

Having been deployed to Iraq earlier this year, Sergeant Cornell made certain he would be allowed to take his 2 weeks' leave in July. He was determined to make it home to Holstein, NE, in time to see his wife Patricia give birth to their third child.

With both his father and grandfather having served in the military, enlisting had always been a top priority for Sergeant Cornell. While at Silver Lake High School in Roseland, no matter what branch of service was making a recruiting visit to his school, Sergeant Cornell was always the first in line to meet with the military recruiter. In addition to his desire to enlist, Sergeant Cornell was also a skilled martial arts student and is remembered by his teachers as a kindhearted and well-meaning individual.

Shortly after graduating from high school in 1999, Sergeant Cornell chose to enlist in the Nebraska Army National Guard. During 4 years with the Guard, he served twice in Bosnia and once in Afghanistan. In addition to his service to his country, Sergeant Cornell also served his community as a volunteer firefighter. Last year he enlisted in the Army; he was deployed to Iraq when called up in February. On March 20, 2007, while serving with the Army's 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, based out of Fort Riley, KS, Sergeant Cornell passed away when the vehicle he was traveling in was struck by a roadside bomb in Baghdad.

"He did it all for his family," said his wife Patricia. "He was an awesome father, and he just made every sacrifice for us." In addition to his wife Patricia, Sergeant Cornell is survived by his two children, Dameion, 5, and Zoie, 3, of Holstein; mother Patricia Perrie of Holstein; father Larry Cornell of Fairmont, NE; and sisters Jadeen Cornell of Blue Hill, NE, and Janalle Gowlovech, of Sioux Falls, SD.

I offer my sincere condolences to Sergeant Cornell's family. Not only did he sacrifice for his family, he made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice for his Nation. Every American and all Nebraskans are proud of the service of brave military personnel such as SGT Wayne Cornell.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army SGT Wayne Cornell of Nebraska. Sergeant Cornell was killed in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was 26 years old.

Sergeant Cornell grew up in the small town of Holstein, NE. A 1999 graduate of Silver Lake High School, his teachers had little doubt that he would serve his country after graduation. He enlisted with the Army National Guard soon after graduation and was deployed to Bosnia and Afghanistan.

In 2006, Sergeant Cornell decided to continue his career in the Armed Forces and enlisted with the Regular Army. He was deployed to Iraq in Feb-

ruary 2007 with the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division based at Fort Riley, KS.

Sergeant Cornell was a deeply committed father and husband. He always put his family first in the decisions he made. The Army was his means to provide for his family, as well as serve his country. He and his wife Patricia had two children, Dameion and Zoie, and the family is expecting a third child in July.

In addition to his wife and children, Sergeant Cornell is survived by his father Larry Cornell, his mother Patricia Perrie, and sisters Jadeen Cornell and Janalle Gowlovech.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SGT Wayne Cornell.

MARCH MADNESS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to spend a few minutes talking about March Madness. Millions of Americans are glued to their televisions to watch basketball this time of year, and I want to talk about a No. 1 seed that wasn't closely followed nationwide.

Everyone knows how Florida, Georgetown, UCLA, and Ohio State are faring in their tournament games, but the Winona State Warriors may not be on everyone's radar. Well, they should be. The Warriors set a Division II record by winning 57 straight games over the last two seasons. This breaks the previous record of 52 games which has been intact since 1946. Over this stretch, the Warriors have dominated most teams that they met with the average margin of victory being almost 20 points—including one victory by 81 points. Unfortunately, this streak ended on Saturday as they came just a few points short of winning back-to-back Division II championships when their opponents made a buzzer-beating shot.

I commend Coach Mike Leaf for his accomplishments. In the 9 years he has coached at Winona State, he has lead the Warriors to five regular-season Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference titles, four tournament conference titles, four Division II tournament appearances, and the 2006 national title. He was also named national coach of the year after leading his team to the national championship last year.

It takes a great deal to bring together a championship basketball team. Coach Leaf has done this while serving as an inspiration to his players and the entire Winona community. He has taught his players to work hard and enjoy themselves while winning with class.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Leaf, his staff, his players, the students of Winona State, and all the Warrior fans. I look forward to the continued successes of Coach Leaf and his team next year. Go Warriors!

S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the budget resolution that the U.S. Senate adopted last Friday.

Every year, Congress considers a budget resolution, setting the Government's priorities for the coming year. For the past 2 years since my election to the Senate, I have been compelled to vote against budget resolutions that I believed were out of touch with our fiscal realities and national priorities. This year, I was proud to support the resolution.

I commend the outstanding leadership of Chairman CONRAD, who helped to produce a resolution that makes great progress getting our Nation's priorities back on track. Instead of deepening our fiscal hole with irresponsible tax giveaways to the wealthy, this budget makes an important departure from the Republican budgets of the recent past and brings our budget back into balance. Instead of gutting programs that help our most vulnerable citizens and communities, this budget allows these programs—like the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Medicare, COPS, and others—to keep serving those who rely on the important moral commitments our Nation has made. Instead of budget gimmicks and deferred responsibility, this budget brings greater transparency and responsibility back to Washington.

It does so first by reinstating pay-go. In a Democratic Senate, new mandatory spending, just like new tax cuts, must be paid for by offsetting spending reductions or revenue increases. Pay-go will require tough choices and difficult tradeoffs. We will not be able simply to pass along the debt to future generations for the choices we make today. We will have to be accountable for paying our own bills and collecting our own revenue. Pay-go by itself will not bring our budget back to balance, but it will prevent deficits from getting worse. Pay-go by itself cannot resolve our Nation's long-term liabilities, but it will restore the budget discipline that has been lacking in Washington for too long.

When I travel around the country or talk to families in Illinois, I hear about the same priorities again and again. People from all walks of life—farmers and small businesspeople, teachers and veterans, salespeople and service workers, doctors and senior citizens, people prospering and those struggling at the margins—all share a common set of concerns and aspirations. They want affordable health care for themselves and their children. They want a quality education for their children. They want to retire with dignity. They are concerned about our national security and our domestic security.

Unfortunately, many Americans are not convinced that their voices are heard here in Washington. They are not convinced because the President

proposed a budget that ignores their priorities. They are not convinced because they don't see enough serious efforts to reduce their health care costs or to improve educational opportunities. They are not convinced because it appears that for too long no one in Government has been held accountable for incompetent leadership and neglect of the public interest.

Fortunately, the budget resolution we adopted last week responds to their voices. It demonstrates to families across the Nation that we are once again paying attention to their concerns. They have a reason to start once again to have confidence in their Government.

Let me give a few reasons, why I supported this resolution.

The failure of our Nation to guarantee access to affordable health care for children is shameful, and the President's budget threatened to worsen the situation for children in working families. This budget rejects the President's proposed cuts to the State Children's Health Insurance Program, extends care to 6 million additional eligible children, and makes children's health care a priority for Congress.

This budget also makes progress to ensure that preschool children from disadvantaged backgrounds will receive quality care and education; that children, no matter where they go to school, will have an equal opportunity for quality education; and will make college more affordable so that our children can compete in a global marketplace. By rejecting the President's proposed cuts in education and training, this budget shores up the Federal end of the bargain to support No Child Left Behind and support programs that educate individuals with disabilities.

This budget also includes \$100 million for grants to establish summer learning programs in local school districts through the Summer Term Education Program. I thank Chairman CONRAD for his assistance in getting my amendment to fund these programs included in the final resolution. These grants will help students in early elementary grades by supporting their participation in 6 weeks of summer school. Teachers tell us that students return to school each September at levels below their successes of the previous spring. Educators know this as "summer learning loss," and research has shown that students, on average, lose more than 1 month of reading skills and 2 months of math skills during the summer. The impact of summer learning loss is greatest for children living in poverty, children with learning disabilities, and children who do not speak English at home. The achievement gap in education begins early in life and remains a burden for too many throughout their time in school. The Summer Term Education Program funded by this resolution will help to bridge this gap through structured summer learning opportunities.

The security of our Nation at home and abroad is also a critical priority,

and honoring our veterans should be considered a sacred obligation. This budget fully funds our defense and homeland security funding needs and respects our duty to support our veterans. These brave men and women have sacrificed so much for us and for our Nation. Sadly, as uncovered by the Walter Reed scandal, our Government is failing them. This budget makes it possible to provide the quality health care and services that our veterans deserve. We cannot ignore the reality that there are financial and human costs to war. This budget recognizes that reality.

I am also pleased that the budget resolution includes an important bipartisan amendment that I offered with my colleagues, Senators BUNNING, BINGAMAN, LUGAR, and BOXER, to triple the administration's recommendation for carbon sequestration. This amendment provides an additional \$200 million for Department of Energy efforts on carbon sequestration, for a total of \$279 million in that account. Both environmental groups and the coal industry acknowledge the importance of better technology for carbon sequestration and control. The International Panel on Climate Change, environmental groups like NRDC, and the mining industry all are on record that the long-term deep geological storage of carbon is possible and is happening now on a small scale. But for it to occur on a far larger scale, we must redouble Federal efforts to make technologies widespread and economical in the next 15 years. A recent report by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology recommended a \$5 billion program over the next 10 years to achieve that goal. My amendment today provides a significant increase down that path.

Too many Americans say they lack confidence in our tax system because they hear about well-connected individuals and corporations getting away without paying their fair share. I believe this budget will begin to restore the confidence necessary for a fair and effective tax system. Instead of reaching deeper into the pockets of hard-working Americans, this budget will collect taxes where taxes are due. This budget calls for strong new measures to close the tax gap, shut down tax scams, and address offshore tax havens. I am proud of my efforts with Senator LEVIN and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations to stop tax haven abuses, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 110th Congress to improve the fairness of our Tax Code.

The budget resolution we passed last week demonstrates that we can rise above ideology and gimmicks and begin tackling the serious challenges we face as a nation. It demonstrates that vision matters and leadership matters. I am grateful for Chairman CONRAD's extraordinary leadership and the terrific work of his talented, dedicated, and hard-working staff. They worked well in committee and on the

floor to help assemble a budget resolution that a majority of us in the Senate could vote for in good conscience and with confidence that America's fiscal policies have a chance, at long last, to get back on track.

COMMENDING MAJOR GENERAL GALE S. POLLOCK

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to commend the Army leadership for selecting the first woman and nurse to serve as the Acting Army Surgeon General. Today, MG Gale S. Pollock, a nurse, is in charge of the Army Medical Department and leading the way in improving organizational efficiencies and streamlining the care of our wounded warriors.

Major General Pollock was born in Kearny, NJ, and entered the Army Nurse Corps in 1976 after earning her BSN from the Walter Reed Institute of Nursing through the University of Maryland. She also completed a master of business administration from Boston University, a master in health care administration from Baylor University, and a master in national security and strategy from the National Defense University. Major General Pollock also attended the U.S. Army Nurse Anesthesia Program and is a certified registered nurse anesthetist, CRNA, and a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Major General Pollock's military education includes Senior Service College at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the U.S. Air Force War College, the Interagency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives, the Military Health System CAPSTONE program, the Principles of Advanced Nurse Administrators, and the NATO staff officer course.

On March 20, 2007, Major General Pollock, Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, was officially named Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command and the Acting Army Surgeon General. Her previous military assignments include, Commander, Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI; Special Assistant to the Surgeon General for Information Management and Health Policy; Commander, Martin Army Community Hospital, Fort Benning, GA; Commander, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Fort Drum, NY; Staff Officer, Strategic Initiatives Command Group for the Army Surgeon General; Department of Defense, DoD, Healthcare Advisor to the Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance; Health Fitness Advisor at the National Defense University; Senior Policy Analyst in Health Affairs, DoD; and Chief, Anesthesia Nursing Service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC.

Major General Pollock brings extensive leadership, education, and experience to her new position as the Acting Army Surgeon General. As an Army nurse and woman, I applaud her many