

too late. This is simply irresponsible and damaging for those veterans who need these devices.

The Democrat agenda and this bill clearly include more taxes on Americans. The new taxes may be hidden but they are there. It is disingenuous. It is costly. This bill is expected to cost \$2.5 trillion on top of our already exploding debt. This bill is exactly what America does not need, and that is why Americans oppose it. It is common sense.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to express my concerns about the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Act which is currently pending before the Senate. I was one of the seven Members of the Senate to vote against our version of this bill in October and I regret that I must vote against it once again. This time it was also held to a time when they thought Christmas would force fast action even on things that don't belong on a defense bill that should have been last October.

Congress has gotten into a bad habit of using our military funding bills as "must pass" legislation to get approval for other unrelated items. This year, the items are a number of extensions on legislation we were not able to finish as part of our regular business. The majority leadership wouldn't allow us to work together to get our job done so some are using a troop bill as cover. There are 13 sections attached to this bill that have nothing to do with our troops.

Now folks might wonder why Congress attaches unrelated items to military bills. Because doing what is right is a difficult stand to take and say no to military funding. The majority party is hoping that enough Senators will want to avoid voting against military funding and be willing to take the bad or the unknown with the good.

We are also now considering this defense bill not as a conference report that has gone through our regular process, but as a message between the House and Senate in order to avoid normal Senate procedures. The Senate has our rules and procedures for a reason. Our procedures are designed to allow Senators the opportunity to fully consider what legislation does and does not do. When Senate leaders avoid Senate rules and procedures, they dodge their responsibility to those who elected us.

I want to make very clear my strong support for the members of our Armed Forces and the vital work they are doing around the world every day. My State of Wyoming currently has about 900 soldiers deployed with our National Guard in Iraq and Kuwait our largest deployment ever.

I have the greatest admiration for all of them for their commitment to preserving our freedoms and maintaining our national security. They are all true heroes and they are the ones who are doing the heavy lifting and making great sacrifices in our country's name so that we might continue to be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I am extremely disappointed that our troops must continue to pay the price for political posturing in a must-pass military funding bill loaded with unrelated and unquestioned provisions. Do our troops at home and deployed need the funding for the programs in this legislation? Do they deserve better from their elected congressional representation than being used as cover to enact unrelated legislation? The answer is yes.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I support the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2010.

This legislation provides the funding our men and women in uniform need to continue their efforts on behalf of our Nation. The \$128.3 billion included in this bill to fund operations in Iraq and Afghanistan is an important statement of support for the troops who are serving so bravely so far from home.

This bill also includes important measures that will help Michigan and other states weather the economic strain they now face.

Most important of these are provisions that will extend unemployment benefits and Federal assistance to offset the costs of health insurance for those who have lost their jobs. Existing unemployment benefits are expected to expire at the end of this year. I am pleased that under this bill, benefits will be extended to February 28, 2010, making many Michiganders and other Americans eligible for expanded benefits that provide more support, and for a longer duration. This is crucial assistance to families coping with the devastation of job loss.

In addition, the bill extends from nine to 15 months the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's assistance to workers who have involuntarily lost their jobs to pay for health coverage under COBRA. That assistance pays up to 65 percent of workers' COBRA premiums. Under current law, workers who lose their jobs after December 31 would not be eligible for this assistance, but the bill extends that deadline to February 28, 2010, ensuring that thousands of Americans will not have to deal with the loss of health care at the same time they face the loss of a job.

The legislation also would continue improvements in Small Business Administration loan programs, improvements enacted in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to make SBA loan guarantee programs more attractive to borrowers and lenders. Through February 28, 2010, the SBA would be able to continue offering guarantees up to 90 percent of loan amounts, and to continue waiving or reducing loan fees. Access to capital is among the biggest factors keeping companies from hiring, and continuing these measures is an important step toward boosting employment.

This bill also includes provisions to ensure that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, has the funding required to meet increas-

ing demand, and to provide States with funding to process the growing number of applications for the program more quickly. And it will maintain 2009 poverty guidelines for Health and Human Services programs through February 28, 2010, preventing a loss of eligibility for many recipients of means-tested programs, including Medicaid, SNAP and child nutrition programs. These provisions will prevent the opening of holes in our social safety net just as Americans are most in need of support.

These provisions are much needed to help blunt the impact of recession on America's workers as we work toward a brighter economic future.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. President, I commend and congratulate the Northwest Missouri State University Football team on their most recent victory in the NCAA Division II Championship this past weekend. Their journey to this game and their performance in it testifies to their dedication and perseverance.

The Bearcat football team has seen much success and disappointment over the past four seasons. Having reached the championship contest the previous 4 years only to fall short in the title game, the Bearcats, led by Coach Mel Tjeerdsma, would not be denied victory in this fifth straight championship contest.

By a score of 30-23 over the Grand Valley State Lakers, a formidable opponent, the Northwest Missouri State Bearcats wiped away their heartbreak from the past with their win.

The victory comes on the 10th anniversary of their last national championship, and once again brings great pride to their football program, students, faculty, their home city of Maryville, and the entire State of Missouri. The NWMSU Bearcats have now won three national championships since 1998, proving to be one of the best programs in Division II football.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Coach Tjeerdsma and his entire coaching staff, current students, faculty and alumni, and most all the football players who never gave up—especially the senior class who have gone through the challenges of the past 4 years. They proved that with hard work and dedication any goal is attainable.

Congratulations to the Northwest Missouri State University Bearcats on

their third Division II football National Championship. We look forward to more good things to come from this university and this football program.

COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly as the Copenhagen conference on climate change approaches its final hours.

Earlier this week, Secretary of State Clinton announced on behalf of the United States the intention to work with other governments to raise \$100 billion in long-term financing by 2020 to help developing countries address global climate change. This is an important commitment and an essential part of any comprehensive approach to global warming. If the United States is to play a leading role in addressing climate change, we must provide not only strong policies and resources here at home in our factories and on our farms, but also help poor countries adapt to rising sea levels and temperatures which affect agricultural productivity, and to reduce their own emissions of the greenhouse gases that affect every American as well as billions of others across the globe.

The United States has been historically the major emitter of CO₂, and we clearly have a responsibility to help address this global problem. Those who suggest otherwise ignore history. But this is a win-win situation: By exporting U.S. clean energy technology and expertise, we will also generate jobs here at home, help other countries reduce their emissions in a transparent, verifiable and accountable manner, and help to avoid the worst effects of global warming.

Other nations, particularly China and India, are also major contributors to global warming. The administration is right to insist that they be part of the solution and agree to verifiable limits on their own greenhouse gas emissions. It is encouraging that China is already a major investor in renewable energy technology, but at the same time is building coal-fired powerplants at an alarming rate.

For the past 8 years, the policy of the Bush administration was to ignore this problem. In fact it was worse than that, as the last administration actively sought to discredit the scientific evidence and oppose any efforts both here and abroad to address global warming with anything more than lip service.

Fortunately, times have changed. We have a President and a Congress that are committed to developing a strategy to invest in clean energy, energy efficiency and new high-tech infrastructure that will bring us to long-sought goals: energy independence, good jobs for our citizens, and a healthy planet for our children and grandchildren. The recently passed fiscal year 2010 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act

provides more than \$1.2 billion for climate change and environment programs overseas. This is a significant increase over last year. From exports of renewable energy technology to programs to protect tropical forests, these funds will play a part in our bilateral and multilateral efforts to work collectively with other countries.

This and Secretary Clinton's announcement are important steps, but the relentless burning of fossil fuels and destruction of the world's remaining forests call for nothing less than unprecedented commitments to reverse these trends. There is already speculation that Copenhagen will fall far short of what is needed. I am hopeful that before the conference concludes the Obama administration will demonstrate further that the U.S. is going to do what is necessary so future generations will not look back and ask why we failed when faced with this great challenge.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAICIAE L. PAULEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of PFC Jaiciae L. Pauley. Jaiciae was 29 years old when he lost his life on December 11, 2009, in Kirkuk, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. Jaiciae died supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Today, I join Jaiciae's family and friends in mourning his death. Jaiciae will forever be remembered as a loving son and a friend to many. Jaiciae is survived by his parents, Mr. Roger D. Pauley of Muncie, IN; his mother, Ms. Caitlin Ramshaw of Fort Pierce, FL; and a community of his family and friends.

Jaiciae was an ambulance aide and driver. He joined the Army in 2008, and this was his first deployment.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in Jaiciae's service as a soldier and in his life as a son and friend. Today and always, he will be remembered by family, friends and fellow Hoosiers as an American hero, and we cherish the memory of his service and his life.

As I search for words to do justice to this 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 search for some measure of solace in knowing that Jaiciae's sacrifice and memory will outlive the record of the words spoken here.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jaiciae L. Pauley in the RECORD of

the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and to freedom, democracy and peace. I pray that Jaiciae'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 Jaiciae.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker reappoints to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission the following private citizens: Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew of Washington, DC, and Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of Great Falls, Virginia.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4314. An act to permit continued financing of Government operations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4314. An act to permit continued financing of Government operations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4098. A communication from the Chief of Research and Analysis, Food and Nutrition Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "School Food Safety Program Based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Principles" (RIN0584-AD65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4099. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department