

aisle, to craft a bipartisan reauthorization bill that enhances access to higher education for poor and middle class families. Higher ed reauthorization should be a bipartisan bill, like it has been historically.

The resolution also proposes deficit reduction from savings associated with changes to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. Right now the PBGC has a deficit of \$23 billion. The Committee-reported Resolution incorporates a \$5.3 billion reduction of that deficit over 5 years. Only a small part of this can be accomplished through reconciliation. The HELP Committee will collaborate with the Finance Committee to reach this goal in the context of comprehensive pension reform. Chairman GRASSLEY and I are committed to restoring the financial stability of the defined benefit system. The solvency of the PBGC is a critical component of these reforms.

I am pleased the resolution again identifies tax relief as a top priority this year. The resolution includes reconciliation instructions that will allow \$70 billion of tax cuts through the reconciliation process. I hope this will enable the Finance Committee and our leadership to keep in place the tax relief that has produced 21 consecutive months of job creation and produced more than 3 million new jobs. These pro-growth tax policies have jumpstarted American business, and yielded continued increases in technology, infrastructure and equipment investments. We need to keep the trend going. The committee-reported resolution allows the Finance Committee to extend key provisions like the reduction in tax rates on capital gains and dividends, the increase in expensing for small business under Section 179 and the ability of individuals in states without income taxes to deduct their local and state sales tax from their Federal income tax liability. I want to thank Chairman GRASSLEY for his leadership at the Finance Committee these past 4 years.

The resolution also demonstrates a commitment to energy development in Wyoming and in the entire United States. It is the first step towards developing a comprehensive energy policy in the 109th Congress. The energy reserve fund and the reconciliation instructions for an energy tax incentives package will lay the footwork for a policy that will help our Nation meet its energy needs in a fiscally responsible manner. Specifically, I would like to reinforce my support for recognizing the importance of developing lean coal technologies, something that is vital for the economy of Wyoming. I look forward to working so that these technologies receive the funding necessary to become viable.

I again want to thank Chairman GREGG and his staff for their hard work on this resolution. They have all worked tirelessly, through many weekends, to get us here today. I yield the floor.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we are now at the end of the day. It has been a long day, especially for staff. We appreciate their effort and their courtesy.

I note that there are now pending approximately 25 amendments to this resolution. There are still approximately 70 or so amendments that we have been told may be offered. Tomorrow, when we begin voting, which will occur, it appears, around 1:20, we have to vote those 25 amendments, and that in and of itself would take 8 hours. If any percentage of the ones that are still pending have to be voted, you can presume a significant additional amount of time. So we could be here quite late tomorrow night, and our colleagues should be aware of that as they move into tomorrow.

It also should be noted that almost all the amendments that have been offered today—there have been one or two exceptions, or maybe three or four exceptions—have essentially attempted to increase spending. Some have offset that spending increase with reductions in accounts which actually exist. A couple of the amendments, such as one of the amendments on Border Patrol, takes the money that it spends on Border Patrol and moves it over from other accounts in international affairs. Most of the amendments spend additional funds by raising taxes or by doing what is known as the 920 account, which amounts to an across-the-board cut, for all intents and purposes, of other accounts within the Government.

It is going to be interesting to see when we have completed this budget process whether there really is a willingness to fiscal discipline within the Congress, especially within the Senate which is controlled by a party that alleges itself to be fiscally disciplined. We are going to determine that sometime very late tomorrow night or early Friday morning. But clearly the issue is in question.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DENNIS RUSH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a lifelong Kentuckian who dedicated his life to serving others, the Reverend Dennis Rush. Known to many simply as "Preacher," the Reverend Rush was a Kentucky icon who passed away earlier this year at the age of 85 from complications of liver cancer.

The Reverend Rush began preaching at the age of 18. His 66-year career spanned eight different churches in Eastern Kentucky and allowed him to embark on mission trips to Indonesia, Africa, South America, and Korea. He touched thousands of lives by officiating at numerous baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Despite his illness, he continued to preach and stood before his congregation for a final time the Sunday before he passed away.

In addition to his ministerial duties, the Reverend Rush was a longtime chairman of the Oneida Baptist Institute's school board and served on the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He was also active in other community organizations where he and his wife of 63 years, Juanita, would donate their time and energy to help improve the quality of life of those around them. The Reverend Rush is survived by his wife; a daughter, Joyce Rush Woods; four sisters; a brother; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Rush was a very modest man who, when asked to reflect on his lifetime of achievement, said, "I haven't done it. The Lord's done it, through a little old nobody." But the thousands of people he touched all certainly thought he was somebody, somebody special. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Rev. Dennis Rush by honoring and recognizing all of the contributions he made to communities in Kentucky and around the world. He will be missed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD an article from The Lexington Herald-Leader, "Dennis Rush, minister, dies," about the Reverend Rush's life.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald Leader, Feb. 9, 2005]

"DENNIS RUSH, MINISTER, DIES; HAD CONDUCTED REVIVALS ON 4 CONTINENTS"

(By Jennifer Hewlett)

The Rev. Dennis Rush held revivals on four continents. He officiated at thousands of funerals and weddings in Laurel and Clay counties and other Eastern Kentucky counties. For decades he preached several times a week at Kentucky churches.

When he found out that he had liver cancer in November, he declined to undergo chemotherapy because he knew it would sap his energy. He wanted to use every bit he had left to preach the word of God, friends said.

The Rev. Rush, a Baptist minister for more than 66 years, died Monday at Marymount Hospital in London. He was 85 and lived in London. In addition to his family, he leaves behind thousands of friends whose lives he deeply touched.

"There were times in his life when he had more influence on the people of Clay County than any elected official would have, and that's saying a whole lot," said the Rev. Thermon Taylor, pastor emeritus of Liberty Baptist Church in London and a longtime friend.

"He did so many things for the people in Clay County and Jackson and Perry and Leslie. . . His influence is extremely wide," Taylor said.

PREACHING AT 18

The Rev. Rush, a Laurel County native, began preaching at age 18 and pastored his first church, Laurel River Baptist Church in London, soon afterward. He was pastor of Providence Baptist Church near London at his death.

Before moving to Providence about 14 years ago, he pastored Horse Creek Baptist Church in Clay County for 37 years. During

several of those years, the Rev. Rush pastored Lily Grove Baptist Church, an African-American church in Clay County, at the same time.

"There was no color barrier with him. He was color blind," Taylor said. "He helped them build a new church. He did a lot of the work himself with his two hands. . . . They loved him and he did them."

At one time, the Rev. Rush was a member of the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Whenever decisions were to be made within our association, one of the questions always asked was 'What does Brother Rush think about it?'" said Roy Faulkner, director of missions for the Laurel River Baptist Association.

"He's an icon in Kentucky among Baptists."

For decades, Rev. Rush was Oneida Baptist Institute's biggest cheerleader, said Kay Underwood, administrative coordinator at the school and wife of the school's president, W.F. Underwood.

For several years, the Rev. Rush, who had been a longtime chairman of the school's board, hauled groceries donated by an area wholesale grocer to the Clay County school for the students, faculty and staff members. He bought a truck just for that purpose.

"He has really been a wonderful ambassador for Oneida," Kay Underwood said. "One of our buildings is named after him and his wife, Juanita."

The minister, Underwood said, wasn't a wealthy man who could give a lot of money to the school, which has more than 300 students in grades six through 12, but he was a major influence on others who could.

"One of the tender things to me . . . he had a heart for children. He loved anything a child did. . . . This was a man who was a preacher, a man of God who was busy, busy, busy, but he was never too busy for a little child. I think that's why he had such a heart for Oneida," she said.

For the past five years, the Rev. Rush was the mission's teacher and coordinator at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp outside Corbin.

When he was at the camp, "it was sort of like the Pied Piper, with kids following him all over the campus," Faulkner said.

CLEAR CREEK SCHOLARSHIPS

There is a scholarship at Clear Creek Bible College in Bell County named for the Rev. Rush, who studied there. Money for the scholarship was contributed by people whose lives he touched.

The Rev. Rush influenced many young preachers, Taylor said.

WORLDWIDE REVIVALIST

Over the years, the Rev. Rush held revivals not only in North America, but in Africa, Asia and South America.

Taylor recalled one mission trip to Brazil that the Rev. Rush took. While there, he gave witness to an elderly man on his front porch. A teenage girl inside the house told the Rev. Rush through an interpreter that she needed his help when he finished with the old man.

"She said, 'I'm 16 years old and I've got AIDS and I'm dying.' He taught her how to become a Christian," Taylor said.

"He had more understanding. He knew how to talk to people," Taylor said.

"His heart was in missions. . . . He told me just a week or so ago that if he had one thing he could do again was he'd like to go back and preach in Kenya one more time," Faulkner said.

The Rev. Rush preached for the last time Sunday. He preached twice that day. He was to have preached at a funeral today, having agreed to do so less than a couple of hours before he died. After he found out he didn't

have long to live, he held a revival and officiated at several funerals and weddings.

The Rev. Rush is survived by his wife, Juanita Rudder Rush; a daughter, Joyce Rush Woods of Manchester; four sisters; a brother; four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LANDON GILES

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President. I rise today to honor the life of Landon S. Giles. Private First Class Giles was a passionate and free-spirited young man who lived his life with an admirable sense of adventure and courage. He was also a brave soldier who proudly and honorably served his Nation in uniform. In doing so, he gave his life while improving the lives of those he saw as less fortunate while helping to bring freedom and hope to a land that has known only oppression and fear. The way he lived his life is a testament to the kind of person he was. The State of Arkansas and our Nation will mourn his loss but will remain forever grateful of the service he rendered on behalf of us all.

PFC Giles was born and raised in the southwestern Arkansas town of Arkadelphia. From an early age, his sense of adventure and his athleticism would contribute to the way he spent his childhood. If he wasn't playing golf, football or baseball, he was most likely hiking or on a hunting trip with friends and family. Above all, PFC Giles loved to travel, where he could experience foreign cultures, see new places and meet new people. His father's job required an extensive amount of travel overseas and it allowed him the opportunity to do just that.

Through travels with his father, PFC Giles had the opportunity to see much of the world. When he was just 12, he became a certified scuba diver while diving at Sipadan, an island off the coast of Malaysia. Additionally, he would go on to experience memorable journeys such as climbing volcanoes in the South Pacific, deep-sea fishing off the coast of Australia, surfing in Hawaii, and riding an elephant through parts of Thailand. It was a rare privilege of which he took full advantage. It was an adventure that required courage and imagination and he loved every minute of it. Such was his life.

Wherever that life took him, his friendly personality and outgoing nature provided him with a natural gift for making friends quickly and easily. At the same time, his work ethic, dedication, and discipline earned him the respect of his teachers and coaches. Throughout his time at Arkadelphia High School, PFC Giles would call upon these traits when he spoke of entering the military. Shortly before his graduation, he joined the United States Army through their delayed-entry program. Since he had not yet reached the age of 18, he asked his mother, Kim, to fill out the necessary paperwork. Al-

though she disapproved of his decision, she also saw how determined and passionate he felt about it and ultimately complied.

A month after his graduation last May, PFC Giles entered the Army as an indirect fire infantryman, assigned to the Army's 3rd Infantry based in Fort Stewart, GA. The day he was deployed to the Middle East for Operation Iraqi Freedom, his sister, Jennifer, told him she didn't want him to go to war. In a gesture befitting of who he was, he replied simply "it's better I go and not come home than someone with a wife and children." In Iraq, his courage was surpassed only by his selflessness. He often spoke of his heartfelt belief that the Iraqis were being treated unjustly and had no one to fight for their rights. He became a champion of this cause and while proudly serving his country, was also proud to help the people of Iraq in their fight for freedom. Tragically, after serving in Iraq for only a few weeks, he was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol on February 26.

Back in the community he called home, countless friends and neighbors, as well as strangers who simply wanted to pay their respects, lined the procession to his burial service. Many held small American flags in their hands, others simply held their hands over their heart. The community's outpouring of grief was tempered only by its outpouring of appreciation. Their fallen hero had returned home and it was readily apparent that his sacrifice would not soon be forgotten.

Landon Giles was an inspiration, not only because of the way he lived his life, but because of who he was. He was a loving son, brother, and friend, and he was also a hero. Although his time with us was way too short, his legacy will forever live on in the example he set and the many lives he touched. In the words of his mother Kim, "I want him to be remembered as a strong, brave, compassionate person who put his life on the line to defend our country and help those less fortunate than us."

My thoughts and prayers go out to all those who knew and loved this special young man.

CO-SPONSORSHIP CHANGE S. 379

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr President, today I rise to ask for a clarification in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from yesterday, dated March 15, 2004. The RECORD mistakenly reported that I was to be added as a cosponsor of S. 379, the Firearm Manufacturers Protection Act. Apparently, my name was typed into the RECORD instead of that of Senator MITCH MCCONNELL who had requested to be added as a cosponsor of that bill. I wanted the RECORD to reflect that I never requested to be added to the bill. As I hope my record reflects, I have been a strong opponent of the gun immunity bill because it puts one industry's bottomline ahead of the families