

share. We need those trade agreements approved to create jobs and to grow this economy. I hope the White House will send those, follow through on their rhetoric and actually send those trade agreements up here so we can act on them.

It has been 771 days since we passed a budget in this country. We and the administration talk about doing something about spending and debt, and yet here we are having gone 771 days without even having passed a budget, the most fundamental responsibility we have to the taxpayers of this country. If we are serious about spending and debt, we need a budget that sets a blueprint for a more fiscally sustainable future for this country. We need energy policies that allow us to develop American energy to get fuel costs under control, which also impacts in a very direct way our economy and our ability to create jobs.

The solutions are out there, they are very straightforward and simple. We need to have the will to move forward and address these issues and I hope we will because the American people expect and deserve that we will. As Dr. Walker pointed out last week, in my State of South Dakota, if we do not, we are headed for a fiscal train wreck.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask for enough time to give my remarks this morning and I ask for an equivalent amount of time for the other side.

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

Mr. HATCH. I hope I can stay within the time constraints, but I am not sure.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. HATCH pertaining to the submission of S. Con. Res. 23 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent Senate Resolutions.")

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

TECHNICAL SERGEANT KRISTOFFER M. SOLESBEE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to TSgt Kristoffer M. Solesbee of Hill Air Force Base's 75th Civil Engineer Squadron. Technical Sergeant Solesbee was killed in action near the city of Shorabak, Afghanistan.

Technical Sergeant Solesbee was a brave and courageous man. Not only did he volunteer to serve his country, returning to the field of battle three times, twice in Iraq and this final tour in Afghanistan, but he volunteered for one of the most dangerous assignments in the war on terrorism; he was an explosive ordnance disposal technician.

This is not the first time a member of Hill's EOD flight had been killed

while protecting his fellow servicemembers from improvised explosive devices. In early 2007, three other members of the 75th Civil Engineering Squadron were also killed. Yet, despite this tragedy, Technical Sergeant Solesbee always returned to duty. I believe one of Utah's largest newspapers, The Standard Examiner, paid him the highest tribute when it stated "Kristoffer M. Solesbee died doing what he loved: saving lives." I cannot think of a better definition of a true hero.

From those who knew him best, his family, friends and fellow servicemembers, described him as smart and highly energetic. Growing up he loved model rockets and radio controlled cars and airplanes. During his 11-year career in the service, his fellow airmen came to rely upon him and his professionalism. Indeed, there is broad consensus among Hill's EOD technicians that he was the benchmark by which others were judged.

His distinguished service also did not go unrecognized. Technical Sergeant Solesbee was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor device and second oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

I know God will be watching over the family of this admirable man. He gave his life so that others may live. TSgt Kristoffer M. Solesbee will never be forgotten.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

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

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

HONORING RAFAT R. ANSARI

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, once again, I come to the floor to celebrate and recognize the contribution of our Federal employees. I do this on a regular basis because while we debate the issues of the day and grapple with issues around the debt and deficit and the circumstances that will require us to cut back on government spending, I think it is important to remember the literally millions of Americans who work in one form or another for our Federal Government day-in and day-out. From our armed services, to folks who work within this Capitol Complex, to folks who work within Health and Human Services, to those who work in research, to those who make enormous contributions to our Nation, we should not lose sight of them as we grapple with the debt and deficit and a host of other issues we deal with in this body.

So today I rise to honor another great Federal employee, Rafat Ansari. Mr. Ansari is a senior scientist and leading innovator at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. He has been recognized for developing a safe, noninvasive laser device that could drastically improve the early detection of cataracts and improve people's lives in the process.

Cataracts are the leading cause of vision loss and blindness in the United States and in the world. They affect over 22 million Americans over the age of 40, and over \$6.8 billion is spent annually in the United States on cataract treatment.

Mr. Ansari was motivated to help cataract patients after his father was diagnosed with the disease. He began researching the disease and realized that cataracts are caused by proteins in the lens that cluster abnormally, a process similar to what he was studying in his space experiments.

Lacking the necessary financial resources, he began conducting research in his home kitchen using a light-scattering device which was able to identify clustered proteins in the eye lens. These kitchen experiments ultimately led to Mr. Ansari's invention of an innovative eye-scanning device and procedure that is at least two or three times stronger than any device on the market.

His invention also has the potential to significantly improve the ability to detect early signs of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, and many other diseases. The procedure is currently used by NASA to study the long-term consequences of space travel on the vision of astronauts.

Mr. Ansari's personal story is a testament to all that continues to make our Nation great. Born in Pakistan, Mr. Ansari always dreamed of working for NASA. Not only was he able to realize his dream of working for our government, working for NASA, but in the process he has made discoveries that could have a big impact on the lives of millions of people not only here in the United States but around the world.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Ansari and those other great scientists and engineers at NASA for their excellence and service to our Nation.

So, again, I wish to acknowledge not only Mr. Ansari but all of our Federal workers. I think it is important. As somebody who has been very involved—and hopeful to do more—on this issue of debt and deficit, I know we will have to make substantial cutbacks in how government spends and operates. But I think we need to remember, as we talk about some of these cuts, that we are affecting the lives of literally millions of good Americans who try to keep the functions of this government working on an efficient, honest, and ethical basis day-in and day-out.

With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2011

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 782, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 782) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Snowe) amendment No. 390, to reform the regulatory process to ensure that small businesses are free to compete and to create jobs.

DeMint amendment No. 394, to repeal the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Paul amendment No. 414, to implement the President's request to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.

Cardin amendment No. 407, to require the FHA to equitably treat home buyers who have repaid in full their FHA-insured mortgages.

Merkley-Snowe amendment No. 428, to establish clear regulatory standards for mortgage servicers.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 390

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I called for regular order, which I am, that would mean the Snowe amendment would be pending; is that right?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The amendment is now pending.

Mr. REID. OK. Mr. President, first of all, I appreciate the cooperation of Senator SNOWE, Senator COBURN, and others. It is important we move along with this legislation. So for the next 3 hours we will be able to debate the Snowe amendment. The time will be equally divided during that period of time.

We have a number of amendments others want to offer. We already have four in addition to hers that have been offered. We have time agreements on those. I appreciate everyone's help in moving forward in this regard.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 2:15 p.m. be equally divided between Senators SNOWE and BOXER or their designees; that at 2:15 p.m. the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Snowe amendment; that no amendments, points of order or motions be in order to the Snowe amendment prior to the vote,

other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; the amendment not be divisible; that the amendment be subject to a 60-vote threshold; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

I would also say, before the Chair rules, we have Senator MCCASKILL who wants to offer an amendment on the same subject matter. We will do that at some subsequent time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as I understand it, I will have an hour and a half to present our side on the amendment and Senator SNOWE will have an hour and a half. Could the Chair please give me the exact timeframes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the order, 1 hour 37 minutes for each side.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you very much. I was close.

I wish to let Senator SNOWE know what my plan is at this time. First, I am going to yield some time on another subject—but it will be used on our time—to Senator WHITEHOUSE, who has something very important pertaining to his State, and then I am going to come back and take as much time as I might consume and it will not be that long. I wish to lay out where we are in this debate, why this bill is so important, and I am going to make some remarks about Senator SNOWE's amendment. So I do not know exactly how long it will take, but I will do it as quickly as I can and retain the remainder of my time.

But at this time, I yield 10 minutes of my time to Senator WHITEHOUSE.

Senator WHITEHOUSE is coming back into the Chamber with his charts, and I reiterate, I will yield the first 10 minutes of my time to Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN of Ohio). The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I thank Senator BOXER.

COMMEMORATING GASPEE DAYS

Mr. President, my time in this Chamber often gives me cause to reflect on our history and on the brave patriots who went before us, many of whom risked or even gave their lives to create this great Republic. Today, I would like to talk about a group of men who, 239 years ago tonight, engaged in a daring act of defiance against the British Crown.

For many, the Boston Tea Party is one of the first events on the road to our revolution. Growing up, we were taught the story of painted-up Bostonians dumping shipments of tea into Boston Harbor, to defend the principle: "no taxation without representation."

Conspicuously missing from history books is the story of the brave Rhode Islanders who challenged the British

Crown far more aggressively more than a year before Bostonians dumped those teabags into Boston harbor. Today, on its anniversary, I would like to take us back to an earlier milestone in America's fight for independence, to share with you the story of a British vessel, the HMS Gaspee, and to introduce you to some little-known heroes now lost in the footnotes of history.

In 1772, amidst growing tensions with American colonies, King George III stationed his revenue cutter, the HMS Gaspee, in Rhode Island. The Gaspee's task was to prevent smuggling and enforce the payment of taxes. But to Rhode Islanders, the vessel was a symbol of oppression.

The offensive presence of the Gaspee was matched by the offensive manner of its captain, LT William Dudingston. Lieutenant Dudingston was known for destroying fishing vessels and confiscating their contents, and flagging down ships only to harass, humiliate, and interrogate sailors. But on June 9, 1772, an audacious Rhode Islander, Captain Benjamin Lindsey, took a stand.

Aboard his ship, the Hannah, Captain Lindsey set sail from Newport to Providence. On his way, he was hailed by the Gaspee to stop for a search. The defiant captain ignored the command and continued on his course. Recently, Dr. Kathy Abbas, director of the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, has suggested a motivating factor for Dudingston to have sought to seize the Hannah: she may have been carrying 250 pounds sterling onboard. As Dr. Abbas told the Providence Journal, that was "an enormous sum" in those days.

In any event, Captain Lindsey and his Hannah sought to evade the Gaspee. Gunshots were fired, and the Hannah sped north up Narragansett Bay with the Gaspee chasing behind in pursuit.

Outsized and outgunned, Captain Lindsey drew courage and confidence from his keen familiarity with Rhode Island waters. He led the Gaspee into the shallow waters off Namquid Point, where the smaller Hannah cruised over the sand banks. The heavier Gaspee ran aground, and stuck. The Gaspee was stranded in a falling tide, and it would be many hours before high tide would lift her free.

Arriving triumphantly in Providence, Captain Lindsey visited John Brown, whose family helped found Brown University. The two men rallied a group of patriots at Sabin's Tavern, in what is now the East Side of Providence. The Gaspee was despised by Rhode Islanders who had been too often bullied in their own waters by this ship, and the stranding of this once-powerful vessel presented an irresistible chance.

On that dark night, 60 men in longboats led by Captain Lindsey and Abraham Whipple moved quietly down Narragansett Bay. They encircled the Gaspee, and demanded that Lieutenant Dudingston surrender the ship.