

country in order to promote African-American history.

Finally, the bill sets forth a Federal-private partnership for funding the museum, and authorizes \$17 million for the first year in order to begin implementation of the museum council, which will be comprised from a mixture of leading African-Americans from the museum, historical, and business communities.

It has been well over 70 years since the first commission was formed to seek ways to honor nationally the contributions of African-Americans—70 years. It is about time that we move forward with it.

It has always been my hope that this museum will not only showcase nationally the accomplishments of African-Americans—which are great—but will also serve as a catalyst for racial reconciliation in our Nation. Indeed we have triumphed over our difficulties in this area, but we must continue to do more.

I can see a number of people going through this museum with a lot of tears coming out as they see the progression of people coming to this continent in shackles and moving forward in triumph. There are going to be a lot of tears along that trail. The beautiful thing about tears is that they don't have color; they just cleanse. I think they will be tears of cleansing.

I do not pretend that this museum is a panacea for racial reconciliation, which this country desperately needs. It is, however, a productive step in recognizing the important contributions and the debt all Americans owe to African Americans.

I close my comments with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, a prophet in his time and now a prophet to us. He said this that could have been said about the museum in this time we are in:

That the dark clouds of [misconceptions] will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great Nation with all their scintillating beauty.

We are one step closer to that today.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, are we currently in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I talked to the Senator from Iowa who also wishes to be recognized immediately after my very brief remarks. I ask unanimous consent that he be recognized immediately following my remarks and that I be allotted 5-minute increments; that should I go over another minute or 2, I be allotted such time as I consume, not to exceed 10 minutes.

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

HONORING ESTELLA REYES NARANJO

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, there are two things I want to address very briefly this morning.

I rise to pay tribute to Estella Reyes Naranjo, a great citizen of my State of Texas.

I think it is important to recognize contributions such as those of Estella, which are primarily in the area of the education of the children of San Antonio, my hometown, and her 50 years of unselfish service to the city of San Antonio, the State of Texas, and to the United States of America.

Estella has taught for 40 years in Texas public schools and for another 10 years in Catholic schools. Through her dedicated service in the classroom and the community, she has been a positive influence for countless lives, and for thousands of young Texans.

Estella earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&I University in Kingsville and has served as the president of the Pan American League. During her tenure, the league donated more than \$1 million toward a center to assist San Antonio's inner city, and contributed over \$250,000 in scholarships administered through The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Estella has been honored with an outstanding service award for her dedication and hard work in the public school system, and has received a leadership award for her many contributions to the Catholic school system. She has also been honored by the International Good Neighbor Council for her work to promote the "Principles of Good-neighborliness" between Mexico and the United States.

As a teacher, a volunteer, and a diligent leader, Estella is an inspiration to her family, her friends, and her community. She is truly an important part of what President Bush calls "the armies of compassion."

I have always believed that patriotism is not just expressed by flying the flag. It is about more than that. Patriotism means we all share a part in something larger than ourselves. In all of our differences, there are some things we all have in common. In all our diversity, each of us still has a bond with our fellow man.

The fact that dedicated individuals, working faithfully in their communities, can accomplish more than any government program is well established, and it is established again in the life that we celebrate today.

Alexis de Tocqueville described it this way:

Countless little people, humble people, throughout American society, expend their efforts in the betterment of the community, blowing on their hands, pitting their small strength against the inhuman elements of life. Unheralded and always inconspicuous, they sense that they are cooperating with a

purpose and a spirit that is at the center of creation.

Today I am proud to herald the work of Estella Reyes Naranjo. I know I speak for all the citizens of the great State of Texas when I say that I am grateful for her dedication, her compassion, and her tireless work to build a stronger community and a better world.

THANKING THE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I wish to also, in the brief time I have allotted, say a few words about a very important subject to our Government and to our Nation. I wish to say a few words about the importance of continuity of our Nation's Government.

Today, the Continuity of Government Commission, a joint project of the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute, is releasing a report to the Congress on this matter. I express my appreciation to the commission for their responsible and forthright assessment of needed constitutional reforms in this area. Their report will be an invaluable addition to this ongoing discussion, and it will provide a sound basis for hearings I plan to hold in the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution later this year.

I was not here serving in Washington in this body when the attacks came on September 11. Like so many other Americans, I was at home, preparing for work, when I heard the terrible news and saw it displayed on the television set. But I know that many of my friends and colleagues who were here on that horrific day feel a very personal debt to the heroes of flight 93.

The brave passengers on that flight did more than just save the lives of their fellow citizens. Absent their courageous sacrifice, it is likely that flight 93 would have reached its final destination in this very building, in an attack that would have virtually eliminated an entire branch of our Government.

Even as we have dedicated ourselves to fighting terror at home and abroad, even as we hope and pray that the tragedies of September 11 will never be repeated, we must always remain conscious of our promise as Senators to serve the people of our States and our Nation and to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

In the aftermath of those attacks, it is now increasingly clear that our current system providing for the continuity of government in the event of a disaster is inadequate in the reality of the post-9/11 world. If an attack of this nature occurred again, and was even partially successful, our Government and our Constitution would be ill prepared for the sudden ramifications.

As unthinkable as another attack of that magnitude may be, we in the legislative branch must be ready for the worst. We must provide for the stable

continuance of government, despite all possible calamities. We owe it to the American people to ensure that our Government remains strong and stable even in the face of disaster.

What the evildoers who committed this terrible act on 9/11 will never understand is that America cannot be destroyed by weapons, by armies, or by terrorist attacks. No matter how many weapons they try to make, no matter what secret schemes they concoct, no matter what buildings they destroy, as long as the dream of freedom lives within our hearts, America endures, a beacon of light shining for all the world to see.

The passengers on flight 93 were everyday Americans, men and women with jobs, with families, and dreams. Like all of us, they made promises to their loved ones before they boarded that plane: promises of vacations and baseball games, of presents and anniversaries.

Some promises are not cheap, others cost nothing, others require that we risk all, even our very lives. The crash site left behind by the heroes of flight 93, nestled in the hills of Pennsylvania, is filled with memories of the promises they made and will never keep. That hallowed ground marks their last promise: a promise carried on to the Nation, their children, their loved ones left behind—a promise that says freedom will not end here in the violent acts of evil men. It persists, it endures, and it will not be destroyed.

Our Government must not fail the children of flight 93. This body must not fail them. We must prepare for all contingencies, fulfilling our oaths of office, to ensure that the promise of our free Government—a government of laws, not men—shall not perish from this Earth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes in morning business.

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

TAX CUTS AND MEDICARE

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, last Thursday the New York Times of May 29 had a front-page picture, a big, color picture on the front page, of the President signing the tax cut bill in the East Room of the White House. As I looked at this picture, I thought: This really is appropriate. Pictures say a thousand words. Here is a picture of the President signing the tax bill, and he is in the East Room, with all the big crystal chandeliers, all the trappings of power, and an audience.

I was looking at this audience. I thought: Who are these people? I am looking at them all. Do you know what? This looks like the rich and the powerful of America sitting there with all these chandeliers and getting all

these big tax cuts. There is not one person of color sitting in that audience, not one. Now, there may be. I cannot see back behind where the picture was taken. Maybe there was one. Maybe one of the ushers back there was an African American. But it just kind of leaps out at you that these are the people who really benefit from that tax cut.

Why didn't the President take that tax cut signing down to middle America someplace? Why didn't he take it down to a small community of middle-income taxpayers? Why didn't he take it to a low-income area, say—well, I don't care, pick a city: Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Des Moines, IA, Houston, TX; maybe Detroit, MI or Flint, MI—and go to an area of that city that is low-income where people go to work every day, where they are struggling to make ends meet, where they have to find some child care for their kids so they can go to work to put bread on the table to maybe have a little bit of a decent lifestyle, and they are having trouble finding decent child care and other costs of raising children? Why didn't the President go down there and sign that tax cut bill?

Well, because the sentence right under the picture says why he did not do that:

Tax law omits \$400 child credit for millions.

Look at the picture: All the trappings of power, all the rich and powerful of America sitting in that audience. Right below it: "Tax law omits \$400 child credit for millions." One picture says a thousand words. And right underneath, it tells you why the President signed the bill in front of all these people and not out in middle America.

So now we are just beginning to find out. We are just beginning to find out, as the New York Times said, that:

Because of the formula for calculating the child care tax credit, most families with incomes from \$10,500 to \$26,625 will not benefit.

Zero, nada, nothing.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal group, says those families include 11.9 million children or one of every six children under 17.

Madam President, 11.9 million children left out of the tax bill.

You don't see them sitting in the audience. You don't see single moms, for example, sitting in this audience when they are signing the tax bill, balancing a couple kids on their knees. You don't see that.

"I don't know why they would cut that out of the bill," said Senator Blanche Lincoln, the Arkansas Democrat who persuaded the full Senate to send the credit to many more low income families before the provision was dropped in conference. "These are the people who need it the most and who will spend it the most. These are the people who buy the blue jeans and the detergent . . ."

As I said, the New York Times picture and the story underneath it say it all.

The Des Moines Register, closer to my home, had an editorial from May

31: "A Tax-Cutting Disgrace." This is from the Des Moines Register editorial:

Congress looked out for investors in the last-minute revision of the tax bill President Bush just signed into law.

As a result, millions of low-income families won't get the extra \$400-a-kid check from Uncle Sam this summer.

But most families earning \$10,500 to \$26,625 annually will be left out. Giving them the credit would have cost about \$3.5 billion and would have required sending checks to some who don't pay enough income taxes to deliver the credit as a refund.

People of low income work hard. They go to work every day. They may make just above the minimum wage, but they are not paying income taxes. But they have child care needs, and they are left out.

House Republicans contend that a \$350 billion cap on the tax cut package didn't leave enough room to give the child credit to low-income families.

To quote the Des Moines Register: "Nonsense."

They easily could have done less for the richest Americans and more for Americans who barely scrape by. And it's unconscionable that they didn't.

Well, just look at that picture in the New York Times, look who is there. Then read the articles in the paper, read the Des Moines Register editorial, and you will find out what this tax bill was all about.

Now we find something else out about this tax bill as we open up the newspaper this morning, the Washington Post from today: "Middle Class Tax Share Set To Rise." Well, well, well. "Studies say the burden of the rich to decline."

Here is what the Washington Post said this morning:

Three successive tax cuts pushed by President Bush will leave middle income taxpayers paying a greater share of all Federal taxes by the end of the decade, according to new analyses of the Bush administration's tax policy. As critics of the tax cuts in 2001, 2002 and 2003 have noted, the very wealthiest Americans, those earning \$337,000 a year or more per year, will be the greatest beneficiaries of the changes in the nation's tax laws.

So what will happen? They go on to point out, the middle class will pay more and more. As the rich pay less and less, the middle class will pay more and more of their share of taxes. Thus, "Middle Class Tax Share Set To Rise."

That brings us to what is going on right now with Medicare. Again, one may wonder what the connection is between the tax cut bill and the problems that we are confronting ahead in Social Security and Medicare. Don't take my word for it. Just read the Financial Times, not a Democratic newspaper or anything like that. The Financial Times of Friday May 30, front-page story: "Bush Aware of 'Crushing' Deficit Threat." This is the article. I have it blown up here in the chart, "Bush Aware Of 'Crushing' Deficit Threat."

Ari Fleischer, White House spokesperson told a press briefing.

Listen to this quote:

"There is no question that Social Security and Medicare are going to present [future]