

That is all you have to do. You earned it, you absolutely earned it, just ask for it.

I encourage people who are not sure to call my office or call the offices of your Senators or your Congress men and women around the country.

The Presiding Officer from Illinois has been very active in this, and his office is available also to make sure in his State that these families who work hard, play by the rules—maybe they are making \$20,000 \$30,000, \$40,000 a year; they are struggling—can get several thousand dollars tax credit, money in their pocket as they work to pursue the American dream.

We have seen what the earned-income tax credit can do for working families. In Hamilton County, southwest Ohio, the Cincinnati area, a woman and her three children became homeless after she lost her job. But because of her work, the wages she earned, she qualified for the earned-income tax credit. Every dime of her \$2,000 earned-income tax credit went back into her pocket to help her overcome the daunting economic challenges she faced—\$2,000 which went, for somebody at that income level, so very far.

An elderly couple was grateful they qualified for the earned-income tax credit. They used the \$3,700 to cover a tragic occurrence, a grandchild's funeral expenses, expenses otherwise beyond their reach.

There are hundreds of thousands of stories like this across Ohio and across our Nation. I encourage Ohioans in Ashtabula and Bellaire and Zainsville and Springfield and Xenia who may be eligible for the earned-income tax credit to visit the IRS tax site at www.irs.gov or call 1-800-906-9887 and find a local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center. Remember, if you think you might be eligible for the earned-income tax credit, it is a tax credit that, if you are working and you are working hard and playing by the rules and you are not making a lot of money—not just minimum wage, but if you are not making more than \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year, even up to \$48,000 year—you should call that number or visit the Web site, irs.gov. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center, or VITA, is a vital and free resource for working families where accountants and tax experts volunteer their time to help you file your taxes so you can receive the EITC.

In Lorain, OH, in my home county, where President Obama visited just 10 days ago, in a program which we began when I was a Member of Congress, a couple visited a free tax preparation center after trying to do their taxes on their own. They found help; they qualified for the EITC. They received a refund of \$5,000, which helped replace the roof of their house which required replacement.

To receive EITC, all you have to do is file your taxes. That is it. You earned it, just ask for it. Spread the word, Mr.

President, and all of my colleagues and anyone listening—spread the word about the earned-income tax credit. It is a bridge out of poverty that serves millions of families across Ohio and across the Nation. Remember, you earned it.

HEROIC ACTIONS OF NEVADA'S FEDERAL AGENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the heroic actions of eight Federal agents at the Lloyd D. George Federal District Courthouse in Las Vegas, NV.

On January 4, 2010, an armed man entered the Lloyd D. George Federal District Courthouse and opened fire at the Federal agents securing entrance to the building. The Federal agents fought to ensure the safety of the employees, occupants, and visitors of the courthouse. On that day, Stanley Cooper gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Stanley Cooper, 72, was a Court Security Officer at the courthouse. Stanley was born in Tulsa, OK, where he began his career in public service in 1960. After four years, Stanley moved to Las Vegas, NV, to serve in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Stanley retired as a sergeant after 26 years with the LVMPD. Soon after, he began work as a court security officer with the U.S. Marshals Service. He was a quiet man whose passion and dedication for serving the people of his community was only surmounted by his love for his family. Stanley Cooper died valiantly in the line of duty to protect the lives of those around him. I offer my most heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of Stanley Cooper.

Alongside Stanley Cooper were Deputy U.S. Marshal Richard Gardner, U.S. Marshal Dave Del Berti, Court Security Officer Jack Eklund, Court Security Officer Arthur Gennaro, Court Security Officer Michael Gerrity III, Court Security Officer William Sherman, and Detention Officer Justin Cord. Richard Gardner, 48, was treated and released for injuries he sustained during the shooting. Richard serves as Deputy U.S. Marshal at the Lloyd D. George Federal District Courthouse. These eight brave men pursued the gunman as he fled across the street to the Historic Fifth Street School, where he was later subdued.

Law enforcement personnel put their lives at risk every day to protect our communities, and we should all be grateful for their sacrifices. On the morning of January 4, these eight men showed the bravery, sense of duty, and valor of true heroes. Selflessly, they put themselves in harm's way to subdue the gunman, preventing harm to innocent bystanders.

I am humbled today to honor these eight men for their extraordinary bravery, dedicated service to the citizens of the great State of Nevada, and the heroic measures they took to save the lives of others. My thoughts and pray-

ers are with those affected by this tragedy. As we grieve, may all of us find strength in the courage and compassion shown by the federal agents during this tremendously difficult time.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to the brave men who literally fought off evil on January 4, 2010, at the Lloyd D. George Federal Building in Las Vegas, NV. On that tragic day, an armed assailant entered the lobby of the courthouse with clear objectives, to kill as many innocent people as he possibly could. Court Security Officer Stanley Cooper went to work that day with the same vision and determination he had every day; that was to keep the employees and visitors to the Federal building safe as they went about their lives. Tragically, Stan was fatally wounded by the gunman as he faithfully stood his watch at the security check point that morning.

Stanley Cooper was a quiet and gentle man who dedicated his life to the service and protection of others. He retired after 26 years as an officer with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and then chose a life of service again as a court security officer. Stan will always be remembered as a hero, not only because he gave his life in that one terrible moment on January 4 but also because he gave his life every day in the selfless act of serving others.

The other court security officers on duty that day, along with members of the U.S. Marshals Service and a detention officer, acted swiftly and bravely to subdue the gunman and protect the countless innocent lives that were in harm's way. Deputy U.S. Marshal Richard J. "Joe" Gardner was wounded in the ensuing battle as he and the other officers valiantly fought off the deadly attack.

It is with utmost gratitude that I take a moment to remember and commend the life of a true hero, Officer Stanley Cooper, and to thank Deputy U.S. Marshal Joe Gardner, the court security officers, the U.S. deputy marshals, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officers, and all law enforcement officers who responded to the heinous assault at the Lloyd D. George Federal Building on January 4, 2010, for their brave and courageous actions. Stan and the other officers answered the call of duty that day without concern for themselves or their own safety. Their sacrifice and courage will not be forgotten.

May God grant Stan's beloved family and friends peace and comfort in this time of loss, and may He continue to protect all the men and women in law enforcement who selflessly serve and protect others.

REMEMBERING ROGELIO DARIAS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the passing of one of Nevada's finest entertainers, Rogelio Darias. Known in Las Vegas and

throughout the world as simply the "The Bongo King," Rogelio brought smiles to all those within earshot with his rhythmic talents. Mr. Darias passed away on January 20, 2010, at the age of 93.

Born in Santa Clara, Cuba, Rogelio first began his storied career as a percussionist in a band with his siblings, Pedro and Diego, at the tender age of eight. Their musical group, known as the "Hermanos Darias" quickly garnered the attention of music producers throughout Cuba, and it was not long before young Rogelio was swept away to the big city of Havana, where he pursued further his musical career. He soon began working with Havana's most well-known musicians, such as Maestro Ernesto Lecuona and Chiquito Orefiche, and performing both on the radio station Cadena Azul Chain and at the National Theater.

Rogelio's mastery of the his craft became world famous, and before long he was traveling to Europe, Asia, and Africa, spreading his "bongo gospel" to people of all races, nationalities, and creeds. Notwithstanding his world-wide fame, Mr. Darias continually sought to better himself as a musician. He spent several months living in the Africa's Belgian Congo, where he studied the authentic African rhythms created by the local indigenous population. Years later he also worked alongside Polynesian musicians in Hawaii, as well as Japanese musicians in Tokyo. His love of any and all music, and insatiable appetite for knowledge undoubtedly contributed to Mr. Darias' seemingly endless musical talents and knowledge.

By the 1960s, the Bongo King had arrived in Las Vegas, one of the world's foremost performing arts centers. During his time in Las Vegas, Rogelio established himself as one of the most sought-after musical collaborators in the industry. His incredible beats were in high demand by stars such as Liberace and Charo, with both of whom he toured. Hollywood also came calling, and as a result Rogelio performed for both Johnny Carson and Merv Griffin and their respective hit shows.

In spite of his worldwide fame and incredible accomplishments, Rogelio Darias remained a loyal friend and family member to those who knew him best. His passing has come as a great tragedy to all those people who depended on him for a laugh and a smile. Las Vegas lost a monumental entertainer in the passing of Rogelio Darias. The Bongo King will be deeply missed by all of Las Vegas, and countless music-lovers throughout the world.

BUDGET DEFICITS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I recommend to my colleagues a Robert Robb column, published in the Arizona Republic, February 3, 2010.

In it, Robb points to the massive deficits in President Obama's budget and argues that the administration has no grounds on which to pass the blame.

He explains that the deficits President Obama recommends from 2011 on are entirely his own, driven by vast new spending, and that they are far higher than historical deficits.

Robb writes that, even though President Obama's budget projects that the recession will be over by 2011, he proposes that Federal spending continue at nearly 24 percent of gross domestic product through 2020, far beyond the historical average of around 20.5 percent.

He also points out an enormous increase in the debt as a share of GDP:

After the World War II debt was reduced, accumulated federal debt never exceeded 50 percent of GDP until 2009, when it reached 53 percent. Under Obama's recommendations it would grow to 77 percent by 2020.

Robb recommends returning spending to its historical average as a means of getting the deficit under control.

I ask unanimous consent to have this article be printed in the RECORD and urge my colleagues to consider the facts and arguments contained in it.

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

[From the Arizona Republic, Feb. 3, 2010]

OBAMA DEFICITS NOT BUSH'S FAULT

(By Robert Robb, Columnist)

The Obama administration undoubtedly wants the budget message to be all the good things it wants to do for the American people, except those who make the mistake of earning too much money.

There's a second stimulus, rechristened a jobs program. Health care reform, repositioned as an attack on the insurance industry's dirty deeds. New middle-class tax breaks. More spending on education. Lots more spending on infrastructure and clean energy.

The budget is intended to position the Democratic Party as the friend of the middle-class. But the message is blotted out by all the red ink.

Obama likes to depict himself as a deficit victim. He inherited a huge deficit and a deep recession. Not his fault.

Certainly the Republicans during the Bush years were fiscally irresponsible. But within historical bounds. The deficits in Obama's budget are beyond historical bounds and are his alone.

Even with Bush's tax cuts, federal revenues in 2007 were at the average as a percentage of GDP, 18.5 percent, going back to 1960. The deficit was just 1.2 percent of GDP, historically on the low side. Accumulated federal debt was 36 percent of GDP.

Then the recession hit. From 2008 to 2009, federal spending increased 18 percent. This was a budget year that straddled the Bush and Obama presidencies. But the spending increase was driven by anti-recession measures, predominately the Bush stimulus and bailouts.

Obama supported these measures. In fact, his complaint about the Bush stimulus was that it was too small.

This raises a question of political ontology: If Obama agreed with Bush, is it still just Bush's fault?

The Bush tax cuts expire this year. Except for the legacy costs of the Iraq war, Obama is free to recommend changing anything Bush did. The deficits he recommends from 2011 on are purely his own.

And they are massive, and driven by spending.

Obama purposes that the federal government spend over 25 percent of GDP in 2011, compared to a historical average of around 20.5 percent. He justifies this as necessary to continue to fight the recession.

Obama, however, projects that the recession will be fully over in 2011 and robust growth under way. Yet he proposes that federal spending continue to be nearly 24 percent of GDP through 2020.

In other words, rather than wind down the additional recession spending after recovery, Obama is proposing that it simply become a new, higher base.

After the World War II debt was reduced, accumulated federal debt never exceeded 50 percent of GDP until 2009, when it reached 53 percent. Under Obama's recommendations it would grow to 77 percent by 2020.

If Obama were to recommend a path to return spending to its historical share of economic output, in 2020 the deficit would be just \$255 billion, about what the federal government spends each year on large capital projects, and just 1 percent of GDP. In other words, not a problem. And federal spending would have still increased by more than 4 percent a year since 2008.

Instead, Obama recommends a 2020 deficit of over \$1 trillion and a troubling 4.2 percent of GDP.

Rather than recommend deficit reducing measures himself, Obama wants to turn the job over to a bipartisan commission. Republicans suspect a rat, an attempt to get them to support even larger tax increases than Obama is already proposing.

They are right. Under Obama's budget, revenues are already projected to be 19.6 percent of GDP, much higher than the historical average. Yet he still proposes trillion dollar deficits.

The problem is spending. Obama wants to do too much of it.

FREE GUN LOCKS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Wayne County Sheriff's Office on its newly announced initiative to provide gun trigger locks free of charge to firearm owners in the Metro Detroit area. Partnering with local religious leaders and Project Child Safe, an organization that provides gun locks to law enforcement agencies, the Sheriff's Office seeks to reduce the number of firearm-related accidents that occur in the home.

Every year, far too many children get access to guns in homes across the United States, often with fatal consequences. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2006, 154 children and teens died as a result of unintentional shootings, and in 2008, 3,997 children and teens were injured by a firearm unintentionally. It is imperative that gun owners across the country safely store their weapons out of the reach of children to prevent these tragic accidents. Safe storage includes keeping guns unloaded, using trigger locks, storing guns in a locked, safe place away from children, and storing ammunition in a separate, locked place.

Providing gun owners with trigger locks and educating them on gun safety and storage has become even more important with the recent increase in