

award earned for displaying gallantry and determination under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions.

Last month I also presented to Gary: A Vietnam Service Medal with one silver star and four bronze stars, the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device and Discharge Button.

These six medals are a long overdue addition to the prestigious medals Gary has already received for his service to America: the National Defense Service Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with one silver star, and the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal.

All of these medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation. They may be small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

Gary, I join all Montanans and all Americans in saying thank you.●

RECOGNIZING RAVEN-AEROSTAR EMPLOYEES

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to commend the team at Raven-Aerostar of Sioux Falls, SD, for their service and dedication to excellence in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Aerostar employees have designed, built, and serviced tethered aerostats for the U.S. military's Persistent Ground Surveillance System, PGSS, since its inception less than 2 years ago, rapidly fielding the first systems for use in the protection of U.S. and coalition troops. This summer, Aerostar deployed three of their own employees to Afghanistan to provide technical support and analysis of current aerostat systems. Pat Thies, Walter Halbleib, and Ryan Casey recently returned safely to South Dakota after having traveled to numerous remote Forward Operating Bases throughout the war zone. During their 6-week mission they traversed Afghanistan with U.S. and coalition forces via fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter, and ground convoy. Their mission was an immediate success as they offered real-time, on-site technical expertise to PGSS operators and maintenance personnel. In addition, they were able to provide instant recommendations to Aerostar engineers in Sioux Falls for improved designs and processes.

Raven-Aerostar is a proven manufacturer of high-performance tethered aerostat systems used in persistent surveillance and communication relays. In Afghanistan, these lighter-than-air blimps hover above military outposts in hostile areas and provide continuous imagery used in the detection of improvised explosive devices, IEDs, and other insurgent activity. Ultimately, Aerostar's products save lives, while also saving money for U.S. taxpayers.

I applaud Pat, Walter, and Ryan on a job well done, and for their dedication. They and their fellow Aerostar employees represent the commitment to serv-

ice so prevalent throughout our great State of South Dakota.●

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ENTITLED THE "AMERICAN JOBS ACT"—PM 20

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Today, I am pleased to submit to the Congress the enclosed legislative proposal, the "American Jobs Act of 2011," together with a section-by-section analysis of the legislation.

The American people understand that the economic crisis and the deep recession were not created overnight and will not be solved overnight. The economic security of the middle class has been under attack for decades. That is why I believe we need to do more than just recover from this economic crisis—we need to rebuild the economy the American way, based on balance, fairness, and the same set of rules for everyone from Wall Street to Main Street. We can work together to create the jobs of the future by helping small business entrepreneurs, by investing in education, and by making things the world buys.

To create jobs, I am submitting the American Jobs Act of 2011—nearly all of which is made up of the kinds of proposals supported by both Republicans and Democrats, and that the Congress should pass right away to get the economy moving now. The purpose of the American Jobs Act of 2011 is simple: put more people back to work and put more money in the pockets of working Americans. And it will do so without adding a dime to the deficit.

First, the American Jobs Act of 2011 provides a tax cut for small businesses, to help them hire and expand now, and an additional tax cut to any business that hires or increases wages. In addition, the American Jobs Act of 2011 puts more money in the pockets of working and middle class Americans by cutting in half the payroll tax that comes out of the paycheck of every worker, saving typical families an average of \$1,500 a year.

Second, the American Jobs Act of 2011 puts more people back to work, including teachers laid off by State budget cuts, first responders and veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, and construction workers repairing crumbling bridges, roads and more than 35,000 schools, with projects chosen by need and impact, not earmarks and politics. It will repair and refurbish hundreds of thousands of foreclosed homes and businesses in communities across the country.

Third, the American Jobs Act of 2011 helps out-of-work Americans by extending unemployment benefits to help them support their families while look-

ing for work, and by reforming the system with training programs that build real skills, connect to real jobs, and help the long-term unemployed. It bans employers from discriminating against the unemployed when hiring, and provides a new tax credit to employers hiring workers who have been out of a job for over 6 months. And, it expands job opportunities for hundreds of thousands of low-income youth and adults through a new Pathways Back to Work Fund that supports summer and year round jobs for youth; innovative new job training programs to connect low-income workers to jobs quickly; and successful programs to encourage employers to bring on disadvantaged workers.

Lastly, this legislation is fully paid for. The legislation includes specific offsets to close corporate tax loopholes and asks the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share that more than cover the cost of the jobs measures. The legislation also increases the deficit reduction target for the Joint Committee by the amount of the cost of the jobs package and specifies that, if the Committee reaches that higher target, then their measures would replace and turn off the specific offsets in this legislation.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 12, 2011.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1892. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:08 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. 1249. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1892. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.