

It is not too late. It is not too late for us to regain the trust of the American people. But it is going to take some work. We won't be able to do it right away, but we ought to start this week, and we can start by responsibly funding the government, providing our economy and our Nation with the confidence they need. That is what we did in Montana, and that is what we need to do here in Washington.

The American people are calling for an end to the brinkmanship and an end to the gridlock, and it is time we start to listen to them.

I also want to thank Senator MIKULSKI, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, for agreeing to end a special-interest provision that was included by the House of Representatives in last year's government funding bill a few months ago and the one that was sent over here recently.

A few years ago the committee voluntarily agreed to match the House's earmark moratorium, and I think it is interesting our friends in the House make very serious statements about the need to get rid of earmarks, then stuffed a few items in the spending bill last year that directly benefited a couple of the biggest multinational businesses in this country. I spoke to Chairwoman MIKULSKI about this issue this spring and she was very gracious and listened to my concerns. I am pleased to see she and Senator REID have eliminated one of those corporate earmarks, and I want to thank them for that. It will make this bill a lot cleaner.

In closing, I know there are people in this body who want to work together to make this country all it can be. I also know there are people in this body who would love to see a government shutdown because they might be able to pad their own PACs or political coffers. And maybe it would take a government shutdown to make them understand how bad this would be for the American people, its businesses and its working families. But I certainly hope that doesn't happen. The American people don't deserve it. This country doesn't deserve it, as it comes out of one of the worst economic times since the 1930s. Quite frankly, being a businessman myself, I look at what goes on in Washington, DC, and all the challenges businesses have in this country, and the biggest challenge we have right now is Washington, DC.

Let's start moving the country forward by working together. Let's fund the government. Let's not shut it down. And let's do what is right when the debt limit debate comes around.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. TESTER. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE EMPLEO PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Southern Nevada Employment Education Outreach, EMPLEO, program for their decade of commitment to fair and just working conditions for all workers.

In 2003, EMPLEO piloted a toll-free hotline for immigrant workers to report alleged discrimination, and other wage, and workplace abuses in Nevada. The hotline number was created in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, OSHA, EEOC, the Mexican Consulate of Las Vegas, and other private and public agencies.

Today, EMPLEO partners with more than 17 different government agencies that share the same common goal of providing access and awareness to employers and employees. EMPLEO staff and volunteers are diligent in their outreach to help educate workers about their labor rights. Through its work, EMPLEO has grown the number of workers it services, and in some instances, has helped workers acquire back wages. As a trusted source in the community, EMPLEO is bridging the relationship between employees and employers.

I commend EMPLEO and its many community partners for their commitment to workers' rights and safety. I also extend my gratitude to Southern Nevada District Director, Mr. Gaspar Montanez, for his leadership and commitment to the mission of EMPLEO along with the Department of Labor, and staff at the Office of the Mexican and Salvadorian Consulate. I look forward to the continuation of EMPLEO's services and education to workers and those who employ them.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, Arkansans are well aware of the damage that Mother Nature can cause. We have seen the devastating impact of tornadoes, flooding, ice storms, and other natural disasters.

This devastation can be overwhelming. Surveying the damage sometimes reveals the need to rebuild parts of the community, infrastructure, and neighborhoods. Oftentimes this causes difficulties for families who may be displaced from their homes or even their jobs.

Time and again when we are faced with these catastrophes, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management has been there to activate the resources necessary to protect people and communities and provide them with the basic needs as rebuilding efforts occur.

This year we recognize the 60th anniversary of the agency tasked with responding to emergencies. No matter how big or small, the men and women of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management are ready to respond at a moment's notice and support recovery efforts.

The agency has developed since 1953 from an office in the Arkansas State Capitol with one surplus military radio to today's state-of-the-art facility.

We appreciate the hard work, dedication and commitment of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management as the agency continues to improve and seek new and innovative ways to prepare us all for the unexpected.●

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the Missing in America Project's Veteran Recovery Program, which has coordinated a ceremony during which 18 Nevada veterans of the Vietnam and Korean wars will be laid to rest. On October 1, these fallen heroes who never received a military burial will finally be given full military honors at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley, NV.

These heroic Nevadans who will finally receive the honorable recognition they so rightly deserve, gave all that they could give in order to defend liberty and the American way of life. They were willing to put on a uniform, answer the call of duty, and sacrifice their very lives on the altar of freedom. There is no higher virtue than that which was displayed by these 18 brave Nevadans, and the thousands of others with whom they served. And although years have passed since these American warriors gave their lives, their selfless sacrifice is not forgotten, but lives on in the hearts of those whom they died to defend. The very least we can do is express our profound gratitude and appreciation for these heroes by giving them an honorable military burial.

We can never thank our veterans enough for the immeasurable sacrifices they and their families have made on our behalf. As a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, I can personally attest to the importance of providing every available resource and benefit to America's veterans. I applaud the Missing in America Project for helping to advance this effort by working diligently to ensure that lost veterans receive the honorable burial they deserve. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking this organization for its efforts, and I join my fellow Nevadans in remembering the 18 heroes

who will be laid to rest in a manner consistent with our Nation's high esteem for their valiant service.●

TRIBUTE TO RYAN AND RHONDA KELLY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President today I wish to recognize Ryan and Rhonda Kelly of Rapid City, SD, as my nominees for the 2013 Angels in Adoption Award. Since 1999, the Angels in Adoption program, through the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, has honored nearly 2,000 individuals, couples, and organizations nationwide for their work in providing children with loving, stable homes.

Since 2005, 6 girls from China have come to know the love and compassion of high school sweethearts Ryan and Rhonda Kelly. One morning in January 2005, Rhonda woke up and felt a calling to pursue an adoption of a baby girl in China.

That calling has since developed into a deep passion for providing a loving, Christian home to girls from China. Over the last 8 years, Rhonda and Ryan have joyfully welcomed 6 girls from China into their family: Jenna, Jocelyn, Jade, Jolise, Janelle, and Joy. They have adopted girls as young as 18 months to age 14. Each adoption has given the Kellys a new opportunity to meet the unique physical and emotional needs of each child, a task they have faced with grace, determination, and humility. These girls joined biological children Jacob, Joshua, Julia, and Jonah.

Ryan, Rhonda, and their 10 children, now ranging in age from 22 to 4, are shining examples of what it means to make the dream of a family a reality for every child. Adoption has given the girls the opportunity to receive the medical care they need, a family to love and care for them forever, and a chance for a bright future. Adoption has given the Kelly family an entirely different outlook on life: they look at the big picture and choose not to sweat the small things. This family clearly loves each other, supports each other, has empathy for each other, and gets to witness the miracle of adoption each and every day.

With National Adoption Day just around the corner on November 23, 2013, it is important that we recognize the compassionate families who fulfill the roles of foster and adoptive parents. Thus, it brings me great pride to honor South Dakotans Ryan and Rhonda Kelly as my nominees for the 2013 Angels in Adoption award, as they have bestowed a gift onto others in an immeasurable way and the impact their love has had is profound.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1961. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 793. An act to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3092. An act to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 527. An act to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 26, 2013, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 793. An act to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-135. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging Congress to award the United States 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers, the Congressional Gold Medal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1266

Whereas, the Borinqueneers trace their lineage to the "Puerto Rico Regiment of Volunteer Infantry," authorized by Congress on March 2, 1899, as the first body of native troops in Puerto Rico, the only Hispanic-segregated unit in the United States Armed Forces that played a prominent role in American military history; and

Whereas, during World War I, the Borinqueneers rallied a force of over 1,500 to defend the Panama Canal, and upon their return to Puerto Rico were renamed "The 65th Infantry Regiment;" and

Whereas, during World War II, the Borinqueneers served in North Africa and Europe, winning Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Central Europe, and Rhineland battle cam-

paign awards; and were assigned security, anti-sabotage, and other occupation missions around Kaiserslautern and Mannheim, Germany after the war; and

Whereas, during the Korean War, the Borinqueneers were the only all-Hispanic unit; joined the United States 3rd Infantry Division to be among the first infantry to engage in battle with North Korean troops; served with distinction to earn 4 Distinguished Service Crosses, 124 Silver Stars, 9 Korean battle campaign awards, the Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, 2 Korean Presidential Unit Citations, and the Greek Gold Medal for Bravery; and are credited with launching the last recorded battalion-sized bayonet assault in United States Army history; and

Whereas, legendary United States Army General Douglas MacArthur lauded the Borinqueneers, crediting them with a resolute will to victory and loyalty to the United States, saying, "They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. I wish that we could count on many more like them;" and

Whereas, in 1959, the Borinqueneers passed their colors to the National Guard of the United States Territory of Puerto Rico, withdrawing from the Regular Army, the only time in United States Army history that active unit colors were not retired, but, instead, turned over to a National Guard unit; and

Whereas, today, the legacy of the Borinqueneers lives on in the National Guard in Puerto Rico, which continues to defend the United States in the ongoing War on Terrorism; and

Whereas, the Borinqueneers served and sacrificed, shedding blood for our democracy and helping to ensure our prosperity as they faced segregation and discrimination, protecting our nation and fighting for the good of all; and

Whereas, these warriors, the Borinqueneers, deserve a place with all American heroes, and should be honored, commended, and never forgotten for their feats; and

Whereas, the Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award given by the United States Congress, awarded as an expression of public gratitude on behalf of the nation for distinguished contributions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida, That, in recognition of the bravery and sacrifice of the United States 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers, the President and the Congress of the United States are urged to award the Congressional Gold Medal to these true heroes and defenders of our great nation; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress, to the Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner, to the President of the United States 65th Infantry Regiment Association, the chairman of the Hispanic Achievers Grant Council, the chairman of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance, and the National Association for Uniformed Services.

POM-136. A resolution adopted by the York County Commissioners, Maine, urging Congress to recognize the importance of the F-35 Lightning II to Maine, the United States and our allies around the world by supporting full funding and full production for the F-35 program; to the Committee on Armed Services.