

## GUATEMALA

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, last December I joined Senators TIM KAINE, DICK DURBIN, JEFF MERKLEY, and LAPHONZA BUTLER and Representatives NORMA J. TORRES and DELIA C. RAMIREZ, on a trip to Guatemala. We arrived just weeks before the scheduled inauguration of President Bernardo Arevalo, who had been elected by an overwhelming majority. The Guatemalan people had voted decisively to reject the corruption, impunity, and malfeasance that had been the hallmark of successive governments in that country.

We went to Guatemala to speak directly to Mr. Arevalo's supporters, as well as to the powerful forces in Guatemala, including the Attorney General, opposition members of Congress, magistrates, and those who were corruptly conspiring to prevent President Arevalo from taking office. Our purpose was to make clear that if their efforts to subvert the will of the people succeeded, it would have profoundly negative long-term consequences for U.S. relations—both economic and security—for whoever illegally seized power. It would propel the country down a path of authoritarianism and economic decline much like Nicaragua, leading to further social division, political instability, and isolation.

Their efforts to overturn the election and undermine the people were flagrant; the Attorney General went so far as to attempt to nullify the fair election of then President-elect Arevalo shortly after we met with officials of the outgoing administration to urge a peaceful transfer of power.

Ultimately, the efforts to prevent President Arevalo from taking office failed. But his detractors were far from defeated. They immediately set their sights on preventing President Arevalo from carrying out his anti-corruption agenda and forcing him from office. Those efforts continue today.

I mention this because I recently met with a delegation of Guatemalan indigenous women, led by Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú. Although their numbers are woefully under-represented in the three branches of government, I have never met more determined and courageous women. Women who have experienced extreme poverty, violence, and loss, yet who have become leaders in their communities and fiercely dedicated to preserving their indigenous identity, improving the lives of their families, and defending Guatemala's fragile democracy.

The United States strongly supports President Arevalo, who offers the best chance Guatemala has had in decades to chart a new path for his country—a path grounded in the rule of law, in the institutions of democracy, in transparency, in accountability. And despite the efforts of the corrupt networks whose only interest is in using the institutions of power and privilege to enrich themselves, I am hopeful because President Arevalo has the support of

Guatemala's indigenous population, exemplified by the fearless women I met this week.

They are not going to let what they won freely and fairly at the ballot box be stolen from them. They are not going to allow a minority of crooked elites deny them and their children the chance for a better life. They have an ambitious social, economic, and political reform agenda. They are committed to working to strengthen education, economic opportunity, equality, democracy, and justice. It is in the interest of the Arevalo administration and the United States to help them achieve these goals for the benefit of all Guatemalans.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILWAUKEE NAACP

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the Milwaukee NAACP on its 100th anniversary. It gives me great pleasure to honor this remarkable organization and to commemorate this historic milestone.

The Milwaukee NAACP branch was established in 1924, which grew out of the national quest to eradicate the eruptions of anti-Black violence. For 100 years, the Milwaukee NAACP has stood at the forefront of the civil rights movement, unwavering in its efforts to achieve parity in politics, education, society, and the economy, while striving to eliminate racial prejudice.

During the emergence of the NAACP, millions of African-Americans were migrating from the south to northern States like Wisconsin in search of greater opportunity and a better quality of life. The newcomers soon learned that they had not escaped racial discrimination in jobs, education, and housing.

Throughout its early years, led by prominent middle-class African-American professionals, including Wilbur Halyard, Ardie Halyard, and James W. Dorsey, the Milwaukee NAACP was instrumental in battling the racial discrimination through political lobbying, legal intervention, and direct-action protest.

Over the past century, the NAACP has achieved significant progress in empowering African-Americans to reach their greatest potential. By supporting initiatives to improve the lives of those who are often left behind, the NAACP has instigated substantial transformations in Wisconsin's largest city.

Despite the NAACP's tireless efforts, the African-American community in Milwaukee continues to face daunting challenges. Factors such as wages, educational outcomes, economic conditions, neighborhood safety, and the opportunity to achieve the American dream are regrettably still influenced by a person's ZIP Code or the color of his or her skin.

By working together, we can ensure that African-Americans and all community members are educated, em-

ployed, and empowered to succeed. The NAACP's persistent commitment to improvement fosters hope for the next generation of leaders in Milwaukee's communities of color.

As we honor the Milwaukee NAACP's achievements and contemplate future challenges, I will be forever grateful for the branch's achievements over the past century, and I look forward to its continued success in the years to come.

## RECOGNIZING THE MARYLAND ATHLETES AT THE 2024 OLYMPICS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 26 athletes with ties to Maryland who participated at the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics in Paris, France. Olympic athletes compete at the highest level of their craft, showing incredible determination and perseverance to reach their goals. Therefore, I would like to recognize the following athletes for their hard work and successes during the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics:

Katie Ledecky of Bethesda and alumni of Stone Ridge School of Sacred Heart, who won silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay, dominated the 1500m freestyle, won gold in the 800m freestyle, and bronze in the 400m freestyle. Ledecky now has 14 Olympic medals, making her the most decorated female Olympian in U.S. history.

Phoebe Bacon of Chevy Chase and Erin Gemmell of Potomac, who also competed on the U.S. Swim Team, with Gemmell taking silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay.

Alyssa Thomas, a 10-year veteran of the WNBA and University of Maryland Alumni, who won her first gold medal during the U.S. Women's Basketball final against France.

Kevin Durant of Suitland, an NBA superstar who won his fifth gold medal during the U.S. Men's Basketball final against France.

Thea Lafond, another UMD Terp and alumni of Montgomery County Public Schools, who won Dominica's first gold medal ever in the triple jump.

Aaron Brooks of Hagerstown and Helen Maroulis of Rockville, who both won a Bronze Medal in their weight class of wrestling. Maroulis is the first-ever American to win three Olympic medals in women's wrestling.

Aaron Russell of Ellicott City and the Team USA Men's Volleyball Team, who won a bronze medal in their match against Italy.

Masai Russell of Potomac, who won gold in the 100m hurdle.

Quincy Wilson of Potomac, who became the youngest Maryland Olympian and track and field gold medalist in the history of the Olympics for running in the team qualifier for the 4x400m relay.

Skateboarder Rudy Lilley of Ocean City, the youngest Maryland woman at 17 to compete at the Olympic Games.

Grace Balsdon, Leah Crouse, Brooke DeBerdine, Emma DeBerdine, Kelee Lepage, and Nike Lorenze, alumnae of University Maryland, who competed for their respective countries' field hockey teams.

Trevon Jenifer of Huntingtown, who won his third Gold-Medal for wheelchair basketball.

Noah Hanssen of Ellicott City, who placed fourth in wheelchair fencing.

Tatyana McFadden of Columbia, who earned a silver medal in the women's T54 100m, her 20th medal.

Daniel Ramanchuk of Mt. Airy, who won a gold medal in Men's T54 5,000m and a bronze medal in Men's T54 400m.