

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

a visionary leader and a scientist's scientist, serving as the connective tissue to unite and inspire the Department during this paradigm shift in technology, exactly as he had done so many times in the past.

Charlie's sudden passing came as a devastating shock to the multitude of people he touched throughout his life; the Department of Energy and the national labs are still reeling from this loss. Charlie dedicated his life to his Nation, and always did so with tremendous humility and an infectious curiosity.

But he was so much more than a public servant and scientist; he was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He had a passion for the outdoors, the night sky, and regularly went backpacking with his family to share both. He was also an accomplished musician and shared his talents by performing in several local Los Alamos theater productions.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years Janet Robb McMillan, son Paul McMillan and spouse Suzanne Long, daughters Caroline McMillan and Katherine McCurry, her spouse Paul McCurry, and their son Oliver McCurry.

Charlie leaves behind an incredible legacy of national service, scientific achievement, and deep personal connections. We are proud that he chose to make New Mexico his home and grateful for the time he spent with us in our community. His significant contributions to the world and his generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

TRIBUTE TO KATE M. KÄUFER

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Kate M. Käufer, the fearless leader of my defense staff, on more than 20 years of distinguished Federal service and on her well-earned retirement.

For the last 4 years, it has been a privilege of a lifetime to serve as chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee supporting our military and our intelligence community. The subcommittee's unique jurisdiction appropriates more than half of the Nation's discretionary funding: \$852 billion in this year's Senate bill. It is almost impossible for any one human being to wrap their arms around such an enormous national security enterprise. But I can think of at least one exception: Kate M. Käufer.

Born in Germany, Kate began her Federal service as a Presidential Management Intern for the U.S. Marine Corps in June 2003; she joined the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in December 2004. In her 20 years on the subcommittee, she has managed just about every appropriations account and issue in our jurisdiction with an incisive hungry analytical mind. Shipbuilding, satellites, intelligence activities, research, and innovation—you name it, Kate has left her mark. I want to extend my particular thanks to her

and her loved ones these last 2 years as my clerk, for the late nights and weekends, the interrupted family vacations, and the weight of leading an indispensable subcommittee.

Kate exemplifies the unique spirit and culture of our subcommittee. Her mantra was always, "We solve problems." In every interaction—whether with me, my colleagues, or fellow staff—she focused on getting real things done, in the most bipartisan way possible. That is quite an achievement in Washington these days. In short, she was always an upbeat professional of the first order. The Senate will miss her, as will this subcommittee.

In addition, Kate is a tremendous mentor to those around her, teaching defense appropriations courses at Georgetown University, University of North Carolina, and Defense Acquisition University. She somehow also finds the time to be an accomplished triathlete, an avid traveler and hiker, and a passionate soccer fan.

In closing, I wish continued success and happiness to Kate, her partner, and her family as she embarks on her next great adventure.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MARTIN COPELAND GRISWOLD

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life of Martin Copeland Griswold, who died on November 30, 2024, at the age of 92. Martin Copeland was a sixth generation Florida farmer, starting his career as a member of the Future Farmers of America with 80 acres of land and working his way to serve as FFA State president in 1951–52. He was the chief executive officer of Griswold Farms, producing food, fiber, and timber on a 4,800-acre family farm, and at the time of his death, Copeland was still farming. Copeland also served on the Northwest Florida Water Management District governing board for 8 years. As an influential and dedicated Florida farmer making a significant impact in northwest Florida, and across the State, Copeland was inducted into the Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame. Martin Copeland Griswold of Chumuckla, FL, is survived by his wife of 72 years Winona; his children Marty (Diane), Von (Lisa), Vicki (Jeff) Miller, Paul (Alesia); 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:50 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 bills, without amendment:

S. 50. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to give priority consideration to selecting Pensacola and Perdido Bays as an estuary of national significance, and for other purposes.

S. 310. An act to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes.

S. 1478. An act to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway", and for other purposes.

S. 3475. An act to amend 49, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Transportation to designate an authorized operator of the commercial driver's license information system, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

2672. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for the authority to reimburse local governments or electric cooperatives for interest expenses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2892. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of emergency alerting systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7671. An act to amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects.

H.R. 8689. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to include information on base pay and bonus compensation of certain Amtrak executives, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9541. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2672. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for the authority to reimburse local governments or electric cooperatives for interest expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.