

Mr. REID. Absolutely true.

Mrs. MURRAY. Would the majority leader yield for a question? I would say to the majority leader, since I am chairman of transportation appropriations, I have been warning of this to come for some time. It is my understanding that the amendment you are asking unanimous consent for takes \$8 billion out of the general fund and puts it back in the trust fund, which is exactly what happened back in 1998, in reverse.

Taxpayers pay their gas tax into the trust fund, expect it to go for transportation projects. In 1998, we took \$8 billion of that money that they expected to go into transportation funding and put it in the general fund.

What you are asking to do tonight is simply to take that \$8 billion back and put it exactly where taxpayers expected it to go originally, which was to transportation funds; is that not correct?

Mr. REID. The Senator from Washington is exactly correct.

Mrs. MURRAY. I did not talk to the Secretary of Transportation. I did see their press release that they now want this money to come out. It is my understanding that if we do not take this action, as the House has done, that beginning this Thursday, and shortly thereafter, States will not get their transportation dollars and will therefore have to begin to lay off workers at construction projects and essentially halt many of the construction projects in the country, correct?

Mr. REID. When I talked to her, I believe last Friday, she indicated to me that she was going to have to make those difficult decisions. Then I also read her press release later, after she had been able, I guess, to put more numbers in the paper, and that is what I read, which is an elaboration of what she told me.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I share the concern of the majority leader.

I am deeply concerned that several members of the Republican Party have said no to this. At a time when our economy is in real trouble, when construction projects are not only providing critical dollars but completing important transportation work across the country, that we would allow those projects to be halted and workers to be laid off, adding to the economic woes of the country at this time, is simply not a smart move. I hope we see that decision reconsidered on the other side in the next 24 hours.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his leadership. I am not surprised that the Transportation Secretary for the Bush administration would call the majority leader and ask this be done. She came to us today. She stood over that bridge the day after it happened. When I was listening to my friend from New Hampshire talk about the fact that we need

to continue funding our soldiers, of course, we need to do that. But for me, this is an issue of priorities. Why this administration would decide to spend \$10 billion a month in Iraq month after month after month, so that this war has gone on longer than World War II, while we have bridges collapsing, while we have levees falling apart, defies reality.

When I heard the Senator from New Hampshire talk about soldiers on the frontline, which this Congress has been more supportive of than any other Congress for continuing that funding, for those people on the bridge that day in Minnesota, they were on the frontline. Those people who plummeted into that cold water that day were on the frontline. People died at that bridge. The NTSB has not concluded its investigation of the cause for the bridge collapse, but what we do know is, if it had been fixed earlier, if there had been appropriate funds all over this country for bridge and levee repairs, we may not have experienced some of the disasters we have seen. I view this not only as fixing a bridge that, by the way, is six blocks from my house—I drive over it every day with my daughter in the back seat, an eight-lane bridge that fell into the Mississippi River—it is also about going into the next century's transportation system.

If we are going to move to the next century in this economy, if we are going to start talking about transportation and wind and solar and doing things with biofuels and building our own energy future, we cannot be stuck in the last century's transportation system. As we face difficult economic times and look at the number in terms of what we can generate in jobs with transportation funding, it is a winner. I want to have an infrastructure plan and a stimulus package that lasts long after the rebate checks are cashed, that is looking to the future with infrastructure funding.

When Dwight D. Eisenhower created the interstate highway system, when President Roosevelt did the rural electrification system, they saw it as not only moving the economy forward, they saw it as a way to generate jobs. That is what this is about.

It is shortsighted, indeed, and shows a lack of understanding of the country's priorities to say that we should let transportation funding go down the pot while we are constructing bridges in Iraq and as bridges in Minnesota are falling apart.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

## RECOGNIZING LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the musical group Los Tigres del Norte for its contribution to the greater Las Vegas community and especially for its commitment to the Silver State's vibrant Hispanic community. As we commemorate the importance of the Hispanic community in Nevada and around the country during Hispanic Heritage month, I find it fitting to recognize the members of Los Tigres del Norte for their talent and dedication.

Just last year, this premier musical group was chosen by a committee comprising Las Vegas community and business leaders to join individuals such as my good friend, Wayne Newton, Vicente Fernandez, and other notable celebrities who have made a positive impact on Clark County. Like the Walk of Stars honorees before them, Los Tigres del Norte have added to the worldwide prominence of Las Vegas. These talented artists have also been an encouraging and supportive voice for the Silver State's hardworking Hispanic community.

Their Grammy and Latin Grammy winning music not only entertains, but it sends a clear message that we all have a commitment to making a lasting impact on our community, regardless of the color of our skin or our country of origin. It also tells stories of those individuals who often are not able to share their concerns and challenges. Los Tigres del Norte truly are a voice of the unheard. They confront the issues of our day and use their music as a medium to provide inspiration and hope.

Today I join my colleagues in the Silver State in recognizing Los Tigres del Norte for all they have brought to Nevada and their dedication to serving as a positive voice for our vibrant Hispanic community. Their addition to the Las Vegas Walk of Stars was a much deserved recognition of their almost 40-year-long musical career and their success in bringing to light the challenges facing America's Hispanic communities. As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I offer my congratulations to Los Tigres del Norte—an accomplished group of musicians of whom all Nevadans can be proud.

## TRIBUTE TO TRILBY WHOBREY BALL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine who has left behind her beloved

Commonwealth stronger than when she found it. Mrs. Trilby Whobrey Ball was 80 years old when she passed away in her Owensboro, KY, home this August 26.

Born in the Kentucky town of Semiway, in McLean County, Tribby—or Trib, to her friends—graduated from Calhoun High School in 1946. She married her husband, Dr. Coy “Eddie” Ball, in 1947 when they both were attending Western Kentucky University. The Balls moved to Owensboro in 1964, where they would stay until this day.

Trib became well known to her neighbors and friends as she became active in her community. She was a member of the Daviess County Medical Auxiliary/Alliance since 1964 and served on the boards of several important charitable causes, including the Ellis Park Foundation, the Alma Randolph Foundation and the H.L. Neblett Center.

In fact, I first became aware of the H.L. Neblett Center through Trib. The old building she showed me wasn’t good enough, and I was able to appropriate funds to construct a new H.L. Neblett Center for the community to focus on mentoring children and their families. That is directly due to Trib, and a room in the new building is appropriately named after her.

Since 2005, she was a member of the Kentucky State Legislative Ethics Commission. She joined Owensboro’s First Baptist Church and became an integral member of the New Ladies Sunday school class, a group of fast friends who were very supportive of the Ball family during Trib’s final years.

Trib also became involved in local politics and devoted a lot of time to serving her community and her country that way. Back in the days when Kentucky was very much dominated by one political party, she stood up for a competitive two-party system. She became active in the Republican Party of Daviess County and of Kentucky, and was chairperson of the 21-county Second District from 1968 to 1972. She co-chaired the Daviess County gubernatorial campaign for Kentucky Governor Louie B. Nunn.

Trib served on the party’s State Central Committee for more than 20 years, and represented Kentucky as either a delegate or a guest at the Republican National Convention three times. In fact, in my role as its temporary chairman, I selected her to be my honorary escort for the 2008 Republican Convention, just held last week. Sadly, she left us before that date, but I decided to let her appointment stand as I know Trib would have loved to be with us in St. Paul, MN.

May I add, that Trib was also a longtime, steadfast supporter of my own campaigns, and I remember her eagerness to help and to volunteer very well. Trib was very helpful to me back when no one knew who I was or if I could win a statewide election. I’m gratified that 24 years after the fact, she told a reporter at a Lincoln Day luncheon this

year that my first Senate race in 1984 was one of the sweetest campaigns she ever worked on. It was made all the sweeter by her presence.

Friends and family members will remember Trib’s love of boating, basketball and bluegrass music when they think of her long, well-lived life. She leaves behind her husband of nearly 61 years, Eddie; their two children, Bonnie Harris and her husband Jay as well as David Ball and his wife Christy; her grandchildren, Jack, Cal and Keeley Harris; her sister, Sylvia Gross; several nieces and nephews; and many other beloved family members.

Mrs. Trilby Whobrey Ball was a very special woman and one of Kentucky’s finest citizens. I extend my deepest sympathies to her family. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT BRIAN K. MILLER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SGT Brian K. Miller from Pendleton, IN. Brian was 37 years old when he lost his life on August 2, 2008, in Abd Allah, Iraq, from injuries sustained when his vehicle overturned. He was a member of D Company, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Division, 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard of Huntington, IN.

Today, I join Brian’s family and friends in mourning his death. Brian will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother, friend, and soldier. He is survived by his wife, Becky Miller; his children, Nikki and Austin Miller; his mother, Donna Cook; his sister, Tammy Osalear; and his brother, Kevin Miller. Brian was preceded in death by his father, Glen Miller; and his brother, Kenny Miller.

A lifelong Hoosier, Brian was born in Indianapolis, IN, and graduated from Pendleton Heights High School in 1990. Driven to public service, he joined the Indiana Army National Guard as a metal worker in 1989, while still in high school. Brian was assigned to Company D (HM), 738th Maintenance Battalion in Indianapolis and later moved to 1413th Engineer Detachment in Edinburg, Indiana, where he was a vehicle mechanic and a welder. He later served time with Company C (HM), 38th Main Support Battalion as a welder and vehicle mechanic.

For 19 years, Brian devoted himself to national service through the Indiana National Guard. He assisted in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in the Mississippi Valley and in security for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. In March, Brian was deployed to Iraq, serving as a truck commander for more than 20 combat logistics patrols and working full-time as a technician with the Indiana Army National Guard. His comrades remember Brian as a respected leader who brought both professionalism and humor to his service, and as a man who loved his family. For his exceptional service and sacrifice,

Brian was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 5 Oak Leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Brian set. Today and always, Brian will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln’s words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at Gettysburg:

We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as we can take some measure of solace in knowing that Brian’s heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Brian K. Miller in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this struggle in which we are engaged, and the immeasurable pain that comes with so great a loss, I pray that Brian’s family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said:

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Brian.

SERGEANT GARY M. HENRY

Mr. President, I also rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SGT Gary M. Henry from Indianapolis, IN. Gary was 34 years old when he lost his life on August 4, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained from a roadside bomb that hit his vehicle. He was a member of the 38th Military Police Company, 38th Infantry Division, Army National Guard in Danville, IN.

Today, I join Gary’s family and friends in mourning his death. Gary will forever be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, son, brother, friend, and soldier. He is survived by his wife, Regina Lynn; his children, Shelby Brooke, Gavin Michael, and Ashtyn Taylor; his father, Gary Henry; his mother and step-father, Marajo and Rick Castor; his sister, Jennifer Clark; his step-sister, Stevie Ewing; his step-brother, Jon Castor; and his grandparents, Margaret Hawkins, Orville Henry, and Pat Henry.