

good stewards of the planet. Why don't we have that debate on the floor of this Senate before we send this bill back to the House?

Another colleague has amendments that say: OK, we are going to vote on a trillion-dollar stimulus package that creates a trillion-dollar debt. Shouldn't we tie it to some kind of trigger for fiscal responsibility that will kick in maybe 24 months out so we do not head recklessly down a path into extraordinary debt that deeply damages our Nation even further?

So fiscal responsibility—tie some fiscal responsibility measures to this package. That is a good idea. I applaud my colleague from Oregon who has raised that idea, Senator WYDEN, who has done a lot of work on how we can create fiscal responsibility tied to a package going through now. It will say something to the international financiers that this short-term deficit spending is going to be marked by substantial fiscal discipline, and that in itself may serve other things, such as keeping the interest rate low that we pay, so fewer of our dollars go out in interest.

These ideas, these amendments deserve a debate on this major decision facing this body over the next few days.

I will close by saying that I am deeply concerned—deeply concerned—about the deficit and the debt. I am deeply concerned about the Bush tax breaks that have done so much damage and are being extended into the next decade. I am deeply concerned about the poor design of the stimulus, deeply concerned about Social Security being made dependent upon borrowing from China, deeply concerned that this package is being put together and may not have the opportunity to have the debate over elements that should be debated because if they do not stand up on the floor of the Senate in debate, they do not belong in this package.

So with that, I say to our friends across the Nation, you have a few days only to weigh in. Please do weigh in. Let us hear your voice. Let us consider your views. And let us fully deliberate on this package before we pass it.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

BYRON L. DORGAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in honoring the service of Senator BYRON DORGAN. Over his nearly 30 years in Congress, Senator DORGAN has been a strong and dedicated advocate for the people of the State of North Dakota.

Senator DORGAN's long career in public service began in 1969 when he was appointed North Dakota State Tax Commissioner. Assuming this position at the age of only 26, Senator DORGAN became the youngest constitutional officer in North Dakota's history.

Since 1980, Senator DORGAN has been a voice for the people of North Dakota

in Washington, DC. After serving six terms in the House of Representatives, he was first elected to the Senate in 1992.

It is clear that Senator DORGAN's upbringing in the small town of Regent, ND, has shaped his tenure in Congress. Throughout his years in Congress, Senator DORGAN has been a formidable advocate for rural America and the family farmers of his state. He led the effort to make permanent the disaster aid program, which provides an essential safety-net for farmers and ranchers affected by severe weather, in the 2008 farm bill.

Senator DORGAN also has been a great advocate for North Dakota's energy sector. As the country moves toward renewable and domestic energy sources, he has worked to put his state at the forefront of the industry.

After so many years of public service for the people of North Dakota, Senator DORGAN's time in the Senate is coming to a close. I am proud to have served with him, and I thank him for his service in the Senate. I wish Senator DORGAN and his family the best in the next chapters in their lives.

ROBERT F. BENNETT

Mr. President, I also join my colleagues in recognizing Senator ROBERT BENNETT of Utah.

I have had the privilege of working with Senator BENNETT since I entered the Senate in 1997, four years after Senator BENNETT began his Senate service. I have admired his enthusiasm and dedication to serving the people of Utah ever since.

It was clear that public service was in his blood. From his election as student body president at the University of Utah, to his time in the Utah Army National Guard, Senator BENNETT's priority for his entire adult life has been serving the people of his home State.

His first taste of real politics came in the 1960s when he helped his father Wallace Bennett win re-election to this very Chamber. And while he did not seek office himself until almost 20 years following his father's retirement, he worked in the private sector in Utah, deepening his ties to the State and his devotion to the people of Utah.

I have had the privilege of working side-by-side with Senator BENNETT on the Appropriations Committee for many years. I have seen his passion for service, his respect for the Senate, and above all else, his love of Utah.

He has managed to stay true to the fiscal principles that he gained as a businessman and CEO, while understanding the need for compromise when it was required of him for the sake of his State and the rest of America.

During his tenure here, Utah has become a premiere destination of the West—he has worked for quality education for Utah's children, fought to preserve its natural landscapes, and paved the way for the development of 21st century infrastructure back home.

Senator BENNETT also made America proud in 2002 when he helped the Salt

Lake City Winter Olympics become one of the most successful and safe Olympic games in recent memory.

Of course, Senator BENNETT and I have not always seen eye-to-eye on many issues. But my respect for his beliefs has always been deep. And in 2008, when America was on the brink of financial collapse, I was moved by his eagerness to reach across the aisle to do what was right for Utah and Illinois, alike. This has always been his character, and the Senate will miss him for it.

Senator BENNETT leaves us this month in the same way that he has served here for almost 20 years: with dignity and conviction. I am proud to call him a friend, and wish him and his family all the best in the future.

REMEMBERING CHARLES WHEELER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today in solemn remembrance of a dear friend of mine from Ashland, KY, who passed away peacefully at his home this Veterans Day. Mr. Charles Wheeler was a consummate small businessman, local official, and advocate for higher education. I knew Charles for over 30 years, and I can tell you that the love he felt for his community in the Commonwealth was surpassed only by his affection for his beloved wife of 60 years, Mary Kathryn Wheeler.

Born in Paintsville, KY, Charles owned and operated a local hardware store in Boyd County for nearly 40 years—helping to build his community and assist all who met him, literally and figuratively. It is no wonder then, that Charles's friendly manner and smart tact got him elected as an Ashland city commissioner by the age of 28. Before long, his friends and neighbors elected him to represent them in the Kentucky General Assembly, where he served for 8 years.

My friend continued to serve his community by serving on the Morehead State University Board of Regents for a decade during a period when that institution saw great growth. His pursuit of excellence in higher education undoubtedly changed the lives of countless students.

I could surely continue to draw to mind the instances when Charles helped meet the need of his community, and this Senator, but I would simply ask that my colleagues join me in remembering the life of a humble man who showed incredible character throughout his entire life. And I would further ask that they join me in expressing my sincerest condolences to Charles's beloved wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings and other family members.

The Ashland Daily Independent recently published an editorial that highlights some of Charles Wheeler's accomplishments, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

[From the Ashland Daily Independent, Nov. 17, 2010]

CHARLES WHEELER: HE WAS A LEADER IN BUSINESS, POLITICS AND EDUCATION IN AREA

ASHLAND.—Charles Dona Wheeler spent most of his adult life as a business, political and education leader in this region. He died quietly at his residence on Veterans Day. He was 81.

As a business leader, he owned and operated Wheeler-Williams Hardware in Boyd County from 1962 until he closed the business in 2000. He also was a developer of Southern Hills Estates, a beautiful, upscale subdivision off Boy Scout Road.

Wheeler's political career began early in life when he was elected to the Ashland Board of City Commissioners at the age of 28. He went on to serve for eight years—or four terms—as the representative from the 100th District in Kentucky. After leaving office, he remained a leader of the Republican Party in Boyd County and in Kentucky for many years.

Although he never earned a college degree, Wheeler helped open the doors to a college education for thousands of young people in this region by serving on the Morehead State University Board of Regents. His decade of service on the MSU governing body during a time of great growth for the university continues to benefit this region by the many students the university has helped train who continue to play important roles in this area's business, educational, cultural and social life.

To his wife of 60 years, Mary Kathryn Wheeler, and his large extended family, Charles Wheeler was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and uncle. To others in this community, Charles Wheeler was a leader who made a difference through his many years of quietly working for the betterment of this community and this region.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Alzheimer's is a devastating disease that takes a tremendous personal and economic toll on both the individual and the family. Today, an estimated 5.3 million Americans—including more than 25,000 Mainers—are living with Alzheimer's disease, more than double the number in 1980. If nothing is done to change the current trajectory, 13.5 million Americans over the age of 65 will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050.

In addition to the suffering it causes, Alzheimer's costs the United States \$172 billion a year, primarily in nursing home and other long-term care costs. This figure will only increase exponentially as the baby boom generation ages. If nothing is done to slow or stop the disease, Alzheimer's will cost the United States \$20 trillion over the next 40 years.

At a time of mounting deficits, the increasing number of Alzheimer's cases has dire implications for our Federal budget as well. The average annual Medicare payment for an individual with Alzheimer's is three times higher than for those without the condition. For Medicaid, average payments are

nine times higher. Failure to achieve progress in the fight against the disease will result in Alzheimer's costs to Medicare skyrocketing more than 600 percent and costs to Medicaid growing more than 400 percent by 2050.

Despite these alarming projections, to date there is no national strategy to defeat Alzheimer's, and our efforts to combat the disease have lacked coordination and focus. That is why I am so pleased that the Senate last night passed the National Alzheimer's Project Act, which I introduced with Senator BAYH, to create a coordinated strategic national plan for combating Alzheimer's disease.

The National Alzheimer's Project Act, which is based on a key recommendation of the nonpartisan Alzheimer's Study Group led by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, will launch a campaign within the Federal Government to overcome Alzheimer's disease. First, it directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to create a coordinated National Alzheimer's Disease Plan to combat Alzheimer's disease. This plan will be updated annually and a report will be submitted to Congress assessing the Nation's progress in preparing for the growing burden of Alzheimer's disease.

The legislation also establishes an Interagency Advisory Council to advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the plan, which is also to include implementation steps and recommendations for priority actions. The advisory council is also charged with coordinating all Federal efforts on Alzheimer's research, care, institutional services, and home and community-based programs.

Funding for these activities will come from existing funding appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services. No new funding is authorized. The coordinated effort called for in the legislation will simply ensure that our existing resources are maximized and leveraged to combat Alzheimer's disease.

Our legislation has broad, bipartisan support. It was passed out of the Senate HELP Committee unanimously, and it has now been approved unanimously by the full Senate, clearing it for action by the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR LANCE BURNETT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize MAJ Lance Burnett's service to his country and as an Air Force fellow on my staff. Major Burnett joined my office through the Congressional Fellows Program. Over the past year, he has been an invaluable addition to my staff. He has demonstrated an expertise with military policy issues and built close relationships both within the office and on Capitol Hill.

As a member of my staff, Major Burnett has been closely involved in a number of policy areas. He has assisted with the defense appropriations process, liaised with the Veterans Affairs Committee, and coordinated congressional delegations. He has served as an adviser on issues relating to the armed services to me and my staff, adding invaluable perspective. He has exemplified the Air Force values of "Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do" through his work. The Air Force has recognized his service through his selection for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel on August 26, 2010.

Major Burnett hails from Cameron, TX. He received his bachelor of science degree from Texas A&M University and his commission from the Air Force Officer and Training School. Since earning his flight wings in 1998, Major Burnett has become a senior navigator, completing over 2,800 flight hours of which 613 hours of them in combat.

Major Burnett has served as an instructor and evaluator navigator in both the Air Mobility Command and the Air Force Special Operations Command, flying support missions for Operations Southern Watch, Joint Forge, Joint Endeavor, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, as well as numerous counternarcotics missions in South America.

Prior to being accepted into the Congressional Fellows Program, Major Burnett was the MC-130E/H standardization and evaluation branch chief at Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command where he was responsible for all 30 MC-130E Combat Talon and MC-130H Combat Talon II aircraft in the USAF inventory and their associated 390 aircrew members. He has been honored with the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Combat Action Medal, and the 2006 General P.K. Carlton Award for Valor. Major Burnett and his wife Andrea have two children, Peyton and Andrew.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Major Burnett's tremendous public service and recognize his work on behalf of Pennsylvanians.

TAKE A VETERAN TO SCHOOL

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to express my profound appreciation for the Take a Veteran to School Day program in my home State of Maine with ceremonies that took place on November 9 and 10 of this year, appropriately right before Veterans Day on November 11. And it is especially fitting that we recognize these events this week as we paused this past Tuesday, on December 7, to remember those who perished 69 years ago at Pearl Harbor, a day that President Franklin Roosevelt declared "will live in infamy."

First and foremost, I want to extend my enormous gratitude to the Maine