

Beyond Berta Caceres's case, the central question is whether the Honduran Government is serious about fighting the corruption that permeates not only the justice system, but practically every crevice of Honduran society and Government.

A government that is serious about fighting corruption would enact the plea bargaining law that has languished for years, without which it is extremely difficult to investigate and prosecute crimes involving top public officials or corporate executives.

A government that is serious about fighting corruption would put an abrupt end to legislation referred to as the "impunity pact." That legislation would bar the attorney general from bringing charges against someone for stealing public funds until the Supreme Auditing Tribunal, whose members are all loyal to the President, has investigated and ruled on the alleged theft. It is a transparent attempt to ensure that cases of public corruption are never prosecuted.

A government that is serious about fighting corruption would support strengthening the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity, not seek to "renegotiate" its mandate to eliminate or substantially weaken its investigative authority.

The Honduran Government, which professes to be a partner of the United States in fighting corruption, is not doing any of these things. The inescapable truth is that it is not serious about fighting corruption, which is apparent to anyone who is not easily fooled.

Until that changes and until all those involved in the murder of Berta Caceres are brought to justice and until Hondurans who speak out against corruption and impunity are no longer vilified and attacked, the amount of assistance we provide to the Honduran Government will be far less than it would otherwise be.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL IAN BRYAN

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I honor Col. Ian Bryan of the Tennessee Air National Guard for his outstanding service to our country and congratulate him on his retirement from the U.S. Air Force. Colonel Bryan has worked closely with me, the Appropriations Committee, and across Capitol Hill to inform and advise Congress so that we may ensure a strong and ready National Guard. He has also helped the Pentagon work more productively with Congress, promoting a strong national defense.

Colonel Bryan has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication to serving this Nation in the military for over 25 years. He has done so selflessly. He has quietly, but tenaciously advocated for the Chief of the National Guard Bureau's prior-

ities to make the National Guard a ready, capable force for operations both in the homeland and overseas.

As the Chief of the programs division in the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison from April 2017 to February 2019, Colonel Bryan performed his duties deftly. His strategic-level thinking and foresight contributed to the completion of numerous high-level engagements between the National Guard and Congress. He was vital in the establishment of the first ever National Guard liaison office in the Senate, greatly increasing the communication between the National Guard and Congress.

Colonel Bryan is a 1990 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, with masters from The Ohio State University, and a law degree from the University of Virginia. He has served as a KC-135 Pilot, professor at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, air team leader in the National Guard Bureau, Office of Legislative Liaison, and as a division chief at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

After serving in his latest role for the past 2 years, Colonel Bryan will retire at the end of the month. Ian, his supportive wife Emily, and their two children have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I join my colleagues today in congratulating Colonel Bryan on his well-earned retirement and in expressing our gratitude for his selfless service.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JON "JR" RODGERS

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I honor one of my constituents, CAPT Jon "JR" Rodgers of the U.S. Navy, who is retiring in June after three decades of dedicated service to our great Nation. JR has spent the last 2 years of his career serving the U.S. Congress as the Navy's Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs. In this role, JR maintained oversight of the Navy team that provides Members and committees of Congress with information concerning the programs of the Department of the Navy.

JR's Tennessee roots run deep. The son of an air traffic control chief, he began life in Humboldt, TN, married his beautiful wife Sherry Masters from Celina, TN, and plans to return to our great State once his naval service has ended.

This patriot's naval career began by enlisting as a nuclear trained electronics technician until receiving an NROTC scholarship to Cornell University. He graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in agriculture engineering technologies and received his commission as a surface warfare officer in 1990. JR continued his education by attending the National Defense University, graduating with honors from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces with a masters of science degree in national resource strategy. He also attended the Naval War College in New-

port, RI, with a masters of arts in national security strategy.

His sea duty assignments include tours on the USS *England*, CG 22, and the USS *Bonhomme Richard*, LHD 6, as a plank owner, where he received the Surface Navy Association's Arleigh Burke award for Operational Excellence. He also served as executive officer aboard the USS *Cleveland*, LPD 7, during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as part of Amphibious Task Force West.

More recently, JR commanded the mighty USS *Makin Island*, LHD 8, the first Navy ship with hybrid electric propulsion, where he completed a successful deployment to 5th and 7th Fleet. He also commanded USS *Ponce*, AFSB 15, as the Navy's first dedicated afloat forward staging base permanently deployed to Fifth Fleet.

JR's overseas experience is just as impressive. He served as the U.S. European Command J3 chief of staff and branch head for the crisis action group during Operations Odyssey Dawn and Unified Protector. He commanded Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Six, where he led over 600 Active and Reserve sailors on worldwide security missions that included the USNS *Comfort* Theater Security Cooperation missions throughout South America. He served as commander Task Unit Northern Arabian Gulf on the Iraq Al Basrah, ABOT, and Khor al-Amaya, KAAOT, oil terminals point defense mission, Panama and Suez Canal Embarked Security Team transits, and Operation Vigilant Mariner in Rota, Spain.

I want to thank JR for his almost 30 years of loyal service to this Nation. He has made a lasting and significant contribution to the U.S. Navy and our Nation. I wish him, his wife, and their daughter all the best as they begin this new chapter in their life.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM "BILL" MURRAY

• Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today, it is with a heavy heart that I wish to recognize the life and legacy of William "Bill" Murray, a tremendous advocate for kidney disease patients in my home State of Delaware. This week, advocates from across the country will travel to Washington, DC, to meet with their congressional representatives, share their stories, and ask that we remain committed to investing in kidney disease research.

Like Bill, who became involved with the National Kidney Foundation and the kidney disease community in 2014, many patients, family members, and caregivers throughout the country will meet with their legislators and government officials to increase awareness of and improve policies focusing on kidney disease.

I am proud to say that Bill made being involved with the National Kidney Foundation a family event, often bringing his partner Linda, daughter-