

men and women like them guard these hallowed halls.

#### BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, some of those dedicated police officers stood guard Saturday and Sunday as we worked to reach an agreement to avert a default on our national debt. Leaders in both parties were here throughout the weekend. Differences still separate our two sides, but work toward an agreement continues.

This afternoon I will put on the floor a proposal that I hope will break that impasse. This legislation would put to rest the specter of default. It would cut \$2.7 trillion from the deficit over the next decade. It would not raise any new revenue or make any cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. All the cuts included in this package have previously been supported by Republicans. The proposal provides everything the House Republicans have said they needed from an agreement to avert default and cut the deficit. I hope my colleagues on the other side will still know a good deal when they see it. I hope they will remember how to say yes.

The tea-party-led House of Representatives has held up a resolution of these negotiations for weeks because they did not want oil companies, corporations that ship jobs overseas, and millionaires and billionaires in their corporate jets to pay their fair share. If they now oppose an agreement that meets every one of their demands, it will be because they have put politics first and the good of this Nation and the economy last.

I hope they will not continue to insist on the kind of short-term fix they opposed a few short weeks ago, and they know Democrats in the Senate will not pass and President Obama will not sign.

Economists have already said a short-term solution is no solution at all. It will not give the markets the certainty they need. The credit rating agencies have said a short-term Band-Aid could have many of the same effects of default: downgrade of U.S. debt, soaring interest rates, and an effective tax increase for every American family and business.

The financial markets do not trust the rightwing tea-party-led House of Representatives. They do not believe they should hold this process hostage, and they do not want them to do it again in 6 months. We need to make the right decision now, and we need to do it because the economy is on the line.

This is what one market analyst said about a plan to avert for only a few months. "From the markets' point of view, a two-stage plan is a nonstarter because we now know it is amateur hour on Capitol Hill and we don't want to be painted in this corner again."

The markets need certainty; America needs certainty; the world needs cer-

tainty; and an agreement that provides that certainty is within our grasp. Democrats have done more than just meet Republicans in the middle. We have met them all the way. Now we will see whether Republicans are against any agreement at all or whether they remember how to say yes when the compromise on the table gives them everything they have demanded.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATHS OF J.J. CHESTNUT AND JOHN GIBSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as visitors walk through the Capitol for the first time, they eventually come across a plaque near one of the entrances on the East Front that memorializes an event which took place 13 years ago yesterday.

It was 13 years ago that Officers Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice to protect all who were working and visiting the Capitol on that Friday afternoon.

And every year at this time, we take a moment to step back from our work, put aside our differences, and remember these good men whose sacrifice stands as a permanent reminder of the debt we owe to them, and to all those who continue to put themselves on the front line every day to defend the rest of us—from the Capitol Police force, to local law enforcement officials, to those serving overseas.

America has always been blessed to have men and women rise up in every generation who are willing to put their Nation ahead of their lives. Today, we honor two in particular who did so in this building. Officer Chestnut was a 20-year veteran of the Air Force, a loving husband, and a father of five.

Detective Gibson had served 3 years on Congressman Tom DeLay's protective detail. Both had served 18 years on the Capitol Police force. A friend of Detective Gibson's recalled shortly after the shooting that just a few days before, John told him he had never had to draw his weapon on the job. Yet despite being mortally wounded on the day he died, John did not hesitate to return fire, wounding the intruder. Calling upon his instincts and training, Detective Gibson's actions saved many lives that day.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson exemplify the best America has to

offer. And that is why we honor them here today.

My friend the majority leader is a former Capitol Police officer. He understands more than anyone in this Chamber the honor and dedication, as well as the risks associated with the job. I know he joins me in honoring Jacob Joseph Chestnut and John Michael Gibson, as well as all Capitol Police who put their lives on the line every day to protect us and this institution.

To all members of the Capitol Police force: thank you for your service and your professionalism. Your duties do not go unnoticed. And on this day that we remember Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, I would also like to take a moment to remember the families of these good men who have been so deeply affected by this tragedy. Our prayers continue to go out to them. May God continue to protect them as their loved ones protected us.

#### BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words now about the ongoing debt ceiling discussions.

I think the American people can be excused for being a little confused at this point as to what is going on here in Washington and a little bit frustrated. I am too, frankly.

There is no reason in the world that the American people should have had to wake up this morning unsure of whether Washington was going to resolve this problem.

Candidly, as of Saturday afternoon, I had no doubt that a solution was at hand.

That is just what we did. We came together in good faith and decided to do the right thing. Everyone agrees default wasn't an option, so we put together a responsible proposal that prevented default while reducing Washington spending.

Republicans and, yes, some Democrats, have been clear for months that tax hikes couldn't be part of the package. We have also been clear that serious cuts would have to be part of any package.

So taking all this into consideration, the responsible path forward was clear to everyone: a plan that avoided default and required additional savings before any further increase in the debt ceiling.

Leaders from both parties in both Houses agreed this was the right path forward legislatively. The only thing to do at that point was to present this bipartisan solution to the President.

What was the President's response? Unfortunately, to demand the largest single debt increase in history, \$½ trillion more than the previous biggest increase Democrats approved 2 years ago when they controlled both Congress and the White House.

This was the President's justification, as he put it on Friday:

The only bottom line I have is that we have to extend the debt ceiling through the next election, into 2013.

That is a direct quote from the President of the United States. There is absolutely no economic justification for insisting on a debt limit increase that brings us through the next election. It is not the beginning of a fiscal year. It is not the beginning of a calendar year. Based on his own words, it is hard to conclude that this request has to do with anything, in fact, other than the President's reelection.

Look, Congress has raised the Federal debt limit 62 times since 1972. The average length of an increase over that period is just over 7 months. But now the President says it has to be nearly 2 years. Why? So he can continue to spend as he pleases.

This weekend, we offered the President a bipartisan proposal to avoid default so we could have the time we need to put together a serious plan for getting our house in order, and he rejected it out of hand—not for economic reasons, understand, but, as he put it, “to extend this debt ceiling through the next election.”

Time is running out. With all due respect to the President, we have more important issues to worry about than getting through the next election.

A bipartisan plan to resolve this crisis was literally within our reach this weekend. The President has to know this approach is the responsible path forward, and we ought to put it back on the table.

Congressional leaders of both parties have shown they are willing to work in good faith. I suggest the President reconsider their offer rather than veto the country into default.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

#### NORWAY TERRORIST ATTACK

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to share my deepest sympathies for the people of Norway who, as my colleagues know, experienced a despicable terrorist act this past Friday, July 22.

In the Senate, I represent the State of Minnesota. It is a State that has the largest number of people of Norwegian heritage outside the country of Norway itself.

The influence of Norwegian culture can be found throughout our State, and the bonds between Norway and Minnesota continue to be incredibly strong

to this day. That is why the shock of Friday's violence hit us so close to home.

This past weekend, I joined Minnesotans and the whole world in offering our country's prayers and sympathy to the people of Norway. I attended a memorial service at the Mindekirke Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Minneapolis, where hundreds of people of Norwegian heritage gathered to go to mourn their loss.

It is especially heartbreaking that a mass murder such as this would take place in a country such as Norway. The world knows Norway as a country that is both peaceful and peace-seeking.

After all, Norway is home to the Nobel Peace Prize, and it has offered safe haven to refugees and the politically persecuted from all around the world. It just doesn't make sense.

I am a parent. My daughter is the same age as many of the young people who were at that camp. She was there with our family at the memorial service on Sunday. The kids at this camp were idealistic kids. They were teenagers. They were at the camp because of their interest in their community and in democracy.

It is very hard and very painful even to think about such a cold-blooded attack and the massacre of so many innocent children. It is a kind of terrible tragedy that puts all of us to the test. It tests our resilience, our trust, and our faith.

On Saturday morning, I spoke with Ambassador Strommen, Norway's Ambassador to the United States. I conveyed the deepest sympathies of the people of our State. He assured me that, even though this is a very difficult time, Norway is strong, the Norwegian people are strong, and they will make it through this time of trouble and sorrow.

We will stand by them. But we will also stand against the hate that inspired this action. We are starting to get a sense, over the last 2 days, of what motivated this madman. We know now that while most of the people attacked were native Norwegians, there were also people from other countries, immigrants to Norway, new citizens there.

We all need to remember that my State was originally settled by Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, and Germans, but we also remember there were other waves of immigrants who came too, including Slovenians, such as my relatives, as well as people from Poland, Russia, and most recently in Minnesota the Hmong people have a major presence, as well as people from Somalia. We must remember what made our State, our country, and Norway such vibrant places for democracy is that openness, that freedom, and it is that tolerance.

I reminded my friends at the Norwegian church on Sunday morning of something President Clinton actually said after the Oklahoma City bombing, when he spoke at that memorial. He said this:

Let us let our own children know that we will stand against the forces of fear. When there is talk of hatred, let us stand up and talk against it. When there is talk of violence, let us stand up and talk against it.

I call on my colleagues to stand true to those words. We will continue to confront the forces of fear and hatred with that same spirit of faith, tolerance, and good will. Let us continue to stand strong in support of our allies and friends in Norway. Today, our thoughts and prayers are with them.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, let me associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from Minnesota. My wife and I traveled to Oslo, Norway, a few years ago and were deeply touched by the hospitality of the people there and the peacefulness of the country. It is almost too much to bear to think about what they have gone through as a result of this recent tragedy. I appreciate her remarks.

#### REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN OFFICERS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, the majority and minority leaders talked about the sacrifice of two of our Capitol police officers who died in the line of duty protecting people here at the Capitol and our remembrance of them on this day. The Chaplain also prayed that we remember their sacrifice.

I think it is important for us to pause in circumstances such as this, especially when we are involved in such deeply divided discussions about the issues of the day that confront us.

#### DEBT CEILING

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I also thought it interesting that, regarding the issues we are debating that so deeply divide us, a Wall Street Journal op-ed today appeared, which is one of those rare times when the author puts into a much larger perspective, a more cosmic perspective, what we are talking about and puts it in moral terms—long-term moral terms—rather than just Democrats versus Republicans and the fight of the day.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD after my remarks. It is written by Arthur C. Brooks and is called “The Debt Ceiling and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. KYL. Arthur Brooks is the head of AEI, American Enterprise Institute, and he has written on the subject of happiness in our country and how we get there. His most recent book is called “The Battle: How the Fight Between Free Enterprise and Big Government Will Shape America's Future.”

His theme in this article was similar to the one in the book, which is that