

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 life-guard 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

thoughtful approach to politics. He speaks substantively and honestly, and his approachability has made working on behalf of his constituents appear second nature. Since he was elected in Congress in 2007, he has put his head down and worked hard for the people of Maryland and the Nation. He serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Subcommittees on Health; Energy, Climate, and Grid Security; and Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Minerals.

In addition to his environmental record, one of his most notable accomplishments has been his long-term work on campaign finance reform and voting rights reform. His work on this issue began long before his bill, H.R. 1, For the People Act, became a top priority in Congress. Indeed, then-Democratic Leader PELOSI appointed JOHN to chair a new Democracy Reform Task Force in 2017. The comprehensive legislative package JOHN developed would ultimately propose to strengthen democratic institutions, enhance Federal ethics standards, and reign in unlimited and secret dark-money campaign spending by wealthy and powerful special interests. In particular, JOHN was known for promoting a matching system for small donations and more effective oversight of campaign finance and spending by the Federal Election Commission.

This legislation ultimately became the Freedom to Vote Act, a signature piece of democracy reform legislation in the last few Congresses. This transformational anticorruption and clean elections reform package builds on his previous efforts to pass H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

On five separate occasions, the House of Representatives passed various versions of H.R. 1 and ultimately succeeded in putting these issues squarely before the Senate. Unfortunately, in 2022, the Senate failed to muster the votes necessary to overcome the filibuster and vote on this critical package of reforms.

In addition to his work on election reform, Congressman SARBANES has demonstrated a lifelong devotion to environmentalism. I have been particularly grateful to work with him on the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, which his father famously declared “the soul of Maryland.” JOHN has led the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force to several victories, including securing Federal funding and policy changes that support a healthier bay. His Chesapeake Bay legacy, however, will be his work to connect more Marylanders to the bay by improving access and environmental literacy.

Congressman SARBANES saw that many Marylanders lacked meaningful experiences with the Chesapeake Bay and worked to expand public access to the bay and its tributaries, most dramatically through legislation to create a Chesapeake National Recreation Area. He also worked hard to expand educational opportunities so that the

general public is empowered to steward our shared natural resources. His No Child Left Inside legislation helps expand outdoor education opportunities for students, which provide incredible benefits to students and supports a new generation of environmental champions. It has been an honor to work with him on Chesapeake Bay issues, which has been close to my heart during my time in public office.

I thank Congressman SARBANES for his work in Congress and for so honorably carrying on his father's legacy as a public servant. He has set an outstanding example for Congresswoman-elect Elfreth. I will miss working with JOHN, but am grateful for our time in office together and wish him success and joy as he enters this new chapter.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID TRONE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge a colleague of mine and a valued member of Team Maryland, Representative DAVID TRONE. Since coming to Congress in 2018, Representative TRONE has demonstrated a passion for tackling some of the most pressing issues that face our country and a persistent drive to advocate for the people of western Maryland.

I am proud to have worked closely with Representative TRONE over the years to fight for Marylanders on a variety of issues. The progress that Representative TRONE has made in combatting the opioid crisis stands out in my mind as an example of his tenacity and effectiveness.

Many regions in our country have seen the harm opioid and substance use disorders can bring to their communities, and western Maryland is no exception. When Representative TRONE took office, he made it clear to his constituents that this would be a top priority of his.

He quickly backed it up with action, by hitting the ground running in the House of Representatives. Representative TRONE launched the Bipartisan Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Task Force, bringing together more than 140 Members of Congress from across the country and aisle. Twenty-six of their bills became law in the 117th Congress. Representative TRONE serves on the House Appropriations Committee, Budget Committee, and the Joint Economic Committee.

Outside of specific legislative work, Representative TRONE has played an important role in shifting the narrative to see addiction as a disease and a public health crisis, rather than a personal shortcoming. That is why he has supported mental health offerings like passing a bill to provide confidential mental health support to first responders. He worked to expand the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program to include coverage for first responders whose deaths are a result of suicide or are permanently disabled as a result of traumatic service-related experiences.

I will miss working with Representative TRONE, but I am grateful for his service to the Maryland delegation. I wish Representative TRONE, his wife June, and his entire family only the best going forward. I wish him only happiness and success in what follows his career in the House. And I thank him for sharing his dedication to Maryland's sixth district with the American people and his fellow colleagues.

REMEMBERING DR. CHARLIE MCMILLAN

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I am here today to commemorate a life of public service dedicated to the expansion of human knowledge and the greater good.

On September 6 of this year, New Mexico and the Nation suffered a tremendous loss as Dr. Charles McMillan tragically passed away.

Dr. McMillan, or Charlie as he insisted he be called by all who knew him, is perhaps best known for his work as a groundbreaking physicist and visionary leader of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Fittingly, Charlie's early career focused on developing tools and diagnostics for eye surgery. His innovations resulted in several patents and benefited countless patients.

Over nearly 20 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Charlie was instrumental to maintaining and enhancing our Nation's security posture, leading experimental physics, and computing programs that were critical to modernizing the nuclear stockpile.

In 2006, Charlie moved to New Mexico and became the tenth director of Los Alamos National Laboratory in 2011. Capturing the Lab's achievements under Charlie's leadership would be nearly impossible, but one area that shines particularly bright is Charlie's work on supercomputing.

Charlie not only recognized the critical role of these revolutionary machines for the advancement of scientific discovery and national security, he was able to bring together diverse teams and inspire them to execute his ambitious vision: He was instrumental in bringing Roadrunner online and acquiring Trinity, two of the fastest supercomputers in the world at the time.

These computers did critical work on nuclear stewardship and contributed to scientific advancements in areas ranging from advanced battery design to medical drug simulations. The foundations Charlie established resonate to this day through the Department of Energy's Exascale Program, which continues to host the world's fastest supercomputers.

Charlie retired as director in 2017, but was recently called back to the Department to help steward its transition into the next age of advanced computing: artificial intelligence. In this capacity, Charlie continued to be both