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TRIBUTE TO ALGENE SAJERY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to thank Algene Sajery, a senior member of my foreign policy legislative staff, for her incredible service to the State of Maryland, our country, and by virtue of her foreign policy and national security legislative achievements, to the international community. I am incredibly grateful for all that we have accomplished during her tenure.

Algene has served as my senior foreign policy and national security advisor since 2012 and concurrently as democratic policy director for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations from 2015 through 2018. Over the years, Algene has served as my lead staff author and/or negotiator of several landmark national security and foreign policy laws, including the Global Magnitsky Human Rights and Accountability Act, P.L. 114-328; the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act, P.L. 114-191; the African Growth and Opportunity Act and Millennium Challenge Act Modernization Act, AGOA and MCA Modernization Act, P.L. 115-167; the Global Food Security Act, P.L. 114-195; and the Electrify Africa Act, P.L. 114-121. These accomplishments demonstrate the wide-ranging policy areas over which Algene has extensive knowledge. Her ability to leverage her knowledge to help negotiate and advance such policies into law and her passion for doing so are what set Algene apart from most others in this highly competitive field.

But Algene's accomplishments do not end with advancing landmark human rights, transparency, foreign assistance, and international development legislation. Algene has also worked tirelessly at my direction on several bills related to human rights in conflict zones, including the Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act and the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act P.L. 115-441. Algene's efforts have helped cement my legacy in these arenas and as Special Representative for Anti-Semitism, Racism, Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe—OSCE—Parliamentary Assembly, to help propel my work to create a world where the promise of “never again” in response to genocide will one day bear truth.

Our work together has transcended several Presidential

administrations. We have observed Executive overstep with regard to war powers on numerous occasions. We have opened our eyes to the use of U.S. manufactured weapons to commit war crimes and repress human rights around the world. In response, Algene and I also developed my signature arms sales oversight legislation, the Enhancing Human Rights Protections in Arms Sales Act of 2019, and numerous bills, resolutions, and amendments on authorization of use of military force, conflict prevention, peace and reconciliation, and community resiliency policies.

Algene's successful legislative record is testament not only to her expertise on foreign policy and national security issues but also to her keen negotiating skills, ability to work across the aisle, and incomparable political acumen. But Algene's service on my legislative staff has gone far and beyond helping me draft and advance legislation. One of the most striking qualities of Algene's character and, in my opinion, one of the most noteworthy accomplishments as a part of her distinct legacy on my team, is her dedication to helping others around her.

Algene is one of only a handful of women of color working on foreign policy and national security issues and the first African-American woman to serve in a leadership position on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Over the years, she has served as a mentor to women of color at various stages in their careers, offering advice, support, and guidance. Algene has always made time to support those around her because she understands the challenges of launching and navigating a career in foreign policy and national security, and she genuinely wants to propel others towards similarly successful career paths.

Algene is a highly effective legislative negotiator, strategist, coalition builder, and a true trailblazer. Her knowledge and expertise are unparalleled, but her passion, creativity, and tenacity truly are what have made her an asset to my team and a voice that I will greatly miss in my office.

It has been an honor working with Algene over the years, and I wish her nothing but happiness and success as she transitions her career off Capitol Hill.