

security and our economy, is that using less oil and gas reduces the greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to global climate change. This is why renewable energy incentives are essential.

In addition to many energy provisions that will help put America on track to energy independence, the bill also incorporates about \$27 billion in several vital tax extensions for American families and businesses. In order for our country to remain a leader we must continue to be competitive. This is why the research and development tax credit is essential. As a long time supporter of the R&D tax credit, I am glad to see its inclusion into this legislation. This credit allows for companies to plan long term projects which translate into new technologies and new jobs. In 2005, 856 Maryland firms reported R&D activity to the IRS. My goal is to increase that number. I want more businesses—not only in Maryland, but across the country—participating in research and development for our Nation.

The bill also extends tax provisions for tuition expenses, out-of-pocket expenses for teachers, deductions for State and local sales taxes, and real property tax relief for nonitemizers. It also expands the child tax credit to help more than 13 million children and their families. Specifically, the bill extends the above-the-line deduction up to \$250 for education expenses for all elementary and secondary teachers. It also provides aid for the rising costs of tuition. By providing an above-the-line deduction of \$2,000 or \$4,000, depending on income, for qualified higher education expenses, we help alleviate the burden of rising education costs for American families. The bill also expands the child tax credit to help more than 13 million children and their families. The bill also extends the option for taxpayers to take an itemized deduction for State and local general sales taxes, and provides a 1-year deduction of \$350 for property taxes for nonitemizing taxpayers.

Senator BAUCUS has also included a very important provision that places a 1-year “patch” on the alternative minimum tax, AMT. This provision translates into helping millions of Americans across the country and specifically hundreds of thousands of Marylanders. The bill increases the exemption amounts to \$46,200 for individuals and \$69,950 for married couples. It also allows personal credits to be used against the AMT. This provision is essential, otherwise American families will fall victim to a tax that we never intended them to have to pay.

This bill will provide good jobs here at home, put us on a path toward sustainable energy security, and combat global climate change. I hope we will be allowed to consider this measure. The American people sent us here to do a job: to legislate. If we can't even get to this bill, we are not doing our job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as some of us who are not in this building know, there is a raging storm outside. But it is all over the Eastern part of the country. I got a call from one Senator stuck at a small airport in northern New York. We have calls from all over the country that airplanes are messed up. La Guardia is not going to have anything going until 11 o'clock. When things back up there, it affects the whole country. So we would wind up probably with 20 Senators missing the vote at 5:30.

So I have spoken to the Republican leader. We both think for the safety of Members, if nothing else—which there is plenty else—but for the safety of Members, so they can kind of calm down and not try to do things they should not do at this last hour or so—I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote on cloture, which was scheduled at 5:30 p.m., today, be delayed to occur at 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 17.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll of the Senate.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the order for the remaining debate time.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

FATHER'S DAY

• Mr. BYRD. Madam President, summer will not officially begin until June 21, but already the summer heat and thunderstorms are upon us. Lawns are lush and green, calling for the mower at least every week to maintain their

carefully manicured appearance. Gardens are bursting with blooms that hold the promise of juicy red tomatoes, crisp green peppers, and a never-ending supply of zucchini. Along rural roadsides, great rafts of daylilies growing are beginning to bloom in waves of firecracker orange starbursts above the dense green foliage.

Despite the lawn and garden chores that beg for attention, one day this weekend was reserved for pleasure. Sunday, June 15, was Father's Day. Across the Nation, ties disappeared from store shelves, golf paraphernalia was snapped up, funny cards were bought, and restaurant reservations were made. On Sunday, many fathers were encouraged to take a break, to enjoy a brunch buffet, and to open some of the classic father's day gifts—those ties, golf tees, or cologne. This week, men across the Nation will sport brightly hued new ties and exotic scents that wordlessly label them as proud fathers.

Fatherhood is a wonderful experience but also a nerve-racking one. It is full of high points, from passing on new skills and old interests to a new generation, to witnessing the achievements of our offspring as they achieve success on their own. The sight of large father's hands tenderly cradling a tiny morsel of newborn humanity is enough to melt the hardest heart. But it is also a frightening responsibility, knowing that one's every word and action, for better or for worse, is being absorbed into the creation of a new character. Fathers who praise their child's hard work and perseverance in the face of setbacks, or who demonstrate the high value they place on being a good sport, build strong, resilient children who learn to work well with others throughout their lives. Fathers who lose their tempers at Little League coaches teach their children by example a lesson in rudeness and incivility that likely is very different than the manners that they preach. Clarence Budington Kelland put it best when he said, “He didn't tell my how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.”

Fathers typically spend fewer hours in the company of their children than do their mothers. Therefore, each hour spent together is precious, a fact that can be difficult to remember when fathers come home from work tired, and that lawn still needs to be mowed or those bills need to be paid. But in the years to come, as children grow, it is the time spent playing catch, or building a doghouse, or even watching a football game together, that both father and child will remember and cherish—not that the lawn was properly edged and raked.

I know that the times spent with my Dad that I remember most fondly were just those few quiet minutes that we spent together most days, when I would meet Dad walking home from work. He would share with me a little cake that he had saved from his lunch, and we would talk and walk together.

No matter how tired he was, he was interested in how my day had gone and what I had learned in school. Like many kids, I worked hard at school and at my other activities, from my daily chores to playing my fiddle, to earn the reward of his smile and his words of praise. That ability to inspire a child is the greatest power, and the greatest responsibility, of fatherhood.

The creation of Father's Day is widely credited to Mrs. Sonora Dodd, who, inspired by the idea of Mother's Day, chose to honor the father who raised her and her siblings after their mother died. Her father, William Smart, must have been a great father, to have sparked such a tribute from his daughter. As we honor the contributions to our families made by our fathers, we must also thank Sonora Dodd for her devotion and dedication to her father and all fathers. Mr. Smart did not know the German writer Jean Paul Richter 1762-1825, but he proved the truth behind Richter's observation that "The words that a father speaks to his children in the privacy of home are not heard by the world, but, as in whispering galleries, they are heard clearly at the end and by posterity."

Mr. President, I close with a poem by an anonymous author, titled "A Little Chap Who Follows Me." My Dad knew the truth of this poem, and I learned the truth of it after my own daughters were born, as all fathers do. On Father's Day, as fathers are being honored, it reminds us of the qualities of a father that are most worth honoring.

A LITTLE CHAP WHO FOLLOWS ME

A careful man I want to be;
A little fellow follows me.
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the selfsame way.
I cannot once escape his eyes,
Whate'er he sees me do, he tries.
Like me he says he's going to be;
The little chap who follows me.
He thinks that I'm so very fine,
Believes in every word of mine.
The base in me he must not see;
The little chap who follows me.
I must remember as I go
Through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be;
The little chap who follows me.●

FLAG DAY

● Mr. BYRD. Madam President, in the early history of our Nation, many flags flew over the land that became the United States of America. The British Union Jack, the Spanish flag, the French flag, the Dutch flag, and others identified territory and colonies under the control of those nations. Then, as the colonies and various fighting forces organized themselves to take up the call of the new nation-to-be, many new flags began to fly. Some had pine trees, some had rattlesnakes, and others were simpler designs or slogans, but all sought to establish a separate and many times defiant new identity for the new nation and its people.

In the course of conducting the war, the Continental Congress had many

important and pressing decisions to make. Among them was the choice of a flag under which the armies and colonies could unite, a fitting symbol for the new nation. Accordingly, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution establishing a national flag for the United States. Following a still familiar pattern, a special committee had first been appointed to develop the design for the new flag, and the resolution implemented the committee's recommendation.

The resolution itself was quite simple, and stated only that "the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white upon a blue field, representing a new constellation." The 13 stripes and stars were symbolic of the 13 colonies that had fought for and won the liberty to establish the new nation, of course, but no formal symbolism was assigned to the color choices, which were the same as those found on the British Union Jack. Since 1777, however, many poets and speakers have imbued the colors with symbolism, as did Joseph Rodman Drake, in his poem, "The American Flag":

When Freedom, from her mountain height,
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night,
And set the stars of glory there!
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldrick of the skies,
And striped its pure, celestial white
With streakings of the morning light;
Then, from his mansion in the sun,
She called her eagle-bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land!

Over the years, the flag grew and changed as the United States grew, adding stripes as well as stars before it was recognized that the expansion of the States was greater than the flag's pattern could bear. When Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" after watching the battle of Fort McHenry during the war of 1812, the flag he wrote about had 15 stars and 15 stripes. By 1816, the United States consisted of 19 States, with more to come. So, once again, Congress established a special committee, this one directed by New York's Peter Wendover, to study the problem of the flag's design.

Early in 1818, the congressional committee presented a report. The report recommended a solution proposed by Chester Reid, a naval captain and hero of the war of 1812. His suggestion was that the 13-stripe flag honored the original 13 colonies, and that new States could be honored by the simple addition of stars, to reflect the growth of the new constellation.

On April 4, 1818, President James Monroe signed into law the Flag Act of 1818. Like the original Flag Resolution of 1777, the Flag Act of 1818 was short, consisting of two sections. The first section noted that, as of July 1819, "the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the union have twenty

stars, white in blue field." The second section provided the process for adding stars to the flag upon the entry of each new State to the Union. This elegant solution provided the flag that we hold so dear today.

Our flag, the Stars and Stripes, or "Old Glory," still serves to unite our Nation today. It is a symbol of our Nation that is instantly recognizable around the world. It is both commonplace, seen daily in front of post offices, government buildings and schools, and yet hallowed, placed with solemn care over the coffin of a veteran or flying at half mast to mark a tragedy. It can also be a symbol of patriotic pride, carried proudly by Olympic athletes as it will be in Beijing this August, or streaming in the wind behind a mighty warship. And who can forget the sudden, spontaneous, outbreak of U.S. flags that erupted across the Nation in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy? That act captured the essence of our Nation and our flag—a nation defiant, strong, and united in the face of adversity.

On Saturday, many Americans braved the scorching heat and the violent weather and floods that have caused so much misery in recent days, and observed Flag Day by displaying the flag at their home or their workplace.

Mr. President, I close with one of my favorite poems about the flag. It is titled "Hats Off!" by Henry Holcomb Bennett.

HATS OFF!

Hats off!
Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
A flash of color beneath the sky:
Hats off!
The flag is passing by!
Blue and crimson and white it shines,
Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.
Hats off!
The colors before us fly;
But more than the flag is passing by.
Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
Fought to make and to save the State:
Weary marches and sinking ships;
Cheers of victory on dying lips;
Days of plenty and years of peace;
March of a strong land's swift increase;
Equal justice, right and law,
Stately honor and reverend awe;
Sign of a nation, great and strong
To ward her people from foreign wrong:
Pride and glory and honor, all
Live in the colors to stand or fall.
Hats off!
Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;
And loyal hearts are beating high:
Hats off!
The flag is passing by!●

ARREST OF BAHÁ'Í LEADERS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I wish to call attention to the arrest of seven Bahá'í leaders in Iran earlier this month.

On May 14, six Iranian Bahá'í leaders—Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz