

an truly sorry that our Republican friends were unable to join colleagues on this side of the aisle in restoring some hope for our children's future.

Similarly, my Budget Committee colleague, the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and my friend from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, offered an important amendment to restore some of the nasty cuts to the Medicare and Medicaid Programs. This amendment would have given some much-needed security to our elderly. It would have also loosened the squeeze on the middle class—average Americans like me, who are caught between elderly, frail parents, and kids at home.

I was honored to join two of my distinguished colleagues from the Finance Committee, Senator BRADLEY and Senator BREAUX to roll back the tax increase on our country's working families. This budget plan raises the taxes on families earning less than \$28,000 per year. I think nearly everyone in this country would agree it is inherently unfair to raise taxes on the lower middle class and give a break to the wealthiest among us. Unfortunately, this amendment was rejected on party lines. That is a tragic and sad mistake.

Time and again, some of our colleagues attempted to restore common sense to this budget, but we were caught up in the partisanship of this body. One of the worst examples of this came with the defeat of the Murray amendment. My amendment simply would have protected kids from Medicaid cuts. Despite the defeat of my amendment which would have put the Senate on record that children should not be left without insurance, I will continue to fight for the interests of children in this Nation as the Medicaid system is reformed by this Congress.

Lastly, I was very disappointed that an amendment offered by my colleague from Delaware, Senator ROTH, was defeated. The Senator from Delaware correctly called attention to the risks to our environment if oil exploration were to be extended in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This amendment was important for the future of our Nation's environment, and its defeat is shortsighted and ill-advised.

Mr. President, without these amendments, without this safety net for our children, without protections of our environment, and without other safeguards for our most vulnerable citizens, this resolution is fatally flawed. And, I cannot support this draconian and risky budget plan.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. HIRAM C. POLK, JR.

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Hiram C. Polk, Jr., Hiram is chairman of surgery at the University of Louisville, and this week he will be inducted into the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Scotland as an honorary fellow.

The Royal College of Surgeons is the oldest surgical college in the world and

is also the most renowned. The induction as an honorary fellow is the highest honor awarded by the college. This tribute is unquestionably one that Hiram should be proud of, because the college only gives out five or six awards in one year to the best surgeons around the world.

Hiram was also asked to deliver the Lister lecture at the college's annual meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland on May 26, 1995, making him the first American to give the Lister lecture. Hiram is also one of only 13 people to ever deliver the lecture. He joins an impressive list of past lecturers which include two Nobel Prize winners. His speech will focus on his work to understand and control infection after trauma, research he has worked extensively on at the University of Louisville for more than a decade.

Hiram received his medical degree from Harvard University in 1960, and 11 years later he accepted a position at the University of Louisville. At the age of 35, Hiram was named chairman of surgery at the university, making him one of the youngest surgery department chairmen in the Nation.

His research on surgery infection began in 1969, and he says it still has a long way to go. He best describes his work in a recent article from the Courier Journal, "you keep hoping for a breakthrough. But in fact \* \* \* you're crawling your way up the Washington Monument one step at a time." And you can bet, Hiram will continue his research on surgical infections for years to come.

Mr. President, I commend Dr. Hiram C. Polk, Jr., for his outstanding service to the University of Louisville and to the entire medical community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work of this outstanding Kentuckian and to congratulate him on his induction as an honorary fellow into the Royal College of Surgeons.●

#### THE BALANCED BUDGET RESOLUTION

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to vote on the balanced budget resolution and several pending amendments. I was the commencement speaker for the 1995 graduating class of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore from which my niece and nephew were also graduating.

However, had I been here to vote I would have voted against the resolution because I believe it hurts too many Americans. It hurts our seniors and it hurts our students.

Everything this country has fought for is being attacked in this budget, Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care, veterans health care, and education.

We must have a call to arms to save lives and save people.

Mr. President, during consideration of the budget resolution, Senator CONRAD offered an amendment which would have achieved a balanced budget by 2004.

I support Senator CONRAD's approach to balancing the budget because I believe that it represents a far more equitable approach to balancing the budget than the budget resolution which passed the Senate.

Mr. President, I support the Conrad amendment because it balances the budget without counting the Social Security trust fund surplus. I have stated in the past that I cannot support a balanced budget that does not protect Social Security. A promise made must be a promise kept.

We cannot jeopardize the retirement benefits of the G.I. Joe generation—the generation that fought and saved civilization. We owe it to our veterans and their families to ensure a safe and secure future.

In addition, I support the Conrad amendment because it fully funds education and restores some of the cuts to veterans programs, infrastructure investments, and technology programs, while still achieving a balanced budget.

Mr. President, I also want to express my strong support for an amendment offered by my colleague, Senator KENNEDY, to restore funding for college aid.

The Republican budget resolution would cut \$30 million in Federal aid to college students over the next 7 years. This is the largest education cut in U.S. history.

This is unacceptable. Education must be a No. 1 priority. It is with me and it should also be a priority in this budget.

Senator KENNEDY's amendment would have helped to restore college student aid funds. This amendment did not pass, but yet it is extremely important when half of all college students receive Federal financial aid.

However, I am pleased that the Snowe amendment which was adopted will restore \$9.4 billion over 7 years to student loans. I support this amendment because I know what it will mean to Maryland's students.

Our undergraduate students borrow the maximum of \$17,125 just to be able to afford a college education, access to increased opportunities and to achieve the American dream.

The cost of college has skyrocketed and our students need our support through Federal financial aid programs or through innovative initiatives like National Service. We cannot turn our back on them now.

Mr. President, in this budget, we are given cuts, not compassion. As an appropriator, I know firsthand what these cuts mean. These are not numbers. These are not statistics. These are not line items. They are issues people care about.

Balancing the budget should not be about rhetoric or about scoring political points. Balancing the budget should be about honoring the contributions of the G.I. Joe generation, the generation who worked hard, played by the rules, and served our country well. It is for those who are fighting for the future generations of Americans.