

people are aware of the fact that on April 24, 2007, the United States collected a record setting \$48.7 billion in tax receipts. I think these numbers are certainly worth our attention.

What I find so interesting about these record-breaking tax revenues is the fact they were achieved without raising taxes and without a Federal budget in place. Rather, the American economy is the driving force behind these windfalls. I would pose the question that maybe; just maybe, we should maintain the status quo instead of entering into the budget resolution that is being proposed.

I think Congress should think long and hard about these numbers before we consider making any change to current budget policy. Because of these record tax revenues the budget deficit could be slashed in more than half from this same time last year. The deficit could be reduced by \$150 billion this year, which equates to approximately 1 percent of gross domestic product. I believe our current budget policy is paying off and in the next 18 to 24 months the deficit could completely disappear, if we here in Congress do not veer off course.

I am not surprised that we are collecting nearly 30 percent more from nonwithheld income. Moreover, I also do not find it surprising that individual income tax receipts are up by almost 17.5 percent. I believe that the tax relief that we instituted in 2001 and 2003 is paying large dividends and our economy is benefiting.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will consider these facts and not attempt to fix something that is not broken. I am simply saying that maybe we should not be rushed into action.

Additionally, I ask unanimous consent that this editorial from the Wall Street Journal be printed in the RECORD.

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

APRIL REVENUE SHOWER

Here's the "surge" you aren't reading about: the continuing flood of tax revenue into the federal Treasury. Tax receipts for April were \$70 billion above the same month in 2006, and April 24 marked the single biggest day of tax collections in U.S. history, at \$48.7 billion, according to the latest Treasury report.

The April comparison is slightly askew because the IRS processed more returns than usual this year. But there's no denying that Americans are sending more money than ever to Washington; revenues for the first seven months of fiscal 2007 are up 11.3%, or \$153 billion. This Beltway bonanza has helped to slash the projected federal budget deficit by more than half from the same point last year. Across the past three Aprils, federal red ink has sunk by nearly \$300 billion. The deficit this year could tumble to \$150 billion, or an economically trivial 1% of GDP.

This revenue boom certainly casts doubt on the political walls about tax loopholes for the rich. So far this year, the taxes paid on so-called nonwithheld income, which are dollars that don't come from normal wages and salaries, have climbed by nearly 30%. This is income largely derived from capital gains,

dividends and other investment sources—i.e., the tax rates that President Bush cut in 2003. Individual income taxes are also up by 17.5%—a handsome fiscal dividend from rising wages and low unemployment.

In other good news, the pace of federal spending, which was pedal-to-the-metal in Mr. Bush's first term, has finally decelerated. So far this year federal outlays have climbed by 3%, and, save for Medicare and Medicaid, federal expenditures are nearly flat from 2006. Spending will climb again once the Iraq supplemental passes, and revenues can't keep rising at a double digit pace forever.

Still, you'd think this dramatic fiscal turnaround would cheer up Capitol Hill. Instead, Congressional Democrats seem to live in a parallel universe—one that they claim is starved for revenues, with a runaway deficit, and is dominated by the rich who pay no taxes at all. The reality is that the wealthy are financing Democratic spending ambitions, and the deficit could easily vanish within a year or two if Congress has the good sense to leave current tax policy in place.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I wish today, on National Police Week, to honor this Nation's law enforcement officers. Our law enforcement officers are some of the bravest men and women we will ever come across. They selflessly dedicate their lives to keeping our communities safe and taking dangerous individuals off our streets.

Tragically, some of those officers lose their lives while on duty. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial currently bears the names of more than 17,500 officers who have been killed or died while on duty. This week, 382 additional names will be added. Two of those fallen officers are from my home State of Wisconsin.

Jackie Ryden dedicated his life to law enforcement, spending 33 years with the Ellsworth Police Department, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, and the Prescott Police Department. He was a well-liked and well-respected member of the police force, as well as his community.

On September 2, 2006, Jackie responded to a natural gas explosion and the resulting fire. He helped to evacuate a number of local citizens from their homes. Shortly after Officer Ryden returned to his patrol car to help direct traffic, he suffered a heart attack and died. According to those who knew him best, he passed away doing what he loved best—serving and protecting his community. Jackie Ryden is survived by his wife, two children, and three grandchildren.

The second officer whom I seek to honor today is Stephen Hahn. Stephen was a special deputy with the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, serving approximately 40 years in law enforcement. Mr. Hahn was killed in a traffic accident while transporting an inmate. A vehicle heading in the opposite direction lost control and struck the van being driven by Deputy Hahn. He is survived by his wife and two children.

We mourn the loss of these two great, brave men and attempt to honor them

by recognizing the sacrifices they made for the benefit of others. Both of their communities, and the State of Wisconsin as a whole, are worse off because of the loss of these two public safety officers. I am pleased, however, that their names are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, so they can forever be remembered for their hard work and dedication to improving the lives of those around them.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that on May 15 I was unable to vote on certain provisions of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. I wish to address these votes, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 163, on amendment No. 1090, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 164, on amendment No. 1089, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 165, on amendment No. 1086, I would have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 166, on amendment No. 1094, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I missed today's votes on Iraq because I was attending the college graduation of my daughter, Elizabeth.

But I want to express my unqualified support for the amendment offered by my colleagues, Senator FEINGOLD and Senator REID.

This amendment says that our entanglement in another country's civil war has gone on long enough.

This amendment says that Congress must stop playing the role of spectator and start standing up for our overtaxed and inadequately protected troops.

This amendment says we must stand up for their families.

This amendment says that we have an obligation to support our men and women in uniform, not only by funding them, but by bringing them home.

The funding for our troops is assured, whether they are deployed in Iraq or redeployed from Iraq.

This amendment calls for their redeployment.

Those who claim this amendment would cut off funding for our troops are actually saying that the President, if required to redeploy our troops, would instead cut off their funding.

I may not see eye to eye with our President, but I don't believe him capable of that.

The Feingold-Reid amendment says "enough is enough."

A majority of Americans want our troops to come home. It is time to bring them home.

I thank Senator FEINGOLD and Leader REID for having the conviction and the courage to stand up for our troops.

Patriotism is not passive. It is not swayed by inflammatory rhetoric or false accusations.

In the case of Iraq, patriotism does not mean blindly following the current path, it means carving out the right one.

Bringing our troops home is an act of patriotism. The Feingold-Reid amendment is an act of patriotism, and I fully support its intent.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JANET TURCOTTE

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Janet Turcotte, of Bowie, MD, for her courageous efforts to raise awareness of colon cancer and promote screening. Janet was first diagnosed with Stage IV colorectal cancer 4 years ago at age 53, and she is currently battling her third recurrence of the disease. I met Janet in March when she came to my office on behalf of C3, the Colorectal Cancer Coalition. C3 is a national organization whose mission is to eliminate suffering and death due to colorectal cancer. Janet has joined the coalition in its push for "more research to improve screening, diagnosis, and treatment of colorectal cancer; for policy decisions that make the most effective colorectal cancer prevention and treatment available for all; and for increased awareness that colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable."

Last year, Janet Turcotte brought her fight against colorectal cancer to a new venue, the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course. The Preakness is the second and shortest leg of horse racing's prestigious Triple Crown, being preceded by the Kentucky Derby and followed by the Belmont Stakes. The race was inaugurated in 1873 for 3 year-old thoroughbreds, and its 132nd running will be held this coming Saturday, May 19 in Baltimore, MD. Janet has embroidered the saddlecloths for thoroughbreds at the annual race for over 2 decades. Last May, she added the colorectal cancer "Blue Star of Hope" to the saddlecloths of the 11 contenders. Pimlico Race Course will again support Janet's efforts to fight colorectal cancer this coming weekend. More than 17 million people will view this weekend's race and her efforts will make a true difference in raising awareness. Of the millions of viewers, it's estimated that nearly 1 million of them are at risk for developing the disease. Janet, along with race course officials, hopes that this symbol will encourage early screening and detection of colorectal cancer.

Janet's message is an urgent and important one. In 2006 alone, according to the American Cancer Society, more

than 150,000 new cases were diagnosed and more than 50,000 Americans died from colon cancer. In my own State of Maryland, nearly 1,000 people lost their lives to this disease last year. What many people are not as aware of is that colon, cancer is preventable with appropriate screening, highly detectable, and curable if found early.

This past April, I introduced the Colon Cancer Screen for Life Act of 2007 along with my colleagues, Senator COLLINS, Senator LIEBERMAN, and Senator GRAHAM. This bill would help eliminate the barriers that currently exist under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening and increase the number of seniors who receive this potentially lifesaving benefit. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, as many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented. When colorectal cancer is found early and treated, the 5-year survival rate is greater than 90 percent. With the number of lives at stake, the efforts of Janet Turcotte and other brave survivors deserve special recognition. As Janet has said, "As the thoroughbreds carry this symbol in the race to the finish line, I can only hope that through awareness and prevention, we too can win the race against colorectal cancer." I wish Janet Turcotte all the best on Saturday and ask my colleagues to join me in commending her for this important effort. •

CIVIC EDUCATION IN IDAHO

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the dedicated efforts of the students at Orofino High School who came to Washington to represent Idaho in the finals of the annual We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Program.

The national finals include a hearing which gives the students the opportunity to apply their specialized learning in history, social studies, government, and civics during "testimony," before a panel of judges. As they use their newly gained knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to examine, counter, and defend issues facing America today, students come to appreciate the timeless nature of this great document. This experience gives young people the opportunity to apply civic values to real-life challenges and serves them in whatever they choose to do after they graduate from high school.

Orofino High School was excellently represented by Jennifer Cluck, Justin Haag, Gary Hardin, George Korbel, Nathan LeBaron, Ryan Lundgren, Madison Morrow, Eric Petersen, Jessica Robbeloth, Ashley Roshitsh, Capri Savage, Kelsey Stemrich, and Bret Zender.

Cindy Wilson, the teacher who prepared these exceptional students, deserves recognition for her tremendous efforts. Also worthy of special recognition is Peter Kavouras, the State coordinator, who is among those responsible for implementing the We the People Program in my State.

Idahoans can be proud of the growth of civic virtue in their young people.

As they look beyond themselves to the realm of the public good, Idaho and America will benefit as these individuals develop into responsible, intelligent citizens who practice discernment in judgment in matters of concern to our State and Nation. In the future, these student citizens will be more inclined to exhibit leadership faithful to the ideals upon which our country was built and consonant with the notions of liberty, freedom, justice, and rule of law. •

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the importance of Cannon Air Force Base, NM.

Cannon Air Force Base's primary mission is an F-16 fighter wing able to perform day or night operations. However, the base is currently undergoing an exciting transition to be an Air Force special operations base. I am excited about this mission and the work that will be done in eastern New Mexico, but with every new mission, we must also remember prior missions.

Today I want to commemorate the last mission of the 27th Fighter Wing's 523rd Fighter Squadron, which was flown on May 10, 2007, as the 523rd is being deactivated in preparation for Cannon's new mission.

The 523rd Fighter Squadron has a unique history that dates back to well before their time in New Mexico. It was established on February 1, 1940, as a bombardment squadron with B-18s. The squadron arrived at Cannon in 1959. One of its missions from Cannon came after September 11, 2001, when the 523rd flew 24-hour-per-day operations in defense of our Nation.

This fighter squadron will not be the last to leave Cannon Air Force Base, as other departures are expected in this summer and fall as well as next spring. However, the 523rd Fighter Squadron has long been a vital part of our Nation's defense as well as Cannon's 27th Fighter Wing, and I am proud of all of the men and women who have served in the 523rd.

Today I want to honor them, as well as all of the men and women who have served at Cannon Air Force Base. I am proud New Mexico has been home to so many outstanding individuals, and I look forward to working with more such soldiers as Cannon Air Force Base transitions to an Air Force special operations base in October. •

IN MEMORY OF PHIL B. CURLS, SR.

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the life of Phil Curls, a much-loved member of the Kansas City community. With his passing, Phil has left a legacy of public service that will always be cherished, but Kansas City will not be the same without him.

During his life, Phil was an integral member of the Kansas City community and was considered by many to be a local patriarch. Phil always cared deeply about others, whether it was his family, a political cause, or mentoring young leaders through Freedom, Inc.