

4 percent of the amount of money the government spent last year—we are still in the current year, but the fiscal year of 2011. It would still spend more than we spent in 2010, so it is very hard to see how this could fairly be described as any kind of Draconian cut. It is a very modest cut in spending. By 2012, the levels will be almost  $\frac{3}{2}$  trillion more than the levels of spending in 2008. But that is the first step, to cut spending in the immediate future, in this next fiscal year.

The second is to cap spending over the next several years. To do this, we have established a set of caps, statutory limits on how much the government can spend each year based on the level of spending in the budget resolution I introduced on the Senate floor, which had almost all the Republicans' support. I wish we had some Democratic support, and I still hope we will get some. But the important thing about this budget resolution and these cap levels is they reach a balance—not overnight; it takes 9 years. But by controlling spending and adopting pro-growth policies that encourage an expanding economy, we would, following these cap levels, be able to balance our budget. Then, finally, we are advocating that as part of this package, as part of an arrangement, we would agree to raise the debt ceiling. We would also pass in both the House and Senate a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and send it off to the States.

We would not suggest the increase in the debt limit be contingent upon State option, but I am confident the States would, in fact, pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution if we in Congress would send it to them. It would have three big features and, again, the details ought to be a subject of discussion. One that would not be open for negotiation would be that the first outlays need to equal revenues. That is obviously the fundamental definition of a balance. We don't run deficits; we make sure we spend no more than we take in.

The second aspect some of us feel strongly about, and I am one of them, is we ought to limit spending as a percentage of our economy so the economy doesn't keep growing, which is what happens when the government occupies too large a segment of our economy.

Finally, we have advocated that we not create a mechanism that simply guarantees big tax increases in order to balance the budget, and to do that we would like—and we have included—a supermajority requirement to raise taxes so that a simple majority wouldn't be enough. It would require a supermajority which would only occur, presumably, in truly extraordinary circumstances.

I believe very strongly we can have strong economic growth and the job creation we need, but to get there we have to create an environment in Washington; we have to pass legisla-

tion and create an environment that encourages risk taking, encourages business formation, encourages new hiring, and we have not been doing such a good job. One of the ways to do that is to put us on a sustainable, viable fiscal path, and the cut, cap, and balance approach would do that.

We would raise the debt limit by the full amount that the President has asked for provided he agree with us to put this country on a path to a balanced budget. I do not think that is asking too much. I think that is a way to achieve long-term fiscal sustainability, and just as importantly it is a way to create an environment for the strong economic growth and job creation we need.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I request unanimous consent to speak up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. NELSON of Florida pertaining to the introduction of S. 1364 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL BRANDON M. KIRTON

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I report the passing of a brave soldier, loving son, dedicated husband, and proud father from Centennial, CO. CPL Brandon M. Kirton died on May 18, 2011, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when his dismounted patrol received small arms and mortar fire. This is one of the most strategically important areas of Afghanistan. He was 25 years old.

Family and friends remember Corporal Kirton as a warm, lighthearted young man. Robert Kirton, his father, said that his son's cheerful disposition at home provided a great contrast to the solemn commitment with which he faced his duties as a soldier. This makes perfect sense, Robert said, because Corporal Kirton had dreamed of putting on an Army uniform from an early age.

Corporal Kirton attended Englewood High School in Englewood, CO, where he was a member of the baseball and soccer teams. He enlisted in the Army shortly after his graduation in 2004, and he was assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, based at Fort Campbell, KY. Corporal Kirton served a

tour of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan—both with distinction.

His record as a soldier demonstrates the Army's proudest traditions of valor, commitment to duty, and strength of character. Corporal Kirton was carrying 70 pounds of gear when CPT Gary Flowers, his commander, first met him in Afghanistan in 115-degree heat. Captain Flowers offered to shoulder a bag for him, an offer which Corporal Kirton declined. He simply replied, "Are you kidding me?"

Corporal Kirton's commanding officers immediately recognized his exceptional bravery and talent. He earned, among other decorations, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Corporal Kirton's service was in keeping with this sentiment by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

Mr. President, I stand with Colorado and people nationwide in profound gratitude for Corporal Kirton's tremendous sacrifice. He followed through on his dream of becoming a soldier in the U.S. Army and served honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan when his country needed him most. We are forever humbled by and indebted to the memory of his courageous actions. I ask my colleagues to join in me extending our deepest respects and condolences to Corporal Kirton's family.

#### THE GOLDEN EAGLE AWARD

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize two of Wyoming's best ski areas—Grand Targhee and the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort—for their hard work and commitment to better management practices. Their records of improving efficiency, reducing energy use, promoting better environmental management, and focusing on sustainable operations have earned them the 2011 National Ski Areas Association Golden Eagle Award for Overall Environmental Excellence. The Golden Eagle Award is presented to ski areas and resorts that have shown a true commitment to making sure our great outdoors will be enjoyed for years to come. I congratulate Grand Targhee and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort for their accomplishments. Wyoming is proud to be home to both of these great ski opportunities.

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort has a history of environmental excellence. They have earned their 2011 Golden Eagle Award for working for 5 years to implement an integrated environmental management system to achieve the International Organization for Standardization's, ISO, 14001 standards. This system is an overall approach to sustainability, continual improvement, and a future of responsible

stewardship of some of the most pristine areas in our country. But this isn't the first time that Jackson Hole Mountain Resort has been recognized for environmental excellence. They have a history of commitment to sound environmental management going back 15 years. They first received the Golden Eagle Award in 1995, and were also awarded a Silver Eagle Award for Excellence in Energy Conservation and Clean Energy in 2003, as well as a Silver Eagle Award for Excellence in Visual Impact in 2005.

Grand Targhee has also worked hard to demonstrate their commitment to environmental quality. This year, they are being recognized with a Golden Eagle Award for committing to reduce their energy use by 10 percent, and then exceeding their goal and achieving an energy savings of 18 percent. Their investments in energy efficiency upgrades, weatherization, and better management practices helped them meet and exceed their goals for improving their energy use. This year marks the third award for environmental excellence for Grand Targhee. In 2008, they received the Silver Eagle Award for Excellence in Waste Reduction and Recycling, and in 2009 they received their first Golden Eagle Award.

Both Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and Grand Targhee have been operating in the Teton Range since the 1960s. They have a history of being some of the best ways to experience Wyoming's amazing landscapes. Their commitment to sound environmental management, conservation, and improving how they use energy demonstrates their commitment to being part of Wyoming's futures for years to come.

I congratulate both resorts for this tremendous accomplishment. It is truly an honor to receive the Golden Eagle Award from the National Ski Areas Association and is one more example of Wyoming businesses leading the way.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to compliment two Wyoming ski resorts for their dedication to environmental excellence. Grand Targhee and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort each received the 2011 National Ski Areas Association Golden Eagle Award for Environmental Excellence. The Golden Eagle Award is the most prestigious environmental honor given by the ski industry.

Grand Targhee received the award in the small ski area category for their efforts to reduce energy consumption. Grand Targhee's stated goal was to reduce energy use by 10 percent below their previous 5-year average. By implementing better management practices, investing in energy-efficient upgrades and retrofits, and weatherizing their buildings, the resort almost doubled their original goal by realizing an 18 percent reduction in energy use. Environmental success is not new for Grand Targhee. In 2008 they received the Silver Eagle Award for Excellence

in Waste Reduction and Recycling, followed by their first Golden Eagle Award in 2009.

In the medium-sized ski area category, the Golden Eagle Award was presented to Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. This recognition is the result of a long-term dedication to environmental management. For the past 5 years, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort's environmental management system has met the 14001 standards for the International Organization for Standardization, ISO. This lofty benchmark has been achieved now by only two resorts in the United States. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort's steadfast approach to sustainable environmental management practices is an ongoing commitment. This award is the fourth time Jackson Hole Mountain Resort has been honored. In 1995 they also received the Golden Eagle Award, followed by Silver Eagle Awards for Excellence in Energy Conservation and Clean Energy and Excellence in Visual impact in 2003 and 2005, respectively.

Mr. President, Grand Targhee and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort's ongoing commitment to environmental excellence are outstanding examples of the private sector working to preserve our natural resources. Wyoming is a wonderful place to live, work, and recreate. I want to congratulate each resort and their employees for hard work and dedication. The National Ski Areas Association Golden Eagle Award is a tribute to their achievements. Because of their efforts, the natural wonder of Wyoming's landscapes will continue to be enjoyed now and in the future by those who ski our slopes.

#### REMEMBERING KIP TIERNAN

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today in tribute to Ms. Kip Tiernan of Boston, MA, who died on July 2. Kip was an immense force for good and a towering figure in the fight to better the lives of the less fortunate.

Kip Tiernan was, herself, accustomed to loss and struggle and redemption. A child of the Depression, Kip lost both parents by age 11 and was raised by her grandmother who taught her by example the importance of helping those in need. At a time when young women were discouraged from taking a stand or speaking out she was precocious, learning to fly a plane while still a teenager.

She led a remarkable life not just in spite of her own struggles but perhaps because of them. Her early years were marked by her own struggle with substance abuse. She spoke openly about the consequences of her drinking and how her recovery from alcoholism helped her to empathize with the women she would help.

Kip is best known for founding Rosie's Place in 1974, the Nation's first homeless shelter for women. Rosie's Place is a remarkable institution that has grown from simply providing emer-

gency shelter and a hot meal to assisting women of all ages to put their lives back together. Each year they serve nearly 75,000 meals, hand out tons of groceries, provide thousands of hours of counseling and educational services, help dozens of low-income homeowners to avoid eviction or find permanent housing, and deliver numerous other services to thousands of women.

In addition to Rosie's Place, Kip helped found the Boston Food Bank, the Boston Women's Fund, Community Works, Transition House, Aid to Incarcerated Mothers, Food for Free, Finex House, John Leary House, My Sister's Place, the Greater Boston Union of the Homeless, and numerous other organizations dedicated to providing immediate help and longer term assistance to the poor and homeless.

It is impossible to measure with any accuracy the impact of Rosie's Place and the many other organizations that Kip helped to found. We will never know just how many women were saved from dangerous streets or abusive relationships. Nor can we estimate how many children and families were spared the depravation and indignity of a life on the streets. We can never be sure how many people who were touched by Kip were inspired to go on to help others.

Kip once said: Compassion is a discipline; it's not just a smiley face. She knew that helping on a larger scale required organization. She used her own marketing and PR skills to raise money and awareness for various groups and knew that running increasingly sophisticated operations that served thousands required recruiting other professionals with their own God-given talents.

People may disagree about how best to fight poverty or help the neediest among us, but there should be no disagreement that Kip Tiernan transcended the disagreements and politics by committing herself to do the hard work, the sometimes uncomfortable work of demonstrating compassion and helping others one on one.

While some volunteer a day or two a year, Kip made it her life's work. Kip Tiernan leaves behind an incredible legacy of service and love. Our city, State, and world are far better places because of her.

#### MCCALL, IDAHO

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city of McCall, ID. On July 19, 2011, the citizens of McCall will gather at Depot Park to commemorate the 100th year of its founding. This is a very historic and special day for this central Idaho community.

From its early days as a settlement in 1818, McCall has embodied the frontier spirit and entrepreneurship that makes the United States a land of opportunity. After a discovery of gold in the Salmon River Mountains, miners