

consumer protections and was an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam war and a proponent of nuclear non-proliferation. He was also a Navy veteran and businessman who was often mentioned as a Presidential contender.

This body, the Senate, honors him for his faithful service to his country as a sailor and as a Member of Congress. My thoughts are with his family, including Senator ROCKEFELLER and his lovely wife Sharon.

#### REDUCING THE BUDGET DEFICIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today President Obama laid out a common-sense plan to substantially reduce the budget deficit. I congratulate President Obama for his vision. Last week he presented the country with a roadmap to reduce our jobs deficit, a proposal to create nearly 2 million jobs and reduce unemployment by a percentage point. Today he has also offered a pathway to reduce our budget deficit—not only the jobs deficit but a budget deficit. It is a concrete strategy to cut the deficit by more than \$4 trillion over the next decade and to do it fairly.

The plan calls for shared sacrifice for all Americans, including those who can best afford to help. It calls on those who have benefited from the tax policies that sunk this country deeper and deeper into debt to help get us out of this debt.

Americans know shared sacrifice is the best path to fiscal sustainability. All the polls indicate that Republicans believe that, Democrats believe that, and Independents believe that. They believe many of the richest few should pay more, and one of the richest of all of them, Warren Buffett, agrees. That is why the President has proposed the so-called Buffett rule, that no American making more than \$1 million a year should pay a lower tax than this Nation's middle class.

This would apply to the top three-tenths of 1 percent—that is all, a small group of Americans—but they are the richest of the rich just like Mr. Buffett. Warren Buffett believes it is unfair that he pays a lower income tax than his secretary. This is what he said:

If you're in the luckiest 1 percent of humanity, you owe it to the rest of humanity to think about the other 99 percent.

Actually, it is more than 99 percent; it is 99.7 percent. There are about 22,000 people in this country who make more than \$1 million a year—this is net income—yet paid less than 15 percent of income in taxes. The top 400 earners in this country, all of whom make more than \$110 million a year, pay a small percentage of their income in taxes. They pay a smaller share than plumbers and teachers and factory workers. More than anyone else these millionaires and billionaires benefit from these tax cuts that contributed \$3 trillion to our deficit. They helped plunge this Nation into a financial hole. Yet congressional Republicans believe the

middle class and seniors, not the millionaires and billionaires who enjoyed trillions in tax breaks, should bear the burden of getting us out of that hole.

A balanced approach to reducing the deficit means those who benefited the most from policies that created our deficit should also help solve the deficit crisis we have. A balanced approach means everyone pays his or her fair share. It means middle-class seniors and those who can least afford it will not bear the heaviest burden. So I commend President Obama for insisting on basic fairness as we address our deficit problem.

#### TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week was a productive one in the Senate. We reached a bipartisan agreement to pass emergency aid for communities affected by devastating floods, tornadoes, and wildfires. We also reauthorized the Federal Aviation Administration, keeping 80,000 safety inspectors and construction workers on the job. We passed a highway bill keeping 1.8 million people at work building bridges and highways.

Congress has no duty more pressing than putting people back to work, and this highway legislation will do just that. But we can and must do more. That is why this week the Senate will take up the trade adjustment assistance legislation. The TAA Program helps U.S. workers who lose their jobs because of international trade to learn new skills so they can reenter a changing workforce, and it helps them pay for health insurance while they are training for new jobs.

A global economy means fierce global competition. Unless our workforce is flexible and well-trained, we cannot hope to compete.

Between 2001 and 2008, Americans lost 2.4 million jobs because of trade with China. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program is retraining many of these people, getting them back to work and into the workforce and boosting our economy at the same time. It is unfortunate that my Republican colleagues who say they care so much about free trade have prevented three such agreements from moving forward because of objections to this trade adjustment assistance legislation.

We have known for a long time we were going to move to this trade adjustment assistance. It is unthinkable that the Republicans would stop us from doing that, and that is just what happened. As we struggle to rebound from the worst recession in generations, it is unthinkable that we would abandon hard-working Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

The trade adjustment assistance legislation provides a lifeline they need to get back on their feet.

Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:45, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded, and to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, in the decade that has passed since the devastating attacks of 9/11, we have seen enormous changes in our daily lives. For many of us, these changes have become routine. We have become more alert to potential suspicious activities, accustomed to additional screening procedures at airports, and understand the need for additional security precautions in places that could be seen as potential targets for terrorists. For many other Americans, though, their lives were altered in ways that are anything but routine. These are the families, friends, and brothers in arms of those who have given their lives in the global war on terror, including the over 3,000 lives taken in the horrific attacks on our Nation on September 11, 2001.

This past Sunday was a somber day to reflect, remember, and honor the lives that have been cut short by terror. On Sunday morning, I spoke at my church about the impact 9/11 had on me personally and us collectively as a nation. It is important to take the time in the Senate Chamber to remember these brave heroes. We all remember where we were at the time the planes struck the towers and the awful feeling when we realized this was not an accident. We remember the emotional outpouring our Nation shared and how the tragedy brought us all closer together. What happened after the moments of devastation on September 11, 2001, unified our Nation and demonstrated the perseverance and the will of the American people.

We remember the people who refused to leave an injured coworker and those who led others to safety. We remember the firefighters, the policemen, and all the first responders who saved lives that day, many of whom gave their

lives in doing so. We remember the heroes at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the brave passengers of Flight 93. We also remember all the brave service men and women who fought and continue to fight to keep us free. They do so by choice. They do so out of love of country, and they do so to protect our Nation, our freedom, and our values.

Since the 9/11 attacks, thousands of Arkansans have been deployed to far regions of the globe to fight terrorism. The Arkansas National Guard, which has historically been a reserve unit, has taken on a more active-duty role in the war on terror. Units from the Arkansas National Guard have played a vital role in the war on terror with deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, and some units having served multiple tours on the battlefield. American's military personnel and veterans of the global war on terror can be proud of all they have accomplished. Their continued efforts brought Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind these attacks, to justice, along with a number of his top lieutenants and numerous Taliban commanders. They continue to battle bin Laden's fanatical followers and protect us from those who remain committed to inflicting harm on the United States.

Many of the veterans from the global war on terror have returned home with permanent, life-altering injuries. We have worked hard in this body and in the House to ensure that they and all the veterans of this war receive all the care and benefits they have earned and deserve upon their return. We must continue to uphold our promise to our veterans. We must also continue to ensure that our military personnel on the battlefield have everything they need to successfully accomplish the mission and to return home safely.

According to the U.S. Central Command, more than 6,200 servicemembers have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Each one is a portrait of bravery. Navy Corpsman Michael Vann Johnson, Jr., a native of Little Rock, was the first Arkansan killed on the battlefield in the global war on terror. He was killed by selflessly tending to wounded colleagues in Iraq. Since his death, another 101 Arkansans have given their lives for our country in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. This year alone, we have lost five servicemembers from Arkansas.

At the beginning of the year, SGT Ethan C. Hardin was killed in action in the Logar Province of Afghanistan. He was killed when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. Sergeant Hardin was 25 at the time of his death. Sergeant Hardin grew up in Fayetteville, AR, and was remembered by his high school principal as a young man with a "pleasant, likable, gentle personality." His pastor echoed those thoughts, calling Sergeant Hardin a "warrior" who was mo-

tivated to take up arms for his country not out of any hostilities toward the enemy but, rather, out of a strong desire to keep our country safe.

Less than a week after the death of Sergeant Hardin, SGT Zainah C. Creamer was killed in the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan when insurgents attacked her unit with an IED. Sergeant Creamer was born in Texarkana, TX, and graduated from Arkansas High School in Texarkana, AR. She was 28 at the time of her death. Sergeant Creamer's friends and family say they will remember her lovely singing voice and her love of country, friends, family, and fellow soldiers, including her K-9 partner Jofa. A soldier for more than 6 years, Sergeant Creamer was assigned to the 212th Military Police Detachment as an Army dog handler. She and her K-9 partner were assigned to check vehicles and facilities for explosives and were carrying out a routine clearance mission when the blast occurred.

In March, another IED attack in the Kandahar Province once again impacted Arkansas. Army CPL Loren Buffalo of Mountain Pine, AR, was only 20 years old when insurgents took his life. Corporal Buffalo was carrying on the family tradition of military service. His father and his uncle served in the Army and his great-grandfather was a B-17 bomber pilot during World War II. His father says Corporal Buffalo was a dedicated military man who loved music, liked to hunt and ride horses.

Last month, two Arkansans were among the 30 U.S. servicemembers killed when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in the Wardak Province of Afghanistan. The Taliban claim responsibility for the attack, which resulted in one of the greatest losses of U.S. military lives in a single incident in the decade-long war in Afghanistan. Most of those killed in the attack were U.S. Special Forces personnel.

Navy Special Warfare Operator Senior Chief Petty Officer Thomas A. Ratzlaff of Green Forest, AR, was one of those Special Forces officers killed in the attack. Senior Chief Ratzlaff graduated from Green Forest High School in 1995 and immediately enlisted in the Navy to begin the process of achieving his lifelong dream of becoming a Navy SEAL. According to the Green Forest mayor Charlie Reece, Senior Chief Ratzlaff developed a reputation as one of the most highly decorated officers in his elite unit, but humbly remained grounded. The mayor called him a "high-class young man." Senior Chief Ratzlaff was 34 at the time of his death.

Air Force Tech SGT John W. Brown of Siloam Springs, AR, was also killed in that attack. An accomplished athlete in his youth, Sergeant Brown played football and basketball. He went to John Brown University on a swimming scholarship. In Siloam Springs, he was known for his positive attitude, his intelligence, and his sense of

humor. After seeing a video of a special operations unit, he abandoned plans to become a nurse anesthetist and enlisted in the Air Force where he was assigned to the elite 24th Special Tactics Squadron at Pope Field, NC. He was 33 at the time of his death.

This is something we need to remember not just on anniversary dates but at all times. It should serve as the ultimate reminder that we in this Chamber have an obligation to come together and to make this country a better place.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in honoring their lives and their legacy, as well as the sacrifice of all who have fought and died in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. Let us never forget their sacrifices and let their legacies be an inspiration for every American.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. We are.

#### REDUCING THE BUDGET DEFICIT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wish today to discuss two more ways to reduce the budget deficit by eliminating tax loopholes and special tax breaks and restoring fairness to the Tax Code while protecting essential programs for American families.

Last week I sent a letter to members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction outlining a 7-point plan that could lower the deficit by \$1 trillion over 10 years through some restored revenues. I spoke last week on the floor about the necessity of addressing revenue, not just spending cuts, to achieve real deficit reduction. I discussed in some detail two of the proposals in my plan, which are combating offshore tax haven abuse and eliminating the tax loophole that forces taxpayers to subsidize stock option compensation for corporate executives.

Since I spoke last week, President Obama has outlined his ideas for deficit reduction. Significantly, the President has embraced the need to restore significant revenues to reduce the deficit. I believe the President's proposals are an important step toward serious deficit reduction. Indeed, some of his ideas parallel the proposals which I have made to the joint select committee.

Today I wish to outline and describe two more of my proposals, each dealing with a tax loophole that benefits Wall Street at the expense of working families and our fiscal well-being. One would end the carried interest loophole that allows hedge fund managers to pay the lower capital gains tax rate on their pay for managing investments. The second would end the blended rate loophole that gives preferential status