

support minority-owned businesses in Colorado. The new Denver Minority Business Center will further promote the growth of minority-owned businesses in Colorado by ensuring they have the technical skills to access contracting and financing opportunities they need to succeed.

Despite the tremendous potential and growth among minority firms, they still face the challenges that all businesses are facing in a capital constrained market. Also troubling is that research has shown that these challenges can be heightened for minority-owned firms. For instance, minority-owned firms are less likely to receive loans than nonminority-owned firms, making it more difficult for minority-owned firms to secure the capital they need to establish themselves. This is why the Denver Minority Business Center will be a valuable asset to our entire State.

To help business owners start or grow their business, I introduced a credit union lending bill that would responsibly lift the cap that limits the amount of money credit unions can lend to small businesses. By doing so, new loans can help open the doors to new businesses and thereby create more than 100,000 new jobs across the Nation in the first year. This is another example of how we can support Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses alike to continue to prosper. I understand that there remains much to be accomplished and I am glad that Colorado's Hispanic-owned businesses and workers are willing and ready to be part of the solution.

I am proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. As we celebrate the many contributions of Colorado's Hispanic community to our State, I hope that we can draw attention to the need to cooperate so that we can find shared solutions to create a stronger environment for all businesses to thrive.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KOTA RADIO OF SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize a broadcasting pioneer in my home state of South Dakota. KOTA Radio is celebrating its 75th anniversary this November and I would like to commend the great work of the Duhamel family in building KOTA into a well-respected and recognized broadcasting entity in western South Dakota and parts of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana.

On November 26, 1936, Black Hills Broadcasting began radio operations as KOBH—Kall of the Black Hills—and began broadcasting from the penthouse of the Alex Johnson Hotel. The station became known as KOTA in 1945. Helen Duhamel purchased a minority interest in Black Hills Broadcasting in 1943, expanded her holdings in 1948, and by 1954 she had purchased all remaining common stock and Duhamel Enterprises

was formed. She helped pave the way for women in South Dakota business and was one of the first women in the Nation to have such an integral role in the broadcasting business.

Over the years, many members of the Duhamel family were intimately involved in the day-to-day operations of KOTA and Duhamel Enterprises. Helen continued to serve as president and general manager of the station until 1976, when her son William F. Duhamel took over both positions. Bill Duhamel has served amiably and with the highest degree of professionalism and dedication for the past 35 years and shows no signs of slowing down. Bill grew up at his mother's side around the station learning the broadcasting and journalism professions, and he passed on that passion to his daughter Helene, who serves as a television anchor at the station, and other family members over the years who have been integrally involved in the family businesses.

As part of their celebration this year, Duhamel Enterprises has broadcast a daily reflection, going back to the same day in 1936 and providing listeners with recollections of local, state and national news items from that year. They are transferred in time and are reminded of local businesses, some that have long since shuttered while others remain vibrant and strong to this day. They are reminded of the cost of a gallon of milk or loaf of bread. The stories have rekindled great memories for listeners of all ages.

KOTA and Duhamel Broadcasting has won numerous awards for their broadcasting and journalistic excellence over the years. The Duhamel family and their family of employees have been very involved as well in community activities, most notably the KOTA Care and Share Food Drive, which has been organizing massive food and monetary donation drives to help feed the area's hungry for the past 27 years.

Over the years, Duhamel Enterprises has expanded broadcasting coverage to include the eastern half of Wyoming and the northwestern portion of Nebraska. The radio and broadcasting professionals at KOTA have been well-recognized and awarded for their excellence and many of the KOTA broadcasters were journalistic pioneers who helped foster and produce styles of news gathering and presentation styles envied by many young broadcasters.

I congratulate KOTA Radio and Duhamel Enterprises as well as Bill Duhamel, members of the Duhamel family and their broadcasting family on the occasion of the station's 75th anniversary, as well as their numerous contributions to the Rapid City and Black Hills communities through journalistic and broadcasting excellence as well as their community presence.●

RAPID CITY HARNEY LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize

and congratulate the Rapid City Harney All-Star Little League for their impressive teamwork and sportsmanship.

In the past 4 years, 2 other South Dakotan teams have earned their way into the Little League World Series. Like the teams that have gone before them, I believe the Harney All-Stars stand as strong examples of the very best this sport has to offer. These dedicated young athletes worked together as a team and exhibited the kind of sportsmanship that can serve as a model for every American, including professional athletes playing in the major leagues, to emulate. There is no doubt in my mind these young athletes played to the best of their abilities and truly had both the hearts and their heads in the game.

I offer my sincere appreciation to all of this year's exceptional team members: Tristan Deming, Justin Kraemer, Riley McSherry, Seth Brewer, Zach Solano, Cameron Fees, Madden Pikula, Erik Petry, Timmy Paris, Kyle Maguire, Hayden McGriff and Brett Beyer. I would also like to acknowledge Coach Kasey McGriff, who helped lead the Harney team to the Little League World Series.

These young people represented Rapid City and the State of South Dakota in an extraordinary fashion. While the final outcome of the Little League World Series was not what these young athletes had hoped for, their hard work and sportsmanship well represent the very best of South Dakota's values.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT RAVEN S. TAYLOR

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of one of our Nation's finest, a member of the U.S. Air Force. I am pleased to announce that Raven S. Taylor was selected as one of 12 airmen who earned the award of Outstanding Airman of the Year, and I am proud to note that Raven earned this distinction while serving in the rank of senior airman at Eielson Air Force Base, AK. She has since been promoted to staff sergeant. This is an auspicious occasion and no small feat considering the 12 airmen were selected from an eligible pool of over 288,000 for their superior leadership, job performance, and personal achievement.

Raven is a native of Waycross, GA. She graduated with honors from Prince County High School and enlisted in the Air Force in 2007. After basic training and technical school as a aerospace medical technician, Alaska welcomed her to Eielson as her first duty assignment. Like many others who come to our State, Raven felt right at home, thriving in her job at the hospital and making meaningful contributions to the community. She oversaw some 650 preventive health assessments and supervised the infection control program, which achieved a flawless record of zero infections reported over 18,000 patient visits. Raven assisted with 20

minor surgeries and worked over 1,000 hours of ambulance service, where she was credited with helping to save the life of a gunshot victim. While at Eielson she found time to volunteer with the USO, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Air Force Sergeants Association, and youth cheerleading. Add to this her work toward a bachelor's degree in nursing, and it is clear why she stood out from her peers for this prestigious award.

Excellence is contagious. Rewarding the best of the best motivates others in their own endeavors. In a time when our servicemembers are all volunteers, the professionalism and proficiency of the force is fueled by those within the ranks who lead by example and uphold the core values of their service. The example Raven set through her exceptional performance has undoubtedly been transmitted to countless other airmen she served with. Alaska is proud to have had her.

Alaskans take pride in treating our military better than any other State, and we like to think our support makes them better soldiers, airmen, sailors, marines, and coast guardsmen. We know they make us better. Our military members are a reassuring presence in our communities, and we hope our faithful patriotism reciprocates the inspiration we draw from theirs. Raven has recently been transferred to Yokota Air Base, Japan, but I trust she will fondly remember her time in Alaska. I congratulate Sergeant Taylor on her selection as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen, I thank her for her service, and I look forward to hearing of her continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

FISCAL PLAN ENTITLED "LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS AND INVESTING IN THE FUTURE" RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2011—PM 22

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

To The Congress of the United States:

This continues to be a time of challenge for our country. We face an economic crisis that has left millions of our neighbors jobless, and a political crisis that has made things worse. Millions of Americans are looking for work. Across our country, families are doing their best just to scrape by—giving up nights out with the family to save on gas or make the mortgage, or postponing retirement to send a child to college.

These men and women grew up with faith in an America where hard work and responsibility paid off. They believed in a country where everyone gets a fair shake and does their fair share; they believed that if you worked hard and played by the rules, you would be rewarded with a decent salary and good benefits. If you did the right thing, you could make it in America.

For decades now, Americans have watched that compact erode. They have seen the decks too often stacked against them. And they know that Washington has not always put their interests first. Too often, our Nation's capital has been consumed by partisanship. Too often, the needs of special interests or politics have been put ahead of what is best for the country.

That is what must change. The American people work hard to meet their responsibilities. Now, as the Nation faces an economy that is not growing and creating jobs as it should, so must its leaders. While the continued recovery of our economy will be driven by the businesses and workers across our land, policymakers in Washington can take steps to help Americans right now and set the most favorable conditions we can for growth and job creation for years to come. We can live within our means and invest for the future.

That is why last week I presented to the Congress and the American people the American Jobs Act, to provide a jolt to the economy and give companies confidence that if they invest and hire, there will be customers for their products and services. This jobs bill will put more people back to work and more money in the pockets of those who are working. It will create more jobs for construction workers, more jobs for teachers, more jobs for veterans, and more jobs for the long-term unemployed. It will provide a tax break for companies that hire new workers, and it will cut payroll taxes in half for every working American and every small business. It will create jobs for people to rebuild our aging infrastructure and repair and modernize at least 35,000 schools. Moreover, the proposals in the American Jobs Act are the kind of proposals that have been supported by Democrats and Republicans in the past.

I am committed to paying for this jobs bill. The Budget Control Act that I signed into law last month will cut annual Government spending by about \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. It also charges the Joint Select Com-

mittee on Deficit Reduction with finding an additional \$1.5 trillion in savings. As part of this jobs bill, I am asking the Congress to increase that amount so that it covers the full cost of the American Jobs Act. In addition, I believe that the Congress should seize the opportunity that this new Committee presents and do much more so that we can put the country on a sustainable fiscal path, which is critical for our long-term economic growth and competitiveness.

For this reason, I am sending to the Congress this detailed plan to pay for this jobs bill and realize more than \$3 trillion in net deficit reduction over the next 10 years. Combined with the approximately \$1 trillion in savings from the first part of the Budget Control Act, this would generate more than \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next decade. This would bring the Nation to the point where current spending is no longer adding to our debt and where our debt is no longer increasing as a share of our economy—an important milestone on the way to restoring fiscal discipline and moving us toward balance.

This plan is a balanced one that asks everyone to do their part. It includes nearly \$580 billion in cuts and reforms to mandatory programs of which \$320 billion is savings from Federal health programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. These changes are necessary to maintain the promise of Medicare as we know it.

The plan also realizes more than \$1 trillion in savings over the next 10 years from our drawdowns in Afghanistan and Iraq. And the plan calls for the Congress to undertake comprehensive tax reform that lowers tax rates, closes loopholes, boosts job creation here at home, cuts the deficit by \$1.5 trillion, and observes the Buffett Rule—that people making more than \$1 million a year should not pay a smaller share of their income in taxes than middle-class families pay.

To assist the Committee in its work, I also included specific tax loophole closers and measures to broaden the tax base. Together with the expiration of the high-income tax cuts from 2001 and 2003, these measures would be more than enough to reach this \$1.5 trillion target. They include cutting tax preferences for high-income households, eliminating tax breaks for oil and gas companies, closing the carried interest loophole for investment fund managers, and eliminating benefits for those who use corporate jets.

In sum, the plan I am sending to the Congress today is a blueprint for how we can reduce this deficit, pay down our debt, and pay for the American Jobs Act in the process. I have little doubt that some of these proposals will not be popular with those who benefit from these affected programs. And some of these changes are ones that we would not make if it were not for our fiscal situation. But we are all in this together, and all of us must contribute