

to these spending reductions, the economic and job benefits will be even bigger.

This balanced budget is an important first step to help Washington live within its means, just as hard-working families have to do every day. A balanced budget means real accountability in Washington and ensures that programs actually accomplish what they set out to deliver.

I wish to thank my colleagues for their consideration, cooperation, and patience to bring us to this point. I wish to particularly thank Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL for allowing the Senate and Senators to actually do our job, both in committee and on the floor of the Senate. Under Majority Leader MCCONNELL, we have received support and backing from the Senate Republican leadership, and it has been a great leadership team. It is because of this leadership that we have come to this result—the first Senate Republican resolution since 2006.

This commitment to an open, honest, and transparent legislative process is crucial to helping Congress restore the trust of the American people.

I also owe thanks to the outstanding Republican members of the Senate Budget Committee, who worked long and fought so hard and tenaciously to outline a plan that can balance the budget over the next 10 fiscal years. Thanks also are due to the many Members on this side who came and spoke on the budget's behalf, offered amendments to make it better—well, almost always to make it better—and worked with us and each other to move through the resolution's debate and voting process together.

I have enjoyed my partnership with Senator SANDERS since we both took on our new roles just a few months ago at the beginning of the 114th Congress. We have known each other a long time, served on some of the same Senate committees, and to have him across the aisle managing this bill with me has been an enjoyable part of acting on my first budget resolution. I also appreciate his staff who worked with him so diligently.

I also wish to focus for a moment on some of the staff who helped lead us here. I thank the Republican staff of the Senate Budget Committee, including the director, Eric Ueland; my deputy staff director Dan Kowalski; parliamentarian Tori Gorman; chief economist Bill Beach; director of budget review Matt Giroux; senior budget analysts Peter Warren and Steve Robinson; budget analysts Greg D'Angelo, Chris Cook, John Selden, and Andrew Herther; junior budget analyst Kaitlin Vogt; chief counsel Greg Dean and assistant counsel Clint Brown; editor Elizabeth Keys; Susan Eckerly; communications director Joe Brenckle; executive assistant Kim Proctor; and staff assistant Katie Wachob. Without all their work, which began last year, we would not be here this evening standing on the verge of passing the

Senate's fiscal year 2016 budget resolution.

I have to mention that they didn't even change offices when we got the majority so that they could be working on this budget, knowing that since it is always our first opportunity in the majority, we had a lot of work to do.

In addition, thanks are owed to the chief clerk of the committee, Adam Kamp, and his dedicated staff, who worked tirelessly supporting us in our efforts.

As well, thanks to my personal staff, including my legislative director Tara Shaw, and the personal office legislative team of Travis Jordan, Becky Cole, Clint Lohse, Renee Bender, Bart Massey, Kristin Chapman, and Elizabeth Schwartz. I particularly have to mention my chief of staff, Flip McConnaughey.

We have been supported by the great work of our floor and cloakroom staff, led by Laura Dove and Robert Duncan; the Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough and her team, along with our bill and amendment clerks who keep us on the straight and narrow. Key staff from Senator MCCONNELL's office have been very helpful, including his chief of staff Sharon Soderstrom, his policy director Hazel Marshall, and his budget and appropriations policy adviser John Burks.

Also, I wish to thank Russ Sullivan, Monica Popp, and Johnny Slemrod from Senator CORNYN's Whip Office.

After 5 days of consideration and 50 hours of debate on our budget resolution, truly everything that can be said has probably been said by everybody who can say it. But I don't think anyone said this yet: I want to thank the people who voted for the final passage of S. Con. Res. 11, the fiscal year 2016 Senate budget resolution. We now move on to conferencing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the ranking member of the Budget Committee is not on the floor, so let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Democratic members of the Budget Committee to express my appreciation to our chairman. We obviously disagree on the substance of this budget, as the votes reflect. Indeed, we think it is an awful budget. But I think I speak for all of us when I say how impressed we have been by the calm and civil and courteous and patient manner in which the chairman has led us through a very substantively difficult issue. I wish to join him on behalf of the Democrats on the Budget Committee in thanking all of the relevant staff—the parliamentary staff, the committee staff, the floor staff—who have supported us through this process.

Our chairman is a very courteous gentleman.

Mr. ENZI. Thank you.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor.

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

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

OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to join Americans of Thai descent across this country and millions of people in Thailand—the United States' oldest ally in Asia—in celebrating on April 2 the 60th birthday anniversary of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Fondly called by Thais as "Princess Angel", she is known for her life-long dedication to the cause of humanitarianism, education and human development, especially for the disadvantaged and marginalized, in Thailand and beyond. I am sure my colleagues in this Chamber will join me in paying tribute to her remarkable contributions.

Following closely in her parents' footsteps, Her Royal Highness has traveled with their Majesties throughout Thailand listening to their subjects' problems and responding with royal development projects. When not engaged in her official duties, she was pursuing her studies, attaining a Ph.D. in Development Education and a master's degree in History.

Since 1980, she has launched her own development projects. At first, Her Royal Highness focused on assisting disadvantaged and malnourished children. Aside from providing immediate aid, she also promoted integrated farming as a means to increase overall resilience and sustainable sources of nutrition. Public health has been a life-long concern. The Princess is the President of the Thai Red Cross Society and Chairperson of the Prince Mahidol Foundation, which bestows globally recognized awards for achievements in public health and medicine.

She soon expanded her charity projects to encompass education, working to increase access for children so as to improve their opportunities in life. Her approach and philosophy in this endeavor are deeply rooted in human rights and self-sufficiency. Specifically, Her Royal Highness has said:

"Those at the margins of society have rights to a good standard of living. Access to education is a fundamental human right. Education provides opportunities to learn and live sufficiently. Knowledge can be valued resources to help others or the community."

In fact, Her Royal Highness has supported more than 100 projects aimed at improving lives, raising the status of women, helping the disabled, and protecting the environment and wildlife. Many of these have won the support

and funding of agencies such as UNESCO, FAO, WHO and Johns Hopkins University.

The scholarships she grants to students are helping to nurture and create new generations of talented Thais dedicated to public service. As someone who is tech savvy and up-to-date on information technology, the Princess promotes Thailand's traditional culture and arts among the younger generation.

Through her selfless dedication and hard work for the benefit of humanity, she has earned love and respect from the Thai people and those beyond Thailand, including the United States. Therefore, I wish to join them in celebrating this auspicious occasion of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 60th birthday anniversary and wishing her happiness, good health and longevity.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARGARET HAMBURG

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is with both sadness and appreciation that I recognize Dr. Margaret Hamburg as she leaves her post as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Hamburg has been a wonderful colleague and partner during her tenure at FDA. She has a collaborative and effective leadership style that has truly improved the health, safety, and quality of life here in our country. Over the nearly 6 years she has spent as Commissioner, Dr. Hamburg has worked tirelessly to ensure that Americans remain healthy and safe for years to come.

Dr. Hamburg has presided over significant milestones, strengthening the agency's commitment to science and advancing biomedical innovation. The personalized medicine initiative prioritized under her leadership has led to more targeted, effective treatments for cancer patients, in addition to diagnostic tests that are faster and more accurate—crucial factors in tailoring optimal treatment for each particular patient. Dr. Hamburg also worked with me and several of my colleagues in launching expedited review of “break-through therapies” to accelerate help for patients with serious or life-threatening illnesses. Thanks to her efforts, the United States is more competitive and better positioned to accommodate the astounding pace of medical innovation as we move forward in the 21st century.

In the area of food safety, Dr. Hamburg's leadership helped to build a more modern food protection system that will prevent foodborne illness and improve the safety of the food Americans consume for years to come. She has also worked with Congress in creating important steps to ensure product safety, implementing new standards that will protect the American people from the dangers of counterfeit, stolen, contaminated, or otherwise harmful drugs.

These are just a few highlights from Dr. Hamburg's tenure. Dr. Hamburg has rendered our country a tremendous service, and I know that she will continue to have success in all of her future endeavors. I wish her the best of luck.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT DIRK T. SHELTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a brave young Kentuckian who served our country in uniform and whose life has been tragically cut short. SSgt Dirk T. Shelton, of Corbin, KY, died in Washington, DC, from wounds received July 13, 2014 on a training mission. The U.S. airman was 29 years old.

Staff Sergeant Shelton enlisted in the Air Force in 2005, after graduating from Corbin High School in 2004. He served multiple overseas tours, including four to Afghanistan and one each to Somalia and Kuwait. He was a member of Joint Special Operations Command and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC.

Staff Sergeant Shelton was the recipient of many medals, awards, and decorations, including the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal. He was honored to be a Bronze Star recipient at such a young age. He had recently completed training in HALO parachute jumps. HALO stands for high altitude, low opening.

Staff Sergeant Shelton had wanted to fly as a young child. He loved to make people laugh and his coworkers remember that Dirk made work fun. He leaves behind his wife, Maria. Together they would have celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on July 20, 2014.

He also leaves behind his parents, Tom and Jenny Shelton; his sister and her husband, Morgan and David Taylor; his niece, Reagan; his aunts and uncles, Mike and Vicki Moore, John and Penny Hammons, and Joe and Missy Shelton; his cousins, Jon Moore, Amy Hammack, Johnny Hammons, Julie Hendrickson, Whitney Pratt, Emily, Jamie and Joey Shelton, and Jake, Brett and Allie Pennington; his parents-in-law, Israel and Nimfa Ocasio; and his sisters-in-law, Melanie, Marissa, and Mia Ocasio.

The local Times-Tribune newspaper published an article detailing SSgt Dirk T. Shelton's funeral service. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Times-Tribune, July 25, 2014]

HUNDREDS ATTEND MILITARY FUNERAL SERVICE FOR DIRK SHELTON

(By Jeff Noble)

Whenever America needed him, Staff Sergeant Dirk Thomas Shelton always answered the call.

Those calls took him to corners of the world where very few people—even his own family at times—had any idea where he was.

After serving honorably to fight for and preserve our nation's freedom and way of life, Dirk returned to Corbin to rest forever.

Hundreds of people paid homage to Dirk during a stirring and poignant funeral service Thursday evening at Grace on the Hill United Methodist Church. The full military funeral began around 6:10 p.m., and followed the visitation that went on from 2-6 p.m.

A Corbin native, Dirk was a Radio Frequency Transmission Journeyman assigned to the Joint Communications Unit in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was also a member of the Joint Special Operations Command, a sub-unified command of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

Sgt. Dirk Shelton passed away in Washington, D.C. last Monday, July 14. He was on a training mission in Fairfax, Virginia, and suffered a traumatic brain injury last Sunday, July 13. At the time of his death, he was 29 years old.

The military plane carrying his body left Washington, D.C., Wednesday evening and landed at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport later that night. A hearse brought the body south to Corbin where it was taken to Hart Funeral Home, who handled the arrangements.

Around 12:35 p.m. Thursday, the hearse left the funeral home as part of a small procession that took Dirk's body to the church for the visitation.

A long, steady line of people paying their respects to Dirk lined outside and inside the chapel for much of the afternoon. Inside, an open casket with an American flag draped to the casket's side stood in the middle, just below the stage.

Above the casket, on either side were pictures and mementos of Dirk.

Looking down from the balcony to the right, a black and white picture of him with his sister, Morgan Shelton Taylor, stood out as a memory of earlier times. To the left was a large picture of Dirk free falling from an airplane during maneuvers—a favorite print of the Shelton family.

Overhead, above the choir loft, two large video screens on the left and right displayed pictures and tape of Dirk, his wife Maria, his parents Tom and Jenny, and moments capturing the life of a man who lived it like there was no tomorrow.

Two poems and an essay written by Dirk were read at the funeral. And, as people came inside for the service, there was this comment, written on a small program card.

“All my life I have been pushed towards different goals. Not all of these goals were goals I had necessarily set for myself, but they were goals all the same. The reason for this ‘push’ is because people who are for me want me to succeed in life. I would like nothing better than to be a successful person and that brings about my fear. My fear is that I might not be successful in life. . . . The way I see it, the only real way that I could get rid of my fear completely is to actually become successful at something in my life, which leads me to believe that my fear may be around for a long time. If I could change my fear, I wouldn't. It's what gets me by. If it were gone, there would be a void in my life and I would inevitably turn out to be what I fear—unsuccessful.”

Dirk Shelton wrote those words in an essay.

His friend Johnny B. Hammons read them at the service.

“He was a hero to me, he was a hero to his family, and he was a hero to his community,” Hammons said.

According to his friends and comrades in the military, he went beyond and above success at all times.

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Clifford, the commander of Dirk's unit in Fort Bragg, North