

very much about the economy and job creation, and it is appropriate that we have before the Senate a piece of legislation dealing with small business. We know small business and entrepreneurship is a path to job creation.

We are spending a lot of time in this Senate, in the House, and in Washington, DC, discussing the economy, and one of the things that is front and center today is the need for us to be much more responsible in our spending habits. In my view, the Federal Government is financially broke. Rightfully so, we ought to pass a continuing resolution that reduces spending for the remaining 6 months of this fiscal year. We ought to quickly move to a budget and to an appropriations process that allows for the give-and-take, the consideration of those things that we can afford to spend money on, the things that are appropriately the role of the Federal Government, and find those places in which we can again significantly reduce spending. That is an important aspect of whether we are going to get our economy back on track and jobs created.

I think often we write off what happens in Washington, DC. The American people see us as just Republicans and Democrats having one more battle about spending and deficits. These are things I have heard, topics I have heard discussed my entire life coming out of Washington, DC. The reality is, this is an important issue at an important time in our country's history. In the absence of an appropriate resolution of this spending issue, in my view, the standard of living Americans enjoy today will be reduced, inflation will return, the value of the dollar will be diminished, and the standard of living we have become accustomed to as Americans, as I say, will be diminished. But worse than that, the opportunity for our children and grandchildren to pursue the American dream will be less than what we want it to be, certainly less than what I experienced as an American growing up in this country.

Yes, it is no fun for us, as elected officials, to talk about what needs to be cut, spending that needs to be reduced. I certainly stand willing to work with my colleagues and with the President and others to see we accomplish that goal of reducing spending, and the consequences of that being a better budget picture and a reduced deficit. But there is a positive aspect of what we can do to reduce our budget deficit that goes beyond just cutting spending; that is, to create jobs, to create economic expansion.

The optimism this country needs can be restored by decisions we make in the Congress. Those decisions revolve around a business or an entrepreneur, a small business man or woman's decision that it is time to expand their plant, it is time to invest and put in more equipment, that it is time to hire an additional employee.

In my view, one of the reasons that is not happening is the tax environment

that has been created, the uncertainty that we have with what our Tax Code is going to be, the lack of access to credit, the uncertainty our bankers and other financial lenders face in determining whether they can make a loan to a creditworthy customer, and especially the one I want to talk about briefly today, which is the regulatory environment in which the business community finds itself.

This effort by the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gases, in my view, is very negative toward job creation in two ways: One, it increases the cost of being in business, and that occurs at a time in which we don't expect other countries to abide by the same regimen that we may create—that our Environmental Protection Agency may create—around the world, that we would not expect other countries to abide by those same rules and regulations the EPA is putting in place.

That means, once again, American workers, American business is at a competitive disadvantage in comparison to those who make decisions about where plants are located, and we lose access to world markets because someone else can sell something cheaper than we can because of rising costs of production.

So even if there is an effort that excludes agriculture or small business from this legislation, the cost of production goes up, because in addition to the direct effect of having those regulations apply to your business, there is the indirect increase in cost related to fuel and energy costs—electricity and gas.

Clearly, to me, if you care about job creation, you would make certain that the Environmental Protection Agency does not head down the path that it is going, because of the increased cost of being in business and the consequence that has for American business to be able to compete in a global economy.

The second aspect of that is, and I think it is one of the real drags on today's recovery from the recession, is the uncertainty. No business person feels comfortable today in making a decision to expand or to put more people to work, to hire an additional employee, to invest in plant or equipment, because they do not know what the next set of regulations is going to do to their bottom line.

So with the uncertainty of this issue, we have had the drag upon our economy with the thought that Congress might pass the legislation labeled cap and trade. It became clear when the Senate adjourned at the end of 2010 that that was not going to happen. But then the uncertainty became, but what is the Environmental Protection Agency going to do?

As I visit plants, facilities across Kansas and talk to family owners of small businesses, manufacturers, the most common question I get from a business owner is, what next is government going to do that may put me out

of business? It is unfortunate. It seems as though government is no longer even neutral in regard to the success of a business in the United States but has become an adversary.

I urge my colleagues to support the McConnell amendment. I think it is a clear statement that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot do what it intends to do. It eliminates the uncertainty that a business person faces, and it reduces the cost of being in business in a way that says, we are going to grow the economy and put people to work.

We are going to have a lot of conversation on the Senate floor, we are going to have discussions with the administration, with our colleagues in the House of Representatives, about what spending we are going to cut. And those are difficult conversations. But I come back to the point that we as Americans have the opportunity to be optimistic. What we need to do for us to have a bright future, what we can do to have a positive conversation with the American people about what good things are yet to come, revolves around the fact that we will get rid of onerous regulations that serve no valid purpose in improving our environment and create great uncertainty and ever increasing costs for being in business.

We can have this conversation in a vacuum. But the reality is, our economy does not operate in a vacuum. Our business folks in Kansas and across the country have to compete in a global economy. This legislation that Senator MCCONNELL and Senator INHOFE have offered eliminates that uncertainty, reduces the cost of being in business, and allows us to have optimism about the future of the American economy and, most importantly, optimism for the people who sit around their dining room table wanting to make certain they either can keep a job or find a job.

I see the McConnell amendment as that moment of optimism. The message we send to the American worker, to those who are employed and to those who are unemployed, that this Senate understands that unless we get rid of the impediments toward growing an economy, we have little optimism about the future of job creation.

The McConnell amendment sends that message. It does it in a way that makes a lot of sense for the American economy and for the American worker.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. 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.

REMEMBERING REID S. JONES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the Commonwealth's finest, the late Mr. Reid S. Jones. A native of Pulaski County, KY, Reid was a prime example of a man who was a true American hero and who valued his faith, his family, and his community.

A rich tradition of business success and pride in hard work and achievement always seemed prevalent throughout the history of Reid's family, so it came as no surprise when Reid began to exhibit early signs of entrepreneurial instincts. As a young boy, members of his hometown witnessed Reid leading a small goat down a road from the country store operated by his parents to a local family farm as he tried to make a sale. It was this ambition and drive that made Reid S. Jones a leader, a war hero, and a guiding force for all who knew him.

Reid, who passed away on April 15, 2005, joined the U.S. Army in 1944 at a crucial point during World War II. Eighteen years old, Reid felt a strong desire to serve and protect his country as well as to defend the rights and freedoms of others. He courageously fought in the Battle of the Bulge, one of the deadliest battles for American forces of the war. Reid's leadership got him promoted to the rank of staff sergeant, and he remained in Germany for a short time after the war to help begin the reconstruction process.

After returning home from the war to his new bride Elva Sears, Reid received a bachelor's degree from Union College in Barbourville, KY. He decided to further his dedication to educational excellence and became a history teacher, principal, and basketball coach for the Pulaski County and Somerset City school systems. His firm yet compassionate character made Reid well-respected by his peers and fondly remembered by his former students. Later in the 1960s he became a district sales manager for the Fram Corporation, an automotive product brand best known for their oil filters. His eye for detail and strong ambition to get things done earned him frequent recognition for exceeding sales quotas and helped him play an instrumental role in placing Fram products in Wal-Marts across the southeastern United States.

Reid's "jack of all trades" ability eventually led him to open his own automotive businesses, as well as become a 32nd-degree Mason, a member of the Oleika Shriners Temple, and the board of directors of the First United Methodist Church.

In addition to serving his community through business and educational work, Reid deeply cherished the rela-

tionships he had with his friends and family. He has often been remembered through the strong friendships he formed with members of the Somerset community, as he met daily with friends at his automotive businesses for coffee and southern storytelling. His dedication to public service and education, led his wife, along with his daughter, Dr. Sonya Jones, to establish The Jones Educational Foundation, to provide scholarships and assistance for people of south-central Kentucky and beyond who seek greater education and who show effort and ability.

There is no doubt that because of Reid's character, his dedication to family and friends, and his contributions to higher education and the business community, that his town, the Commonwealth, and the country have been forever changed for the better.

The Commonwealth Journal recently published an article about Mr. Reid S. Jones and a contribution that his daughter made to the Jones Educational Foundation on behalf of his dear friend, the late James Eastham. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Commonwealth Journal, Jan. 30, 2011]

FOUNDATION LAUNCHES REID S. JONES MEMORIAL FUND WITH CONTRIBUTION HONORING JAMES 'ONION' EASTHAM

The Jones Educational Foundation Inc., a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation based in Somerset, has launched the Reid S. Jones Memorial Fund with a \$1,000 contribution made by Dr. Sonya Jones honoring the late James Arthur "Onion" Eastham.

According to Dr. Jones, president and CEO of The Jones Foundation, the donation is intended to pay tribute to the friendship between James "Onion" Eastham, a man who was regarded highly in the Somerset community, and her father.

Further, the fund is meant to honor veterans from all the wars in which the United States has fought. The initial donation honors veterans who served in the European and Pacific theaters of World War II.

"I had been thinking about the Foundation setting up a fund for veterans in Dad's name ever since I made a donation in his memory to help restore the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial building at Union College," Dr. Jones said.

Reid Jones graduated from Union in 1989. He went on to do graduate work in education at Eastern Kentucky University.

"When Mr. Eastham passed away in late December, I knew it was time," Dr. Jones added. "Dad thought so much of his friend that I felt he would want me to do something special to honor Onion's memory."

Reid Sievers Jones (April 24, 1926 to April 15, 2005) entered the U.S. Army at a crucial point in the history of World War II. He was stationed in Germany, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a survivor in what has been called "one of the bloodiest battles" of World War II.

Conducted in the dense mountainous region of Belgium, the Battle of the Bulge was Adolf Hitler's last major offensive against the Allies. The battle ran from Dec. 16, 1944, until Jan. 25, 1945.

When he enlisted in the Army as a private, Reid Jones was 18 years of age. He married

Elva Sears on Dec. 30, 1944, shortly before shipping out to the European front. He was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant and remained in Germany for a short time after the war to help begin the process of reconstruction.

James "Onion" Eastham (Sept. 22, 1923, to Dec. 28, 2010) served in the Asiatic-Pacific theater where he was awarded two bronze stars for duty at and during the Luzon and Southern Philippine campaigns. He also received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with a bronze star for duty involving combat with the enemy.

Reid Jones and Onion Eastham were "two of a kind," said Jimmy Eastham, son of the former Somerset City Council member who served as staff sergeant and crew chief aboard a B-25 bomber in the United States Marine Corp.

Jones and Eastham both were salesmen after the war. Jones worked for many years for Fram Corp. and Eastham for the Morton Salt Co. The two men liked to get together and engage in the high art of Southern storytelling. Both formed strong friendships with other men in the Somerset community.

"Dad and Onion Eastham were part of a group of men who convened initially at Dad's car lot out on East Mt. Vernon Street, then at Dad's automotive parts store on Ogden Street in the building now owned by Dr. Byron Owens," Dr. Jones said.

"After Dad retired from Fram, he devoted most of his time to the automotive business and our family's business and our family's rental properties," Dr. Jones continued.

"When Dad closed one automotive parts store housed in the same building with Mother's antiques and collectibles, he and his buddies met for coffee at the Sugar Shack over on the strip," she said.

Meeting for coffee was part of their "daily routine," said Jimmy Eastham.

From time to time, the group also included Bobby Claunch, Howard Eastham, Ledger Howard, Penny Starnes, Don Stone, Jim Williams and Bob Williams in addition to Reid Jones and Onion Eastham.

Like his father, Jimmy Eastham served as a member of Somerset City Council. He and the Eastham family have given their enthusiastic endorsement to the Reid S. Memorial Fund with Dr. Jones' cornerstone contribution in memory of James "Onion" Eastham.

"It is a good idea to establish the fund even if it weren't done in the name of my father," Eastham said.

Both Reid Jones and James Eastham were "very patriotic," according to Virginia Eastham, mother of Jimmy, Lisa (Bandy) and Wayne Eastham.

When Reid Jones returned from the war, he worked first as a teacher and principal in the Pulaski County and Somerset City school systems. He is remembered, particularly by former students at Shopville High School as a firm teacher who was not afraid to exercise discipline when he thought it was needed.

Later, in the 1960s, he joined Fram Corp., based in Providence, R.I., as a district sales manager. Frequently, he was recognized for exceeding sales quotas. He was instrumental in placing Fram products in Wal-Marts across the southeastern United States.

Reid Jones was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of Oleika Shriners Temple in Lexington. He served on the board of directors of First United Methodist Church.

In addition to being an influential member of Somerset City Council, James "Onion" Eastham was a member of the Somerset Masonic Lodge #111 and a long-standing member of the Kiwanis Club. He was also a member of First Baptist Church where he taught Sunday school and served as chair of a building committee for the church's new sanctuary.