

what the future will bring, and we need to have a permanent safeguard against the kinds of deficits that have plagued the Nation over the past quarter of a century. Yes, today, today in America, talking about balancing the budget, advocating a balanced budget, is politically popular and what the American people are demanding. But, as we have seen for a quarter of a century, something that is simply politically popular may not get done. We have no idea what future Congresses will think about this issue. If we provide this sort of loophole that a failure to pass this amendment provides, we will be right where we have been for the last 25 years.

Yes, it is possible we all might get together and in this Congress, even though the parties that control the Congress and the White House are different, we might finally reach a balanced budget for the year 2002. But what about the year 2003, or 2005, or 2010? What is the safeguard the American people deserve, to guarantee that in those years the same atmosphere that will bring about a balanced budget maybe in 1 year, will continue? I think the only safeguard will be an amendment to the Constitution.

The last issue is why now? I think the crisis we confront today is one of the strongest arguments that we could have for balancing the budget. But the crises that fiscally will afflict this country in another 15 or 20 years are an even stronger argument for this amendment at this time. As we know, projections with respect to a variety of Federal spending programs, particularly the Federal entitlement programs, suggest that as the baby boom generation members age and ultimately become consumers of entitlements rather than providers of revenue to the Federal Government, such programs as Medicare and retirement programs will begin to run even greater costs than they do at this time. What we need to do is get our fiscal house in order today so that when those greater demands on the Federal Government begin to occur, we have the resources necessary to ensure they are honored. A constitutional amendment that prohibits us from running the deficits that are reflected in this stack of budgets before me will assist us in getting our fiscal house in order.

In summary, the average family in my State of Michigan has interests rates that are unnecessarily high due to the deficits we have run and due to the borrowing of the Federal Government. Because of that, the average family in my State does not have as much to spend on its priorities as it deserves.

That family's parents should have more income to spend on their children and their priorities and send less dollars to Washington and less dollars on interest payments than they do at this time. We need a balanced budget to help that working family in Michigan.

America's long-term security also is at stake. America deserves to have fis-

cal integrity so that as we move forward into the 21st century, this debt does not bind us down, this debt does not undermine our economic security, this debt does not hold America back as we try to compete in the global economy, this ever-more competitive global economy, in the years ahead.

For all these reasons, I think action is required now. I think a balanced budget is a necessity, and I think the only way to achieve it is with an amendment to the Constitution that not only brings about a balanced budget in the year 2002, but assures we will continue balancing the budget into the next century and into the future of our Nation.

For those reasons, Madam President, I support the balanced budget amendment. I look forward to continuing this debate as we move forward into the next few weeks and hope that by the time we reach a final vote on this issue, two-thirds of our colleagues will join together to finally change the direction here in Washington, in America and, most importantly, end the unbroken series of Federal deficit represented by this stack of budgets standing next to me.

Mrs. MURRAY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK ORMSBY

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I rise today to pay a special tribute to a young man, a member of my staff, who was taken from us before his time by cancer last week: Pat Ormsby of Spokane, WA. Pat taught me and everyone he touched a most important lesson—how to live life to the fullest with courage, and how to die with dignity.

Pat came to my office just a few years ago, but he was no stranger to Northwest politics. For 10 years he served on the staff of former Speaker Tom Foley. A schoolteacher, Pat started in Mr. Foley's office as a constituent caseworker and eventually moved to the Nation's Capital to become his adviser for agriculture issues.

His reputation was one of someone who was hardworking, down to earth, never caught in the insider beltway thinking. He was always remembering to do what was right for the people he knew so well—the people of Spokane and eastern Washington.

Two years ago, Pat wanted to return home to Washington State to raise his family. As it happened, we crossed paths at an opportune time: he was job-hunting just when I was looking for an eastern Washington director. Pat fit the bill perfectly, and I could not have asked for a better hire.

For the past 2 years, Pat ran my Spokane office. He worked diligently for

the people: he was always there to take cases and advise my D.C. staff on issues like agriculture and business that so intimately affected the lives of the people around him. He was known across the countryside, and everyone to a person, loved him.

Pat was the guy we counted on. Quiet. Unassuming. But always honest, forthright, and clear. His advice on the farm bill, taxes, even welfare reform was always on target, because Pat always knew we worked for the people—and we were there to serve them first.

He was rare in political circles. He brought a certain generosity and good humor to the job that is not seen too often in politics any more. He loved it, he worked tirelessly, he loved being in the thick of things, but he never let it go to his head. And though he was a committed Democrat, he took pains to avoid bringing any partisan edge to his work. He never forgot who he was—a dad and husband first, a public servant, and a devoted community member.

Last spring Pat shared with us that he and his wife Janet were expecting a second child in November, as his first son, Miles, was just turning 3. A happier man, you could not find.

But July of this year brought tough news. Pat was diagnosed with liver cancer. The news of his illness was tough on all of us who knew him. There was universal disbelief. Everyone I talked to wanted to help, to change the course of his illness, to do something.

Inevitably, these conversations would bring out a funny story about Pat, about his tireless work on some project like housing, or commodity programs, or taking extra time to help a constituent who was upset and feeling frustrated with a bureaucracy. And the more I heard from people, the more clear it became just how special a person Pat was.

Despite chemotherapy and exhaustive treatment, Pat determinedly came to the office each day, after taking time to go to church and put his faith in God. He continued to be the one to encourage all of us, and to let us know he was going to be all right no matter what happened.

Recently it became clear his battle was coming to an end. Pat in his quiet way prepared all of us. He maintained what I can only call a relentless optimism. He reminded us of his deep faith, and said his greatest joy was seeing his new son, Paul, come into the world at the end of September. He even had the audacity to apologize when it became clear he could no longer work, but quickly added that he didn't mind because he never liked the commute. Somehow, amazingly, he always emphasized the positives.

He took care of his family and prepared for their future. Again, with great humor, he reminded us it was actually a blessing that he had time to do everything necessary to chart a path for them. He took the time to tell each of us who knew him that it was OK, not an end, just a new beginning for him.

A week and a half ago in Spokane, friends, family, and coworkers gathered together to honor Pat. Mayor Jack Geraghty declared it Pat Ormsby Appreciation Day in Spokane. We gathered with Pat to share feelings and stories about him and his endless contributions. Pat again thanked us all and said his goodbyes.

Last Thursday, we lost Pat. Our staff came together and shared a quiet moment. It was hard to believe he was gone, and it still is. He had become such an important part of our lives, as an example of a true public servant and family man—who always put others before himself and gave something of his life to so many.

It is not fair that children so young should be denied their father, or Janet her husband. But the steps he took to prepare near the end, and the way he lived his life, will be there to show how much he loved them. And because of the example he set, those children will carry something of their father with them always.

We are grateful we knew him, and we are especially grateful to his family for sharing him. We are comforted now only in knowing that a bit of Pat lives on in each of us who knew him: his courage, his common sense, and his pride in community, State, and country. Pat, in his short life, did what each of us should—gave much more than he received. We will miss him.

BREAST CANCER SCREENING GUIDELINES RESOLUTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, last night the Senate voted on a resolution proposed by the Presiding Officer, Senator SNOWE of Maine, regarding the urgent need for breast cancer research funding. I was unable to be here to cast a vote for that bill because I was at home attending a funeral of my staff member, but I wish the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted "aye" on the resolution by Senator SNOWE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I would like to thank my friends, Senators SNOWE and MIKULSKI, for offering their resolution in support of regular mammograms for women over 40. While I certainly respect the National Cancer Institute and its work, I, too, am very concerned about their recent conclusion that standard mammography guidelines for women ages 40 to 49 are unnecessary.

At a time when there is still so much we do not know about breast cancer, I believe it is particularly important that we take the best science available and advise women based on its conclusions. More and more, we are learning that preventive care is the best way to catch breast cancer in time to save a woman's life. With that knowledge, we fought hard for Medicare coverage of mammography screening, and now President Clinton is proposing we expand that coverage.

We all know that mammographies save not only lives, but Federal dollars as well. The cost of annual mammographies is far less than the cost of mastectomies, radiation, or other treatments. M. President, I believe we are headed in the right direction with these policies, and stepping back from encouraging annual check ups is not sending a consistent message to women. Instead, we should be making the same commitment to women between the ages of 40 and 50 as we have to those who are older. Evidence shows that this is the age when the risk of breast cancer increases for many women—and continues to climb in later years.

According to the American Cancer Society, the incidence of breast cancer in the United States has leveled off in recent years. That is very good news. Even still, in my home State an estimated 3,500 women will learn that they have breast cancer this year. An estimated 850 will die from this disease in the same year. And, breast cancer is the No. 1 cancer killer among women ages 15 to 54. Like many here, I have seen the devastation breast cancer leaves in its path and the children it has left motherless. It is heartbreaking to think that with earlier detection they may not have lost their lives. I think we can all agree that—as with any other cancer—if we believe we can prevent women from suffering from this disease, we must do everything in our power to do so.

The American Cancer Society also tells us that in the last decade, the average breast lump size—the first indicator of cancer in most cases—has decreased substantially. In 1991, the average size of detected tumors was down to 2.1 centimeters—that is about the size of a nickel. What this tells us is that potentially malignant tumors are being found in earlier and earlier stages of development. Consequently, women have the opportunity to start treatment earlier, and have a higher chance of survival or avoiding drastic options like mastectomies. Mortality rates for Caucasian women have leveled off and even started dropping in recent years. Unfortunately, however, the statistics for women of color are not as good, but at least we know screening helps—now we have to make sure that these women have access to screening.

I do not believe that anyone in this Chamber would deem regular mammographies for a woman over 40 as frivolous. On the contrary, I believe the Members of this body, including myself, now understand better than ever the importance of regular screening for many forms of cancer. I am not a doctor, nor do I pretend to know more than the participants of the NCI's breast cancer screening consensus panel. However, I do know enough to understand the value of preventive screening for breast cancer. And, I also know that we have been fighting an uphill battle to get women—or men, for

that matter—into their doctors' offices to have annual check ups. Therefore, I am very concerned about the consequence of continued confusion over recommendations for how often a woman should have a mammography and mixed signals from leading officials. I look forward to the results of the American Cancer Society's review of the data used by the consensus panel.

In the meantime, I support Senator SNOWE and MIKULSKI's efforts to send a strong, clear signal to women that until we have conclusive evidence to the contrary, we know there is a benefit to regular screening. Along with my colleagues, I encourage all women over 40 to follow the American Cancer Society's recommendation of mammographies every 1 to 2 years. Again, I thank my friends from Maine and Maryland for their work on this issue and their dedication to women's health.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE REFERRED

The Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of the following measure which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

S. 203. A bill to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize the transfer to State and local government of certain surplus property for use for law enforcement or public safety purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-996. A communication from the Secretary of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to disclosure requirements, (RIN3235-AG42, AG77) received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-997. A communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the exclusive economic zone off Florida, received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-998. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of six rules including one rule relative to oil spills, (RIN2133-AB28, 2115-AE01, AF46, AE47, AA97) received on February 3, 1997; to the