

alone bill that we introduced last week.

Our amendment would help mitigate the harmful effects of the indiscriminate across-the-board cuts, known as sequestration, which took effect on March 1.

Our amendment would not reverse the automatic spending reductions, but would empower the heads of Federal agencies and departments to set priorities and implement the cuts in a smarter way.

Without this amendment, sequestration will be applied without distinction between high and low priority programs, programs that have a proven track record of success and those that should be reduced or eliminated.

To ensure appropriate Congressional oversight, the amendment requires agency heads to submit their spending proposals to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for approval.

This Congressional oversight is an important step in the process because the Appropriations Committees know the budget of each agency inside and out. This review process also provides a strong incentive for each department or agency to put forth a serious plan if it wants to avoid the across-the-board cuts that would otherwise take effect.

Mr. President, this is an approach that our intelligence community has requested. The Nation's senior intelligence officer, Director Clapper, testified yesterday before the Intelligence Committee that sequestration jeopardizes our Nation's safety and security and that the across-the-board nature of the cuts compounds the damage by limiting "our ability to manage where to take deductions in a balanced, and rational way." His plea was for flexibility, saying "All we're asking for is the latitude on how to take them to minimize the damage."

The Udall-Collins amendment would provide that needed flexibility to the intelligence community and other areas of our government, and I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Finally, I would like to note how pleased I am that the legislation currently before the Senate includes full-year funding bills for a number of departments and agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, Veterans Affairs, Commerce, and Agriculture. While I wish we had been able to move all of the annual appropriations bills, at a minimum, we appear on the verge of passing full-year funding bills for the departments I just mentioned, which is particularly important for the Department of Defense.

Military leaders have repeatedly warned that failure to enact a full-year defense funding bill would have dire consequences for our military. Military readiness would suffer, and the military would not be fully ready to respond to crises because DOD could not transfer funds from investment accounts into readiness accounts.

A year-long CR for the Defense Department would have resulted in a hol-

low force because the Pentagon would not have been able to increase production rates for existing weapons, start new programs, or sign multiyear procurement contracts that will provide significant savings for taxpayers.

When I questioned Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter on February 14, 2013, at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing about what the continuing resolution means for the Navy and our domestic shipbuilding capability, he testified that:

We're in the absurd position where we're five months into the fiscal year and we have the authority to build the ships that we built last year and no authority to build the ships that we plan to build this year. That's crazy . . . and that has nothing to do with sequester, by the way, that's the C.R.

The full-year funding bills that are included in the continuing resolution offered by Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY will help alleviate some of the impacts of sequestration on the departments and agencies funded through those bills.

Unfortunately, the departments and agencies that find themselves funded under a continuing resolution, operating under a budget based on last year's needs, are not as lucky. It is all the more important for these departments and agencies that we provide additional flexibility, as the Udall-Collins amendment would do, in carrying out the cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment so that the cuts that are taking place now can be targeted at programs that do not work while sparing those programs that do.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks tomorrow, March 14, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 933; that there be up to 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form on the Harkin amendment; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Harkin amendment; that there be no amendments in order to the amendment prior to the vote, and the amendment be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion on the Mikulski-Shelby substitute amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Mikulski-Shelby substitute amendment No. 26, as modified, to H.R. 933 a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Sherrod Brown, Barbara Boxer, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Max Baucus, Tim Johnson, Benjamin L. Cardin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Charles E. Schumer, Carl Levin, Thomas R. Carper, Richard J. Durbin, Maria Cantwell.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have another cloture motion to the underlying bill at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 933 a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Sherrod Brown, Barbara Boxer, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Max Baucus, Tim Johnson, Benjamin L. Cardin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Charles E. Schumer, Carl Levin, Thomas R. Carper, Richard J. Durbin, Maria Cantwell.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived with respect to both cloture motions.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MYRON FLEMING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been waiting today to take just a moment to honor Myron Fleming, Director of Doorkeepers, who is retiring after 40 years of working on Capitol Hill.

Myron began his work in the Capitol with the office of Senator Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio. He has worked in the Senate for 33, 34 years, and prior to that he worked in the House of Representatives for 7 years. He is someone

whom I have watched over the many years I have been here. He has a wonderful personality. He is someone who helps keep order in this institution, and his presence in the Senate is one that is calming. Everyone who knows him likes him. It just will not be the same without him.

While I will miss him, I know he will be glad to spend more time with his wife Jean Carolyn, as well as his children Mark and Mitchell and their granddaughter Nila.

We talked earlier in the day when I learned he was retiring, and I have already spoken about what a fine gentleman he is. But here is one thing he and I joked about today. I was here handling the floor as I did for Senator Daschle for many years, and there was this big crash. Everyone said: What has happened? What happened was Myron was rushing around doing the work he did, and he could not have done a better pirouette if he been a ballerina. He flipped in the air and came crashing down. Everybody thought something bad had happened, and Myron just got up, smiled, and walked away. He and I joked about that earlier today. I will always remember that. I asked Gary to find somebody on the staff who was there when Myron fell, and no one remembered, but Myron and I remembered. So I went and talked to him myself.

Myron is leaving next week to go on a cruise to Cancun, Mexico, with his wife and his granddaughter. I thank him on behalf of the entire Senate for his faithful service to our country and to the U.S. Senate. I wish him well in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JANICE MILLER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize one of my longest-serving and loyal staffers, Janice Miller. After more than a quarter of a century in my Las Vegas office, Janice retired on February 22, 2013. She has earned a happy and restful retirement from public service, but she will be deeply missed.

Just six months after I had been elected to serve my first term in the U.S. Senate, Janice joined my staff. A self-described cat lover, Janice soon came to be known for her laughter and her sharp wit. Along with her no-nonsense attitude, she showed true compassion for the countless Medicare and Social Security recipients she assisted throughout her career.

Janice is a true Nevadan. She attended the Western High School in Las Vegas, and then went to the University of Nevada, Reno. Although Las Vegas is her home, she continues to be an avid Wolf Pack supporter. In her youth, Janice had a tremendous activist spirit. That was tapped into by one of her mentors, my good friend and former chief of staff, Rey Martinez. Rey taught Janice at Western High School, and he also introduced her to politics, where she stayed until her recent retirement. Janice has always

cared deeply about women's issues, ranging from women's health care to access to education and equality in the workplace.

Janice Miller, during the time she worked on my campaigns, was an all-star. Janice also had tremendous compassion for senior citizens who were often struggling with Social Security issues. In the more than 25 years that Janice was with me, she never lost her concern for the seniors who needed her help. She always went above and beyond, helping to develop invaluable resources for Nevada's seniors in need. She helped to write the first "Retiree Guide" for my office. Thousands of copies of this guide are still used as a catalog of information and resources for seniors in southern Nevada.

Janice developed a deep understanding of the medical field through her work and her continued outreach to the community. Cindy Lubiarz, vice president of business development at Care Meridian, credits Janice with helping to facilitate the development of the CareMeridian Pediatric Facility, the only free-standing, post-acute inpatient pediatric facility in Nevada, which is set to open its doors later this year.

While fighting to ensure that Nevadans in need got the benefits they deserved, Janice also battled breast cancer. As a survivor, she serves as a source of strength for so many women who are facing the same challenge. She took this role in her personal life as well as in her professional life. Her support has meant so much to Mary Liveratti, retired administrator for the Nevada Division of Aging and Disability Services, who is a breast cancer survivor herself. When Janice first learned of Mary's diagnosis, she pulled her aside at a meeting to tell Mary that she had also battled breast cancer and to offer Mary support and encouragement. When Mary talks about this incident, it brings her to tears because she knew she was not alone in her fight.

Janice's kind spirit, in-depth knowledge of Medicare and Social Security, and commitment to public service will be truly missed. I thank her for her tireless service, and wish her well in her retirement.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT VALERIE DELANEY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to express my deep condolences to the family of LT Valerie Delaney who was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 2009, whose life was cut short by jet crash in Washington State.

Lieutenant Delaney graduated from the Naval Academy and was a wonderful young lady. She was not my appointment but appointed to the Academy by Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS. She was a great naval officer who married 1 year ago. She had a promising life and a promising career ahead of her.

To her family who resides in Howard County in the wonderful community of Ellicott City, I, Senator CARDIN, and the other Senators wish to extend our heartfelt condolences.

Valerie did everything well. She was popular with other officers and well regarded. When she sought nomination, she needed to take 1 year off for prep school, which she did. She was diligent, persistent and terrific.

We deeply regret this tragic accident which occurred. I wanted to inform the Senate of this accident and let her family know we extend our sympathy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. DONALD ZACHARIAS

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, Mississippi State University and my State of Mississippi lost one of its most outstanding leaders with the passing of Dr. Donald Zacharias on March 3 at the age of 77. Dr. Zacharias served as the president of Mississippi State University from 1985-1997. His name became synonymous with the highest qualities of leadership, vision, and humanity. He was blessed with gifts that enabled him to make important contributions to higher education throughout the country.

I ask that a March 3, 2013 article from the Clarion-Ledger newspaper titled "Former MSU president Donald Zacharias' legacy one of transformation," be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

[From the Clarion-Ledger, Mar. 3, 2013]

FORMER MSU PRESIDENT DONALD ZACHARIAS'
LEGACY ONE OF TRANSFORMATION

(By Therese Apel)

Former Mississippi State University President Donald Zacharias is being remembered among friends, family and MSU faithful as a man with a vision for the university—and a man who left a legacy of growth and progress at the school he loved.

Zacharias, who led the Starkville university from 1985-97, died Sunday of complications from multiple sclerosis after an extended illness. He was 77.

"He had an influence not just on MSU but on higher education at large in Mississippi," said Sid Salter, director of University Relations. "He had some rather tumultuous battles with the Legislature over funding higher education. I think that's really where he could shine in his ability and his willingness to fight for what he believed in."

Roy Ruby was vice president for student affairs when Zacharias joined the MSU family and later was dean of the College of Education and interim president of the university. Until a year ago, when Zacharias was admitted to a nursing home, the two were neighbors.

"He was a man of solid integrity, and he was a man of his word," said Ruby. "He was a man who, in all aspects of his life, tried to do right. He was a good family man, a good citizen of the state, and an exemplary college administrator."

Current MSU President Mark Keenum said Zacharias was someone he looked up to.

"I counted him as a friend, a mentor and an inspiration. Don Zacharias was a man of