

bring a child into the world. These are constituents—our collective constituents—who stand to benefit tremendously from legislation like the Right to IVF Act.

This week, I heard from Karli from Santa Rosa, CA, who wrote to me about her experience receiving IVF care. She says, “The biggest dream of my life was to be a Mama. When I married my husband, he had gotten a vasectomy 18 years earlier. He had surgery to reverse it, so we could try to have a baby naturally. We tried for years with no success. We looked into adoptions but had no idea the process could be so long, so expensive, and no guarantee we would be chosen as parents . . .

“After 3 years of fertility issues, we finally saw a reproductive specialist. We chose to use donated embryos, and after our 3rd transfer, we had a successful pregnancy and live birth. Our daughter is the biggest blessing of my life, brings joy, love and laughter to everyone she meets.

“Without the help of reproductive intervention, she would not have been born, and I would not have been able to be a Mama. I am beyond grateful, and the world is absolutely a better place with my angel in it. . . .”

I am proud to know that California is leading the charge to protect IVF access and reproductive freedom across the board. But there are thousands of Karli's in Missouri, in Alabama, in Georgia, and across the Nation who are not guaranteed those same rights.

The Right to IVF Act is needed and necessary legislation. The American people are counting on us to safeguard the right to these vital services, and I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing this bill.

#### SUPREME COURT ETHICS, RECUSAL, AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in urging that the Supreme Court be held to a higher standard of transparency and accountability and that we immediately pass the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act.

Let me begin by thanking my colleagues Senators WHITEHOUSE and DURBIN for their tireless work on this issue. They understand that Congress has a responsibility to hold those in places of power to account, and I am proud to join their effort.

The American public's confidence in our democratic institutions has reached new lows. In February of this year, a poll by the Marquette School of Law found that 60 percent of respondents disapproved of the Supreme Court. And who could blame them? The egregious behavior we have seen from some Supreme Court Justices in the last few months is deeply concerning and has eroded trust in our institutions. The highest Court in the land is no place for anyone with personal bias and questionable ethics.

Take for example, Justice Clarence Thomas, who failed to disclose significant gifts and financial transactions from wealthy conservative billionaires. Meanwhile, Justice Thomas's wife involved herself in efforts to overturn the 2020 Presidential election results. How should the American public expect Justice Thomas to “faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon him?” They can't.

Or consider Justice Samuel Alito who similarly accepted undisclosed trips and gifts funded by conservative benefactors. And an inverted American flag—a symbol carried by January 6 insurrectionists—was seen at his home less than 2 weeks after the violent attack on the Capitol. How should the American public expect Justice Alito to “faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon him?” They can't.

So it should come as no surprise to us that more than half of Americans disapprove of the Supreme Court. But maintaining the public's trust and confidence in the Court is essential to the credibility of the judicial branch. The Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act is our first step toward slowly, but surely, rebuilding that.

In 2022, while speaking at the annual convention of the American Constitution Society, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, “We have to have continuing faith in the court system and our system of government,” adding that she hoped “to regain the public's confidence that we—as a court, as an institution—have not lost our way.”

It is our job as the U.S. Congress to ensure that our way truly is not lost. Establishing basic transparency of those who interpret the highest law of the land are not just matters of common sense, it is a moral imperative. It is a necessary function of Congress to keep those in power in check. If we fail to fulfill this responsibility, then we ultimately fail the millions of Americans we are sworn to serve.

As we consider this legislation, let us remember that the judiciary is the bedrock of our democracy. Getting this bill across the finish line takes a needed step toward preserving the integrity of our highest Court and the democratic principles it upholds. I strongly urge my colleagues to help restore confidence in our Nation's institutions by supporting this critical legislation.

#### REMEMBERING DR. JAMES “JIM” E. AUER

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, Dr. James “Jim” E. Auer, who passed away in Nashville, TN, on May 16, 2024, was a pillar of the U.S.-Japan Alliance. I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Auer for a number of years, as he would attend events hosted by the Japan-America Society of Tennessee.

While I would speak with Jim from time to time, he never talked about—nor even hinted at—his own truly in-

credible accomplishments with respect to the U.S.-Japan Alliance. That is until, one day, it leaked out that President Trump was nominating me to be U.S. Ambassador to Japan, and Jim told my longtime assistant Betsy Van Dam that he needed to meet with me in person soon. And so Jim and I met, and he began to unpack for me his accumulated knowledge amassed over the decades of his experience with Japan.

Let me summarize some of that experience: Jim began his career working with the U.S. Navy in 1963 assigned to a minesweeper based in Sasebo, Japan. He would go on to be the first U.S. Navy officer to study at the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Staff College in Tokyo. In 1973, he would be a key figure in homeporting the U.S.S. *Midway*, the first U.S. aircraft carrier to be permanently based in a foreign country, in Yokosuka, Japan—a distinction that Japan continues to hold to this day.

From 1979 to 1988, he served as the Special Assistant for Japan in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, acting as a bridge between the Japanese Defense Agency—now Japan's Ministry of Defense—and the U.S. Department of Defense. After his retirement from the U.S. Navy, Jim would spend the next 25 years serving as a professor at Vanderbilt University. At Vanderbilt, he founded the Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation in 1988. For his devotion to the U.S.-Japan relationship, Jim was awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun in December 2008. Jim Auer was a true treasure to the U.S.-Japan Alliance, and his efforts to strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship are profound and enduring.

On a personal note, I found him to be an invaluable resource when I had the honor of serving as the 30th U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Indeed, I deeply appreciate that the strength of the U.S.-Japan Alliance today was made possible by the earlier accomplishments of trailblazers like Dr. Jim Auer. On May 24, 2024, I was honored to attend the Japan-America Society of Tennessee's annual meeting in Nashville and to remember Jim's legacy during a panel discussion with Japanese Ambassador to the United States Shigeo Yamada that was moderated by Chairwoman Masami Tyson. Jim's children Tei, Helen, and John Ed and the rest of the Auer family should know that our Nation is eternally grateful for his contributions.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this obituary in memory of Dr. Jim Auer that was published in the Tennessean on May 28, 2024.

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

GENTLEMAN, DEVOTED HUSBAND, LOVING FATHER, NAVAL OFFICER, SHIP CAPTAIN, POLICY MAKER, SCHOLAR, PROFESSOR  
THE BEDROCK OF UNITED STATES SECURITY  
RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

James Edward Auer loved God, his wife, and his children. A true American patriot,

Jim also loved the United States, the U.S. Navy, and Japan, in that order.

Jim hailed from Minnesota and grew up in Milwaukee. After graduating from Marquette University, he was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in 1963, a path that would lead him to become the founding policy visionary of U.S.-Japan security relations. Jim spent years in Japan with the Navy, commanding a ship home-ported there, and was the first U.S. Navy officer to study at the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Staff College.

Dr. Auer in 1973 wrote a Praeger Special Study in International Politics, *The Postwar Rearmament of Japanese Maritime Forces, 1945-1971*, based on his PhD dissertation at the Fletcher School. It was also published in Japanese. This book had an important and relevant-for-today forward by Admiral Arleigh Burke, retired U.S. Chief of Naval Operations. Jim's research in Japan led him to close friendships and mutual respect with the Japanese Navy that continued throughout his life, to include the naming his first of three adopted children after two distinguished Japanese admirals.

Jim's significant duty station was in the Pentagon, Office of the Secretary of Defense, as Special Assistant for Japan. When President Reagan's team entered the Pentagon in 1981, Jim was immediately recognized as invaluable by his new bosses, a young 35-year-old former Senate staffer named Rich Armitage, and James Kelly, both of whom had served in the Navy and later became senior diplomats.

During the Cold War, Japan was an afterthought to senior officials, who relied on Dr. Auer implicitly for advice and words to write and speak. All senior Pentagon leaders' speeches and remarks on Japan were drafted by Jim Auer, and almost all were spoken as Jim had written. When Japan was considering breaking the 1% of GDP policy, Japan officials called Jim to ask him what the Secretary of Defense would say if it was decided and announced. Jim thought for a minute and then wrote and read to them what the Secretary would say. With confidence in Jim Auer's on-the-spot drafted statement, Japan decided to break the barrier. When it was announced the next day, Secretary Weinberger's statement was exactly as Jim said it would be.

U.S. security policy toward Japan before Dr. Auer was based on senior U.S. officials asking or demanding Japan to "do more" and to increase its budget. Under Dr. Auer, security policy more successfully emphasized and encouraged Japan's own set of security goals, which would grow to be very supportive of the Japan-U.S. relationship.

Jim decided to leave Washington in 1988 to move to his wife's family farm near Nashville. Jim did this for his family, and former governor of Tennessee Lamar Alexander urged Dr. Auer to set up a Japan-related center at Vanderbilt University. Jim founded the Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation and served as the Center's leader while a professor and lecturer at Vanderbilt for more than twenty years. The Center's signature event was the annual U.S.-Japan Technology Forum, which led to increased technology exchange and cooperation between the U.S. and Japan that we are seeing the fruits of today.

In 2006, Dr. Auer edited an English language edition *Who Was Responsible?*, a groundbreaking two-volume study by the Yomiuri Shimbun, a major Japan newspaper, of Japan's disastrous 1931-1945 war. No such critical analysis had been done in Japan at that time.

In 2008 Jim was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by the Japanese Government in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the

mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States.

In 2016 Dr. Auer was awarded the prestigious Sankei Newspaper Seiron Taisho award, as the 31st recipient and only non-Japanese to receive it. Prime Minister Abe gave congratulatory remarks.

If Jim were with us right now, he would say that all of the above is ok, but the most important event of his life was marrying Judith Manning. Judy was a school teacher in Yokosuka whom Jim met in Tokyo in 1978 and married one year later. She was intelligent, kindhearted, and warm, and Jim was grateful for her every day of his life. He frequently said she was the reason he could do what he did, and he loved her dearly. Judy was his best friend, a thoughtful hostess, a wonderful mother and grandparent. All who knew Judy believed she was special.

Jim accomplished a lot in his life, but he always gave credit to others. He was kind and generous to juniors and students. He tutored many, in and out of government. Jim was a gentleman in the classic sense of the word, with gracious dignity, a ready smile, and modest demeanor. Americans and Japanese that Jim worked with may have sometimes disagreed with him, but all of them, from leaders to peers to subordinates, liked him. Jim was beloved and respected by his students at Vanderbilt University. In particular, he had a special bond with all the fellows who studied under him at the Center, and he loved them very much. They, along with all those whom Jim touched, carry on his legacy.

Jim is survived by his three children, musician Teichiro, educator and care assistant Helen, U.S. Marine Major John Ed, and five grandchildren, Noah, Sophia, Charlotte, Lydia, and Violet.

#### REMEMBERING MICHAEL LOVELL

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the life and exceptional career of Michael Lovell, president of Marquette University, who died on June 9, 2024 at the age of 57. Mr. Lovell's passing has deeply impacted not only the Marquette University community, but also the entire State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Lovell was born in 1967, and from a young age, he excelled in academics. Lovell earned a bachelor of science, master of science, and PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. However, his commitment to science did not end there. Lovell authored over 100 articles in engineering journals, contributed to 12 book chapters, and collaborated on a book titled "Tribology for Scientists and Engineers." As a researcher, he spearheaded investigations securing nearly \$30 million in research grants from various sources, including foundations, corporations, and government entities like the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education. His work yielded multiple technological advancements, resulting in the acquisition of 7 patents and 14 provisional patents. In recognition of his contributions, Lovell was formally inducted into the National Academy of Inventors.

In 2008, Mr. Lovell arrived in Milwaukee to serve as the dean of the Col-

lege of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Lovell went on to serve as the interim chancellor of UWM and then secured the permanent position in 2011. Just a few years later, in 2014, Lovell was presented with the opportunity to take on the role of Marquette's president. He stated, "It became clear to me I was called to Milwaukee six years ago to become Marquette's president. It was never really my plan, but I'm just glad I decided to follow it."

Michael Lovell's decade-long stewardship of Marquette University exemplified a profound commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and community development, all rooted in the Jesuit values that guided his leadership. His tenure as Marquette's first lay president marked a transformative era for the institution, characterized by tireless dedication to its mission and the well-being of its students, faculty, and staff.

Beyond the confines of academia, Michael Lovell's influence extended into the fabric of Milwaukee itself. His collaborative spirit and vision for partnership brought together diverse stakeholders to address pressing societal challenges and drive economic growth in our communities. From his instrumental role in establishing the Northwestern Mutual Data Science Institute, to his advocacy for initiatives tackling issues like poverty and psychological trauma, Lovell's legacy as a catalyst for positive change will endure for generations to come.

Yet, amidst his professional achievements, Michael Lovell's personal journey stands as a testament to resilience, faith, and unwavering courage. His brave battle against cancer, fought with remarkable strength and dignity, serves as an inspiration to all who knew him. Even in the face of adversity, he remained steadfast in his commitment to serving others, leaving an indelible mark on those whose lives he touched.

As we mourn the loss of Michael Lovell, let us also celebrate his enduring legacy and the profound impact he made on Marquette University, the city of Milwaukee, and beyond. May his memory serve as a guiding light for all who strive to follow in his footsteps, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, compassion, and the common good.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAWRENCE ANDERSON PIE SOCIAL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Lawrence Anderson Memorial Pie Social.

Named in honor of the event's founder, the Lawrence Anderson Memorial Pie Social serves as the unofficial kick-off for Laramie County and statewide candidates. The pie social is held biennially on the last Sunday in June in Pine Bluffs, WY.