

State Department or even in some of the halls of leadership of governments around the Nation, they think twice before they hurt them or kill them.

It is hard to imagine that our simple speech on the floor could have that impact, but it has. I thank you for joining me in this effort. I hope our colleagues will join us as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 835.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2028.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 835, Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2028.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Tammy Baldwin, Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### GUATEMALA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to celebrate the 175th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Guatemala and the United States.

As we mark this milestone, I want to highlight the strength of the U.S.-Guatemala bilateral relationship today. Earlier this year, I led a congressional delegation to Guatemala, and we met with President Bernardo Arevalo. He is a leader who was elected last year by voters who were sick of widespread corruption. He ran by focusing on corruption and insecurity, as well as generating employment and promoting climate change policies. And I was impressed. Prior to serving in elected office, Arevalo worked in Guatemala's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as First Secretary and Minister Counselor in Israel in the 1980s and as Ambassador to Spain and Deputy Foreign Minister in the 1990s. For several years, Arevalo was active as a leader in civil society, promoting anticorruption initiatives.

The Guatemalan President clearly cares—as do I—about upholding the rule of law, promoting democratic values, and combatting corruption. I believe that Guatemala stands at one of the most pivotal and potentially transformative moments since the end of the 1996 civil war.

But the path it takes going forward will largely depend on the extent that President Arevalo is able to govern. I was deeply concerned by attempts to undermine his democratic election last year and by the concerted efforts by the previous government to obstruct the peaceful transfer of power.

Attorney General Maria Consuelo Porras led the charge in weaponizing the justice system against him. She criminalized the President's political party. She jailed journalists. She has forced former prosecutors and judges investigating corruption into exile. She continues to use the Public Ministry to protect her personal financial and political interests—working without any practical check on her power.

This makes it difficult to combat corruption, to go after transnational crime, and to seek justice for human rights defenders persecuted under the previous government.

And yet despite these challenges, President Arevalo has not given up. He hasn't given up on his commitment to

rooting out corruption at home, as we have seen with the launch of the National Commission Against Corruption.

He has continued to build on our strong economic relationship; the U.S. is Guatemala's largest investor and trading partner. Just this year, our countries held a High-Level Economic Dialogue with discussions across all sectors of society, including private businesses and indigenous groups.

President Arevalo has also continued to have the courage to support liberty across the globe. Despite economic coercion by the People's Republic of China, he has maintained Guatemala's diplomatic relations with Taiwan. And on the question of migration, his government has been supportive of the Biden administration's safe mobility office in Guatemala. This effort has been critical to reducing irregular immigration on our southern border and providing legal pathways to vulnerable populations.

I know we will continue working together to address the root causes of migration, whether it is corruption, poverty, violence, crime, or climate change.

Now, I recognize these are immense challenges. And we are going to have a new administration coming into office here in the United States in January with very different views of America's role in the world—especially with regards to our relationship to the Western Hemisphere.

But for those of us who believe deeply in values-based policy making, for those of us who understand the importance of democracy and the rule of law, for those of for whom respect for human rights is paramount, we must not give up.

Making the world a better place is hard, but it is not impossible. So whether you live in Guatemala—or in the United States—let us come together in mutual respect to address the challenges we face.

And let us commit to making the next 175 years of our relationship one of prosperity, security, and peace.

#### ENDING IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO DECEASED ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to S. 2492, the Ending Improper Payments to Deceased Act.

I support my colleagues' efforts to identify opportunities to reduce Federal improper payments by indefinitely extending the cooperative data exchange agreement between the Social Security Administration and the Department of the Treasury's Do Not Pay (DNP) working system, as established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. No. 116-260). However, this bill rushes to make this data exchange permanent without evaluating the efficacy of the data exchange.

As my colleagues may know, the purpose of the 2021 law was to expand access to the State-owned death information to Federal Agencies for the purposes of reducing improper payments while ensuring Social Security Administration and States are fully reimbursed for the cost of creating, compiling, and maintain the data. To ensure those goals were achieved, we established a 3-year trial period so we could evaluate the performance, usefulness, and downstream effects of the exchange with DNP and to provide us the opportunity to determine the best path forward for Federal Agencies' access to State death data.

As required by law, the SSA-DNP exchange began operating on December 27, 2023, less than a year ago. In my conversations with the Treasury Department and the Social Security Administration, both Agencies acknowledged they do not have sufficient data to evaluate the efficacy of the data exchange, including whether SSA is fully reimbursed for the costs of collecting and maintaining the state death data. Without that information, it is difficult to determine whether this exchange is the best path forward for Federal Agencies' accessing State death data. For these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent request in relation to this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our colleague, and more importantly, my dear friend Congressman DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER. By any standard, DUTCH has had an exceptional career with 38 years in public office, beginning when he was first elected to the Baltimore County Council in 1985. Even before our time together in Congress, DUTCH and I shared a common bond as we are both proud graduates of Baltimore City College High School. Maryland is grateful to be the home of City College as it is our Nation's third oldest public high school and its alumni include three Maryland Governors and the late U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings.

DUTCH's decision to seek public office began after a serious car crash while he was working as a prosecutor a decade earlier which nearly claimed his life. DUTCH credits the facility now known as the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland for two things: saving his life and setting him on his political path. I am dually grateful to the doctors at the University of Maryland for their quick thinking and expertise which has, in turn, presented DUTCH with the grit, determination, and circumstances to run for office and serve 11 successful terms in the House of Representatives.

DUTCH is a Marylander through and through, born and educated in Baltimore, and his quick rise in the Baltimore County State's Attorney office was therefore not surprising. After al-

most a decade of taking on organized crime, drug trafficking, and political corruption in Baltimore as a county executive, he was elected to serve as the Representative for Maryland's second district in 2002. DUTCH immediately broke new ground by becoming the first ever Democratic freshman to be appointed to the coveted House Intelligence Committee. A decade later, DUTCH served as the ranking member for the very same committee during a tumultuous time for our Nation's national security. DUTCH, and then House Intelligence Committee chairman MIKE ROGERS, became the first dual recipients of the William Oliver Baker Award, which recognizes excellence in nonpartisan security. The presentation of this prestigious award was due to their superb work on the high-profile Osama bin Laden capture, Benghazi attacks, and Edward Snowden leaks.

DUTCH also served on the powerful House Appropriations Committee for 12 years, now serving on both the Defense and Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittees. He had previously served on the Armed Services Committee, as well as the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He has been a staunch advocate for community project funding and leveraged his role as an appropriator to ensure the Port of Baltimore, the Chesapeake Bay, and the local communities received their fair share of funding from the hundreds of billions of Federal dollars in which the House Appropriations Committee is responsible for each fiscal year. I am proud of his dedication to improving the lives of Marylanders at every opportunity.

His support of the local community extends to local governments as well. In 2016 DUTCH founded the House Municipal Bond Caucus for both sides of the aisle to better advocate for the tools local and State governments require to fund schools, roads, libraries, local law enforcement, and emergency services. DUTCH's focus on enhancing the quality of life for public servants through legislation promoted by this caucus has had a net effect of lower taxes and new jobs for the everyday Marylander.

Maryland's second district was formally home to two Army bases: Fort Meade, which houses the codemakers and codebreakers of the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command, and Aberdeen Proving Ground. In addition to these bases, DUTCH was also responsible for the oversight of the U.S. Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, as well as dozens of other defense support equities. DUTCH also chairs the U.S. Naval Academy's Board of Visitors, of which I am also a member, and is the cochair of the bipartisan House Army Caucus.

DUTCH has always been a man of action, from his days as a police officer during law school, to his time as a lifeguard on the beaches of Ocean City, MD—where I am sure he will be spending much of his retirement.

This same drive for action has benefited our Nation's men and women in

uniform in many ways, like establishing the Peer Reviewed Orthopedic Program, which revolutionized the way traumatic combat injuries to extremities were treated from troops returning home from the Middle East, often saving them from amputation. DUTCH also created the "Operation Hero Miles" program in concert with Fisher House after he learned that our servicemembers and their families were paying out of pocket to visit their wounded or ill loved ones who were undergoing treatment at a military or Veteran's Affairs medical center. This program allowed any American to donate their frequent flyer miles to our Nation's heroes.

These are just a few of DUTCH's many accomplishments, and on behalf of our beloved Marylanders and all Americans, I thank him for his decades of service. I am equally thankful for the continued friendship of DUTCH and his wife Kay, and I am thrilled for him to be able to spend more time with Kay, his two children, and his five grandchildren. DUTCH's cheery wit and unwavering patriotism will be missed by me, the entire delegation, and in the Halls of Congress. I offer congratulations to DUTCH on his well-deserved career of public service.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN P. SARBANES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Congressman JOHN SARBANES. Next Congress will be the first without a Sarbanes representing Maryland in 54 years. The Sarbanes family will be sorely missed in this body.

I had the great fortune to working with JOHN's father, the late Senator PAUL Sarbanes, who is referred to as "The Senator's Senator." I met Paul when he first ran for public office in 1966. We both were elected to the Maryland General Assembly that year, and we became good friends. Delegate Sarbanes at that point made a name for himself on the house judiciary committee in the Maryland General Assembly and was a rising star from his first day in the Maryland General Assembly.

He shortly thereafter ran for the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served three terms, then moved over to the Senate where he served for five terms with a very distinguished record. His service in the House occurred during the Watergate scandal, and his time in the Senate marked by the Enron scandal. During both periods of crisis, Senator Sarbanes stepped into the breach as a steady hand to help regain the American peoples' confidence in their institutions. Like his father, Congressman SARBANES' legacy in Congress has been focused on protecting the integrity of our Nation's most cherished institutions.

JOHN is the product of a household ethic of public service. That is evident in his actions in Congress and how he conducts himself as a public official. JOHN shares his father's intellect and