

We need to act on these issues quickly. The American people are watching to see if we intend to bring this Nation out of our economic downturn and back on the road to economic prosperity, or if we are going to continue to fiddle around while the country burns. I hear that from the folks back in Ohio: "You are fiddling around in the Senate, and you are not getting anything done. Don't you understand how bad it is on the street?"

They want us to make the hard choices about spending. They want us to work together to develop solutions to our energy crisis, to pay down our debt, and provide quick and measurable tax relief. They want us to put aside the partisan bickering and the gamesmanship and act in the best interests of the Nation. After all, that is what they think they elected us to do.

We need to act in the spirit of the old Rogers and Hammerstein song from *Carousel*—many remember that—"You'll Never Walk Alone," so that the American people know that "at the end of the storm there is a golden sky and the sweet silver song of the lark."

Now, more than ever before, we have to restore people's faith and their confidence in the economic future of our Nation. It is in our hands.

#### GOVERNOR MELDRIM THOMSON

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear personal friend and political mentor, former New Hampshire governor Meldrim Thomson, who passed away last Thursday. Mel, who was 89, was one of the greatest governors in the history of the State of New Hampshire.

Mel Thomson left a lasting legacy. His legacy of country, state, family, and God will not soon be forgotten by those of us whose lives he touched so deeply. He was not only a gentleman but a gentle man, a loving husband to Gale, father of six, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was one of my closest and most treasured friends. In politics, loyalty and friendship mean everything.

In 1993, Governor Thomson wrote a book, "100 Famous Founders," for which I was honored to have written the introduction. Among the first of the Founding Fathers to step forward and put his life, property, and honor on the line for his country by signing the Declaration was Josiah Bartlett of New Hampshire. Dr. Bartlett later served as the Governor of New Hampshire. It is fitting that this magnificent book of profiles of our Nation's one hundred foremost Founders was written by one of Josiah Bartlett's most distinguished and patriotic successors as Governor, Meldrim Thomson.

Meldrim Thomson had the same trust in God, love of family, steadfast dedication to his country and state, and sense of honor that characterized the Founders about whom he wrote. Indeed, had he lived in Josiah Bartlett's

time, Meldrim Thomson certainly would have been a Founder too. Had he lived during the American Revolution, he would have stood shoulder-to-shoulder fighting for the cause alongside George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Sam Adams, and General John Stark.

Meldrim Thomson, Jr., took the oath of office as the 91st Governor of New Hampshire on January 3, 1973, and served until January 4, 1979. He is the only Republican to have served as Governor of New Hampshire for three consecutive two-year terms.

Meldrim Thomson's road to the governorship began in 1954, when he moved his publishing business and his family from New York to a new home in Orford, NH. Although he was not a native son, Meldrim Thomson's strongly independent nature and his bedrock conservative principles were right for New Hampshire. In spirit, then, he quickly became a son of New Hampshire.

Plunging into New Hampshire politics, Meldrim Thomson waged an unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964. That same year, though, he won election to New Hampshire's Constitutional Convention.

With characteristic grit and determination, Meldrim Thomson did not let his defeats in the 1968 and 1970 New Hampshire Republican gubernatorial primaries discourage him from continuing to seek our State's highest office. His commitment paid rich dividends in 1972, when he won election as Governor. He ran and won again in 1974 and 1976. In waging his victorious campaigns, Meldrim Thomson proved himself to be a true populist. Running on the slogan "ax the tax," Governor Thomson took his campaigns to the people of New Hampshire in their living rooms and meeting halls.

As Governor, Meldrim Thomson did not shrink from difficult decisions. As the spiritual descendant of the Founding Fathers, he had the courage to take grave political risks on behalf of his unflinching conservative principles. Meldrim Thomson fought tirelessly for low taxes and strict fiscal discipline. As a result, during his time as Governor, the economy of New Hampshire enjoyed a prosperity that was unknown in the rest of New England. Attracted by the state's low taxes, significant new businesses moved their operations to New Hampshire. Wages and salaries increased Old manufacturing centers such as Manchester and Nashua demonstrated new signs of life.

Beyond his great economic successes, Meldrim Thomson did not hesitate to use his platform as Governor to speak out on vital national and international issues. He did not hesitate to criticize the foreign and domestic misadventures of the Administration of Jimmy Carter. In fact, Governor Thomson ordered New Hampshire State flags flown at half-staff to protest President Carter's pardon of Vietnam era draft resisters. It deeply offended Governor

Thomson's profound sense of patriotism that a President of the United States would take such an unprecedented action to shield those who refused their country's call from the rightful legal consequences of their acts.

I have so many personal, inspiring memories of Mel Thomson. In our private moments, of which we shared many up at the farm in Orford, he would affectionately call me "son". I thought of him like a father, both personally as well as politically.

He always inspired me with his words of wisdom. He often said "put principle above politics." He heeded his own words. Like Lincoln, Churchill and so many great men, he was unfairly criticized, but rose above it all to do what was right. He was a dedicated conservative, who was as solid as the granite in our mountains.

Mel Thomson's impact on the state, patriotism, and commitment to his values and his family will not be forgotten. I will miss him terribly, as will those many New Hampshire citizens whose lives he touched. Rest in peace, my friend. You have earned it. It has been an honor to represent you in the U.S. Senate.

#### COMMENDING NAVY LT. SHANE OSBORN AND HIS CREW MEMBERS FOLLOWING THEIR DETAINMENT ON HAINAN ISLAND, CHINA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor to commend in the strongest possible terms the members of the United States Navy crew who were detained on Hainan Island in China for 11 long days earlier this month. I think I speak for our entire nation when I say how much we admire their dedication and the extraordinary level of professionalism they exhibited throughout their ordeal.

Under the command of Lt. Shane Osborn, this crew of 24 servicemen and women left Kadena Airbase in Okinawa, Japan, on the evening of March 31 for what was to have been a routine mission over the South China Sea.

As we all now know, what happened after they left Okinawa, and for the next 11 days, was *not* routine. It was *heroic*. The entire world witnessed the strength, discipline and courage of our Navy crew.

Every man and woman on that plane is a hero.

I am especially impressed with the skill and character of a remarkable young man who first dreamed of flying as a 3-year-old watching a small Cessna on a South Dakota farm.

We are fortunate that Lt. Shane Osborn pursued his dream to fly. And we are doubly fortunate that he put that dream to work in service of his country.

Lt. Osborn says, modestly, that he was just what he'd been trained to do when he landed his damaged aircraft safely. Others see it differently. A Pentagon spokesman described the landing