and taking on roles at the Idaho Cleanup Project, Flohr has served as deputy manager and as the ICP manager since March 2020. She consistently delivered results, saved taxpayers millions of dollars, protected the Snake River Plain Aquifer, and removed substantial risks for the people of Idaho.

Along with these accomplishments as project manager, she is known as an agent of positive change for her influence in improving morale, developing and motivating staff to creatively identify and resolve issues, and effectively incentivizing contractors to make substantial and lasting progress in cleaning up the Department's legacy nuclear waste. Flohr is responsible for all management and disposition of high-level, transuranic, mixed low-level waste, and spent nuclear fuel—SNF—at the Idaho National Laboratory—INL—Site, providing management oversight and leadership for an annual budget of \$470 million, 52 Federal employees, and over 1,900 contractors.

It is our great honor to congratulate Connie Flohr on this accomplishment, and thank her for her years of service. We wish her the best of luck following her retirement from DOE and the Idaho Cleanup Project.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SERGE B. HADJI

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute and honor the life of Serge B. Hadji, Esq. He passed away on March 10, 2024, at his home in Athens, Greece, with his wife of 50 years, Yanna, by his side. He was 81.

Serge was a devoted husband; proud father to his three boys Alexios, Philip, and Andreas; an esteemed lawyer; trustee to his alma mater, Anatolia College; mentor; and advocate for Greece, Cyprus, and the unwavering principle that the rule of law be the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy. He was so much more than that to all that were fortunate enough to know and love him.

Serge's life story is a quintessential American immigration story. Serge was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, on September 25, 1942, and immigrated to the United States in 1960. He graduated college from the University of Buffalo, received a law degree from the Detroit College of Law, and obtained a masters in law from New York University Law School. He started his career with Rogers Hoge & Hills, a Park Avenue law firm, and went on to become senior counsel at TRW Inc., a Fortune 100 multinational company headquartered in Cleveland, OH. Throughout his legal career, he was a proud member and contributor to the legal community through his involvement with the American Bar Association—Section on Antitrust Law; the Association of the Bar of the City of New York—secretary, Trademark and Unfair Competition Committee, 1977–1980—and the International Trademark Association—member of the board, 1988–1991. He also was an adjunct professor at New York University School of Continuing Education in Law and Taxation and a lecturer at Temple University Law School in Athens, Greece. He was a member of the New York bar and was a New York lawyer through and through, maintaining his membership until he passed away.

Serge was a giant in the Greek-American world. In 1974, Serge cofounded the Panhellenic (Emergency) Committee of New York, one of the grassroots committees that sprung up throughout the U.S. to fill the political vacuum in the Greek-American community following Turkey's invasion of Cyprus on July 20, 1974. From his perspective as a key participant and keen observer of the intricacies of this issue, he later edited a book chronicling this movement, "The Rule of Law Lobby: Grassroots Mobilization and the U.S. Arms Embargo on

Turkey-1974-1978." In addition to protesting vociferously and providing humanitarian assistance, the Greek-American community gradually coalesced into a lobby under the newly unfurled banner of the "Rule of Law." "The Rule of Law Lobby" has been hailed as a seminal book which splendidly portrays the rise and evolution of an American lobby that greatly influenced U.S. policy in the region. Serge remained active with Greek-American issues throughout his life, largely through the American Hellenic Institute, including editing the two-volume series, "Doing Business in Greece: A Legal and Practical Reference Service."

Serge honorably served on the board of trustees of Anatolia College in Thessaloniki, Greece, for 50 years, since 1974, becoming the first alumnus trustee from Thessaloniki on the board. It was at Anatolia where the head of the school mentored Serge, even long after he graduated. In recognition of his mentor, in 2008, Serge edited a book documenting his mentor's legacy, "The Morning Cometh: 45 Years with Anatolia College." It was through Anatolia that Serge embodied the leadership and mentorship principles passed down to him and applied his legal skills toward nonprofit governance. Serge also mentored countless new trustees, presidents, and, most important to him, graduates.

A devout Greek Orthodox Christian, Serge could eruditely explain the faith's practice, iconography, and history.

Serge is survived by his wife Yanna; his children Alexios, Philip, and Andreas; and his grandchildren Alexander, George, and Philip. May we all live to remember him.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. SHERYL BRISSETT CHAPMAN

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman and leader of our time, Dr. Sheryl Brissett Chapman. After more than three decades of service as executive director of The National Center for Children and Families—NCCF—she will be stepping down at the end of March.

In the course of her tenure, Dr. Brissett Chapman transformed NCCF from a small Baptist orphanage in Bethesda, MD, into a monumental force for good, serving over 53,155 vulnerable children, youth, and families in the National Capital Region. Her visionary expansion of NCCF saw the creation of 24 innovative programs, the addition of vital service locations and staff, and a \$51 million growth in budget. This transformative growth has not only changed the face of NCCF but has rewritten futures, healed traumas, and built bridges to opportunities for a countless number of children, youth, and families. She and NCCF have called Maryland home during this incredible transformation. We are both extremely honored and incredibly

proud that Dr. Brissett Chapman and NCCF have delivered these services from within our local community.

Yet Dr. Brissett Chapman's influence extends far beyond her executive role. She is a champion in the effort to address systemic reform on a wide range of topics, including the harsh realities of poverty, juvenile justice, homelessness, domestic violence, and illuminating the path to healing from childhood trauma with unwavering dedication and empathy. Her most recent publication, "Black Male Youth Raised in Public Systems: Engagement, Healing, Hope," underscores her dedication to understanding and addressing the unique challenges faced by Black male youth in public systems. This is just one example of her relentless pursuit of knowledge for empowerment and change.

Even as she prepares for retirement, Dr. Brissett Chapman's commitment to education remains unwavering. Her new roles as a trustee for Montgomery College and as a senior fellow for the Institute for Mastery and Integration further attest to her ongoing dedication to improving lives through education and advocacy, guiding the next generation of leaders and advocates. Maryland will continue to have the honor of being called home to both Dr. Brissett Chapman and NCCF as each continues to transform the lives of our youth.

As Dr. Brissett Chapman turns the page to a new chapter, she leaves a blueprint for compassionate, effective leadership in social welfare. Her impact and service will continue to be felt for decades to come, as her legacy continues to inspire and guide our collective efforts to serve the most vulnerable and to demonstrate what it means to be a force for change. Her legacy is one of hope. Thousands of lives in the National Capital Region and the State of Maryland have been transformed because of Dr. Brissett Chapman, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her and wishing her a well-earned, enjoyable, and fulfilling retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in Executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, 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. 1836. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to make technical corrections with respect to ocean shipping authorities, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 86. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy.

At 12:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2882) to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 100. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2882.

At 4:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, 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. 7023. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide regulatory and judicial certainty for regulated entities and communities, increase transparency, and promote water quality, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 51312(b), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Mr. Suozzi of New York.

At 2:27 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2882. An act making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1836. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to make technical corrections with respect to ocean shipping authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.