

and as a cosponsor of my bill to establish a National Endowment for the Oceans to protect the environment and economies that are so vital to both his home State and my own.

As his colleague and compatriot Senator DANIEL AKAKA said on the Senate floor in those first hours after we received the terrible news of Chairman Inouye's passing, "He fulfilled his dream of creating a better Hawai'i." His wife Irene, his son Ken, his daughter-in-law Jessica, his stepdaughter Jennifer, and his granddaughter Maggie can all be proud of that legacy. My thoughts are with them in this, their time of loss.

As the old hymn tells us:

Now the laborer's task is o'er;
Now the battle day is past;
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.

Aloha, Dan Inouye.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BURKE

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to thank and to honor an invaluable member of my Senate team, Michael Burke. As my Maryland projects director, Mike has been the key liaison between the Federal legislative process and the critical institutions of my home State of Maryland. As my top environmental adviser, Mike has been vital to each of my environmental priorities, from climate change to the Chesapeake Bay. Mike is a substantive expert, a keen strategist, a wise counselor, and an attentive mentor and friend to my entire team. He is a diligent public servant who leads quietly, by example, with the strength of his knowledge and skill. As he retires after an exemplary career of service, I am pleased to pay public tribute to this remarkable man.

Mike has devoted much of his career to protecting the natural splendor of Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic, particularly our iconic Chesapeake Bay. Before joining my team, Mike was associate director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay program. There, he dedicated himself to implementing solutions for the bay, which is the world's largest estuary, one of the most important water bodies in the Nation, and a natural resource that all Marylanders treasure. Shortly after I was sworn into the Senate, Mike joined my office as an EPA fellow. He demonstrated an incredible knowledge and understanding of the wide range of issues affecting Maryland, and I knew I needed to hire him as a permanent member of my staff. He brought his passion for the environment to his work in the Senate, skillfully leading efforts on environmental issues from Chesapeake Bay health to clean air, and from climate change to wildlife conservation. I will continue to fight hard for the issues and programs that Mike helped initiate.

Mike knows the ecological importance of the Chesapeake Bay and the impediments harming the bay's ecology because he has seen it all and experienced it firsthand. From Poplar Neck to Elk Neck, from Catoctin Mountain to Calvert Cliffs, from the Nanticoke to the Pocomoke, from Rocky Gorge to Sandy Point, Mike has experienced the natural wonder of our great State. It is his deep appreciation for the importance of protecting our State's natural resources that has made him such a valuable member of my staff.

In addition to his critical environmental work, Mike led my team in charge of instate projects. The key institutions of Maryland's public life our universities, our hospitals, our local governments, and community organizations have benefitted from Mike's expertise in navigating the legislative process and his commitment to fighting on behalf of the people of Maryland.

Mike's substantive knowledge and political acumen extend well beyond the bay and Maryland. His policy expertise led Senator BARBARA BOXER, the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, to ask me if I would "lend" Mike to her committee during the committee's arduous work on both the 2010 climate bill and the 2012 Transportation bill. While his full-time service to my office was missed during those periods, I was pleased to see how much my colleague from California valued Mike's input and skill, and I was happy to see him brought in to help the chairman with these important committee initiatives.

In addition to his wealth of knowledge and strategic skill, Mike will be missed most of all for the warmth, integrity, and generosity of spirit that he brings to every encounter. When he first joined my office, he would occasionally send Maryland trivia questions around to the staff. His enthusiasm helped to broaden my team's—and even my own—knowledge of the great State of Maryland, and endeared him to everyone in the office. No matter how tough the circumstance and here in the Senate, we often face tough days—Mike is quick to declare with a smile that he has "never had a bad day." He has committed himself to mentorship, voluntarily and enthusiastically spending hours working with more junior colleagues, guiding and advising them with a selflessness that is remarkable for being all too rare.

During the years, I am proud to say that I have come to value Mike not just as a staff member, but as a friend. He and his wife Pat have become favorites within the Cardin team, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge Pat publicly as well. Her strong commitment to Maryland is evident not only in her own work in children's health care, but in her support of Mike's efforts here in these Halls, and I thank her for her contribution to the people of Maryland.

Mike's knowledge of the environmental issues of the day does not just stem from his professional experience, but also from his personal interest as an avid naturalist, bird watcher, kayaker, and overall lover of the outdoors. Mike is most at home among the natural spaces he treasures, either on the water in a sea kayak or walking along a nature trail. For several years, Mike has shared that passion with the community by writing a column featuring different species of Mid-Atlantic native and migratory birds in the "Chesapeake Bay Journal." As with everything he does, Mike's columns always manage to include some of the quiet wisdom that is uniquely his. In a column about the common song sparrow, a local bird that is often overlooked in favor of those with brighter colors and flashier songs, Mike urges his readers to look beyond the bird's plain exterior to appreciate its unique contribution to the natural community. His words manage to capture something about his own steady, unassuming service to those around him. Mike writes, "We lead quiet lives until some rare person decides to listen with abiding patience, waiting for us to finally step out from behind protective cover and softly announce our presence. And then anonymity gives way to the individuality that has been there all along." For me, for my team, Mike has always been both the quiet presence and the patient listener, working with steady determination for the people of Maryland. As he looks forward to a retirement filled with relaxation and the outdoor recreation that he loves, I am humbly grateful for his service. He will be missed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 285. An act for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke.

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

H.R. 6014. An act to authorize the Attorney General to award grants for States to implement DNA arrestee collection processes.

H.R. 6671. An act to amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet.

At 12:27 p.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. 3642. An act to clarify the scope of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996.

S. 3687. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, to designate certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes.