

1972, involved this same area, and Ray O'Keefe was there.

His next assignment brought him to a post well-known in the annals of cavalry lore—Fort Riley, KS—the birthplace of the famous 7th Cavalry Regiment. Already an experienced combat veteran, Ray served with distinction as a troop commander and operations officer with the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, refining his skills, coaching, and teaching the cavalymen and officers entrusted to his care.

Obviously, Ray O'Keefe stood out from his peers, for as an armor officer he was selected to attend Infantry Officers Advanced Course at the U.S. Army Infantry School. Selection to an advanced course of another branch is an indication that an officer has mastered his basic branch skills and is being groomed for positions of much greater responsibility. His follow-on assignment as a staff plans officer with the Joint Personnel Staff at Headquarters, 8th U.S. Army, in Yong San, Korea, underscored the high regard in which he was held by his superiors. The assignment provided Ray valuable experience working with senior officers and those of the other Services and would serve him well in future assignments.

Following promotion to major ahead of his peers, and with a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration in hand, Ray O'Keefe returned to New England. Assigned as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of New Hampshire, he excelled as an instructor of young men and women. Those entrusted with attracting and developing our Army's future leaders have a particularly important responsibility. Ray O'Keefe truly understood this responsibility and more than met the challenge.

As a field grade officer, Ray continued with his service in a series of increasingly challenging assignments, this time in Germany. The cold war was at its height, and deterrence was the keystone of our defense policy. Trained and ready, Army forces provided NATO's first line of defense in Europe against the Warsaw Pact. Serving 1 year as executive officer of the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, in Aschaffenburg, followed by almost 3 years on the Operations and Plans staff of the 3rd Infantry Division in Wurzburg, then-Major O'Keefe was instrumental in successfully bringing the M1 Abrams main battle tank to the division. Personally selected by the commanding general as chief of training for the division, Ray soon became the recognized expert in Europe on fielding and training for the M1 tank.

Battalion command is a challenge reserved for only the Army's most capable and most promising officers. In June of 1984, then-Lieutenant Colonel O'Keefe's demonstrated performance and potential resulted in his selection to command the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, a unit rich tradition. From its battalion colors fly streamers embla-

zoned with names we associate with gallantry, courage, sacrifice: Little Big Horn, Leyte, Korea. Equipped with tanks, helicopters, armored personnel carriers, and artillery, the division cavalry squadron is perhaps one of the most lethal fighting organizations within the Army and one of the most challenging to effectively command. Its mission was one of the cold war's most difficult and sensitive—patrolling the border between freedom and tyranny in Europe. Under Ray O'Keefe's expert hand, the troopers of the 3rd Squadron patrolled the intra-German border 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tough, realistic training and competent, confident leadership were rewarded in 1985 when the 3rd Squadron captured the prestigious Flynn Cup, awarded to the best border squadron in the VII Corps. Through sustained superior performance, Ray O'Keefe proved he had what it took to command and care for 1,200 soldiers and their families.

The Joint Staff provided Ray O'Keefe another opportunity to excel. Assigned as Chief of the Operations, Training, and Exercise Branch in the National Military Command Center, he played a key role in every world crisis for almost 2 years. Colonel O'Keefe developed and wrote the required operational concept for what was to become the automated Crisis Management System, now the heart of the Joint Chiefs of Staff crisis management response. The impact of this contribution to our Nation cannot be overstated.

Colonel O'Keefe culminated his service as Chief, Congressional Activities Division, Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army. In this capacity, Ray once again set the standard preparing senior Army leadership for their personal interactions with Congress, including confirmations, congressional testimony, and meetings with Members of Congress. Ray also supervised preparation and publication of the Army's annual Posture Statement and Focus periodical. Both General Sullivan and Secretary West have come to rely on Ray O'Keefe's sound judgment, keen insight, and sage advice. In this assignment, as in all the others throughout his career, Ray has been in the vanguard working to ensure that America's Army maintains the warrior's edge.

Col. Raymond W. O'Keefe is indeed the quintessential leader. His selfless service, commitment to excellence, and caring professionalism have continually provided inspiration to those with whom he has served. This exceptional officer truly personifies those traits of courage, competency, and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from our Army officers. When he was needed, he was there. He has served our Nation well, and our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for continued success go with him.●

THE BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I was forced to cast my vote against the budget resolution for the upcoming fiscal year.

As a member of the Budget Committee, I take seriously my responsibilities to form and oversee our Nation's budget. Accordingly, I believe the budget resolution is one of the most important documents produced by the Congress each year.

This resolution is critical legislation because it sets our Nation's priorities. It steers our economic policies. And, it carries weight with the American people.

I believe this process should be used to give the American people hope. The American people deserve a sound budget, which reflects their spending priorities. And, they deserve economic security in youth as well as in older years.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, this budget fulfills none of these requirements. It is truly the worst of slash and burn politics. It is misguided economic policy. It robs our constituents of hope and our children of their future.

Mr. President, our colleagues offered a number of amendments which would have gone a long way to improve this bill.

I must say, Mr. President, I was pleased that a strong bipartisan coalition of Senators supported a sense of the Senate measure I offered on impact aid. Impact aid is critical educational assistance for our federally impacted school districts. I hope my amendment will ensure that the Federal Government lives up to its responsibilities to our Nation's schoolchildren who live on Federal property. That is the minimum we owe the children of our women and men in uniform, and I am pleased the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. DOMENICI, accepted my amendment as part of his resolution.

Unfortunately, many other amendments which would have improved this bill failed to pass on largely party-line votes.

I was pleased to support a substitute budget proposed by my friend, the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. CONRAD. His proposal—the fair share plan—reached balance, closed loopholes, excluded Social Security, but smoothed the glidepath of reduced spending. It is my sincere belief that the budget proposed by Senator CONRAD would have been a better starting point than the one put forth by my Republican colleagues. The Conrad plan was not perfect, but it would have been better for our children, our elderly, the environment, and the most vulnerable members of our society.

My friends, the distinguished junior Senator from South Carolina, Senator HOLLINGS, and the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, offered a wise amendment which aimed at restoring the draconian cuts to education. I was pleased to speak in favor of this amendment, and

an truly sorry that our Republican friends were unable to join colleagues on this side of the aisle in restoring some hope for our children's future.

Similarly, my Budget Committee colleague, the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and my friend from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, offered an important amendment to restore some of the nasty cuts to the Medicare and Medicaid Programs. This amendment would have given some much-needed security to our elderly. It would have also loosened the squeeze on the middle class—average Americans like me, who are caught between elderly, frail parents, and kids at home.

I was honored to join two of my distinguished colleagues from the Finance Committee, Senator BRADLEY and Senator BREAUX to roll back the tax increase on our country's working families. This budget plan raises the taxes on families earning less than \$28,000 per year. I think nearly everyone in this country would agree it is inherently unfair to raise taxes on the lower middle class and give a break to the wealthiest among us. Unfortunately, this amendment was rejected on party lines. That is a tragic and sad mistake.

Time and again, some of our colleagues attempted to restore common sense to this budget, but we were caught up in the partisanship of this body. One of the worst examples of this came with the defeat of the Murray amendment. My amendment simply would have protected kids from Medicaid cuts. Despite the defeat of my amendment which would have put the Senate on record that children should not be left without insurance, I will continue to fight for the interests of children in this Nation as the Medicaid system is reformed by this Congress.

Lastly, I was very disappointed that an amendment offered by my colleague from Delaware, Senator ROTH, was defeated. The Senator from Delaware correctly called attention to the risks to our environment if oil exploration were to be extended in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This amendment was important for the future of our Nation's environment, and its defeat is shortsighted and ill-advised.

Mr. President, without these amendments, without this safety net for our children, without protections of our environment, and without other safeguards for our most vulnerable citizens, this resolution is fatally flawed. And, I cannot support this draconian and risky budget plan.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. HIRAM C. POLK, JR.

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Hiram C. Polk, Jr., Hiram is chairman of surgery at the University of Louisville, and this week he will be inducted into the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Scotland as an honorary fellow.

The Royal College of Surgeons is the oldest surgical college in the world and

is also the most renowned. The induction as an honorary fellow is the highest honor awarded by the college. This tribute is unquestionably one that Hiram should be proud of, because the college only gives out five or six awards in one year to the best surgeons around the world.

Hiram was also asked to deliver the Lister lecture at the college's annual meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland on May 26, 1995, making him the first American to give the Lister lecture. Hiram is also one of only 13 people to ever deliver the lecture. He joins an impressive list of past lecturers which include two Nobel Prize winners. His speech will focus on his work to understand and control infection after trauma, research he has worked extensively on at the University of Louisville for more than a decade.

Hiram received his medical degree from Harvard University in 1960, and 11 years later he accepted a position at the University of Louisville. At the age of 35, Hiram was named chairman of surgery at the university, making him one of the youngest surgery department chairmen in the Nation.

His research on surgery infection began in 1969, and he says it still has a long way to go. He best describes his work in a recent article from the *Courier Journal*, "you keep hoping for a breakthrough. But in fact * * * you're crawling your way up the Washington Monument one step at a time." And you can bet, Hiram will continue his research on surgical infections for years to come.

Mr. President, I commend Dr. Hiram C. Polk, Jr., for his outstanding service to the University of Louisville and to the entire medical community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work of this outstanding Kentuckian and to congratulate him on his induction as an honorary fellow into the Royal College of Surgeons.●

THE BALANCED BUDGET RESOLUTION

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to vote on the balanced budget resolution and several pending amendments. I was the commencement speaker for the 1995 graduating class of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore from which my niece and nephew were also graduating.

However, had I been here to vote I would have voted against the resolution because I believe it hurts too many Americans. It hurts our seniors and it hurts our students.

Everything this country has fought for is being attacked in this budget, Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care, veterans health care, and education.

We must have a call to arms to save lives and save people.

Mr. President, during consideration of the budget resolution, Senator CONRAD offered an amendment which would have achieved a balanced budget by 2004.

I support Senator CONRAD's approach to balancing the budget because I believe that it represents a far more equitable approach to balancing the budget than the budget resolution which passed the Senate.

Mr. President, I support the Conrad amendment because it balances the budget without counting the Social Security trust fund surplus. I have stated in the past that I cannot support a balanced budget that does not protect Social Security. A promise made must be a promise kept.

We cannot jeopardize the retirement benefits of the G.I. Joe generation—the generation that fought and saved civilization. We owe it to our veterans and their families to ensure a safe and secure future.

In addition, I support the Conrad amendment because it fully funds education and restores some of the cuts to veterans programs, infrastructure investments, and technology programs, while still achieving a balanced budget.

Mr. President, I also want to express my strong support for an amendment offered by my colleague, Senator KENNEDY, to restore funding for college aid.

The Republican budget resolution would cut \$30 million in Federal aid to college students over the next 7 years. This is the largest education cut in U.S. history.

This is unacceptable. Education must be a No. 1 priority. It is with me and it should also be a priority in this budget.

Senator KENNEDY's amendment would have helped to restore college student aid funds. This amendment did not pass, but yet it is extremely important when half of all college students receive Federal financial aid.

However, I am pleased that the Snowe amendment which was adopted will restore \$9.4 billion over 7 years to student loans. I support this amendment because I know what it will mean to Maryland's students.

Our undergraduate students borrow the maximum of \$17,125 just to be able to afford a college education, access to increased opportunities and to achieve the American dream.

The cost of college has skyrocketed and our students need our support through Federal financial aid programs or through innovative initiatives like National Service. We cannot turn our back on them now.

Mr. President, in this budget, we are given cuts, not compassion. As an appropriator, I know firsthand what these cuts mean. These are not numbers. These are not statistics. These are not line items. They are issues people care about.

Balancing the budget should not be about rhetoric or about scoring political points. Balancing the budget should be about honoring the contributions of the G.I. Joe generation, the generation who worked hard, played by the rules, and served our country well. It is for those who are fighting for the future generations of Americans.