

million jobs right there. The United States just dug its way out of the great recession. We have seen 40 straight months of job growth, with private sector employers adding more than 7.2 million jobs. But we cannot afford to reject almost 1 million new jobs. Congress must reverse the sequester and stop manufacturing crises.

If Republicans force us to the brink of another shutdown for ideological reasons, the economy will suffer. I suggest to any of my Republican colleagues who have this idea, give a call to Newt Gingrich. He will return your phone calls. Ask him how it worked. It was disastrous for Newt Gingrich, the Republicans, and the country. It didn't work then and it will not work now. If Republicans threaten catastrophic default on the Nation's bills, the economy will suffer, and that is an understatement.

If Republicans refuse to work with Democrats to negotiate a reasonable budget to reverse these deep cuts, the economy will suffer. It is time to remove the stumbling blocks that are preventing the American economy from recovering and expanding.

It has been 129 days since the Senate passed its reasonable, progrowth budget.

Remember, the Republicans said: We want regular order. We want a budget.

We passed the budget. Now they will not follow regular order. They will not let us even go to conference. We have asked consent to go to conference with the House 17 different times. As long as Senate Republicans refuse to allow Budget Committee chairwoman PATTY MURRAY to negotiate a budget compromise with her House Republican counterparts, the economy is at risk. It is time to set aside partisan differences and work to find common ground.

Passing the Senate Transportation appropriations bill that is on the floor now would be a good step toward restoring regular order. This measure, the Transportation bill, would create jobs rebuilding America's deficient infrastructure and renew the Nation's commitment to make affordable housing available to low-income families.

I commend the appropriations committee, led by BARBARA MIKULSKI. The subcommittee, whose work is now before the Senate, is led by PATTY MURRAY. They have done wonderful work. I believe some of my Republican colleagues are as eager to return to regular order, passing an appropriations bill, as I am. I do believe that. They have to break away from the pack. I hope these reasonable Republicans will continue to work with us to advance this important bipartisan measure.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:15 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. 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. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

REMEMBERING COLONEL GEORGE E. "BUD" DAY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, Sunday brought the sad news that my dear friend Col. George E. "Bud" Day passed away. He was 88 years old. To say he lived a full life would be quite an understatement. His was filled with so many extraordinary experiences, adventures, challenges, accomplishments, and with such love, compassion, and courage that it could have supplied enough experiences, excitement, and satisfaction for 10 lifetimes.

Bud knew defeats and triumphs on a scale few will ever know. He lived in moments filled with every conceivable emotion. He knew terror and suffering. He knew joy and deliverance. He knew solidarity, self-respect, and dignity.

Knowing him as well as I did, I am certain he faced his end satisfied that he had made the most of his time on Earth. He will have faced it with courage as he faced all adversity. He will have faced it with gratitude for the love and companionship for his beloved wife and best friend Dorie, his sons Steve and George, and his twin girls, Sandra and Sonya. He will have faced it with humility for having had the honor to serve his country with distinction in three wars: World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war.

I had the honor of being Bud's friend for almost five decades of his 88 years. We met in 1967 when the Vietnamese left me to die in the prison cell Bud shared with Maj. Norris Overly. Bud and Norris wouldn't let me die. They bathed me, fed me, nursed me, encouraged me, and ordered me back to life. Norris did much of the work, but Bud did all he could considering he too had recently been near death—shot, bombed, beaten savagely by his captors, and his arm broken in three places. He was a hard man to kill, and he expected the same from his subordinates. They saved my life—a big debt to repay, obviously. But more than that, Bud showed me how to save my self-respect and my honor, and that is a debt I can never repay.

Bud was a fierce—and I mean really fierce—resister. He could not be broken in spirit no matter how broken he was

in body. Those who knew Bud after the war could see how tough he was, but, my God, to have known him in prison—confronting our enemies day in and day out, never, ever yielding. He defied men who had the power of life and death over us. To witness him sing the national anthem in response to having a rifle pointed at his face—well, that was something to behold. Unforgettable. No one had more guts than Bud or greater determination to do his duty and then some, to keep faith with his country and his comrades whatever the cost. Bud was my commanding officer but more, he was my inspiration, as he was for all the men who were privileged to serve under him.

Nothing offers more compelling testimony to Bud's guts and determination and his patriotism than the account of his escape from captivity. In the entire war he was the only American who managed to escape from North Vietnam.

In 1967 then-major Bud Day commanded a squadron of F-100s that served as forward air controllers over North Vietnam and Laos. They were called the Mistys, named for Bud's favorite song. Theirs was probably the most dangerous combat duty in the Air Force, and they suffered high casualties.

On August 26 Bud Day was one of those casualties. Bud was shot down by a surface-to-air missile 20 miles inside of North Vietnam. He hit the fuselage of his F-100 when he ejected, breaking his arm, damaging his eye, and injuring his back. Bud was immediately captured by North Vietnamese militia. He was interrogated by his captors in an underground prison camp. When he refused to answer their questions, they staged a mock execution. Then they hung him by his feet for hours and beat him. Believing he was too badly injured to escape, they tied him up loosely and left him guarded by two green teenage soldiers. They misjudged him. On his fifth day of captivity he untied his ropes and escaped.

Bud stayed on the run for about 2 weeks. He wasn't certain how long he was free. He lost track of time. He made it across the DMZ and into South Vietnam. A bomb, however, had fallen near him his second night on the run, striking him with shrapnel, concussing him and rupturing his eardrums. Limping, bleeding, starving, and in great pain, Bud kept heading south across rivers, through dense jungles, over hills, crawling sometimes on his hands and knees, evading enemy patrols and surviving on berries, frogs, and rainwater.

On the last night of Bud's escape he arrived within 2 kilometers of a forward marine. Sensibly judging it more dangerous to approach the guarded base at night than to wait until morning when the marine guards could see he was an American, Bud slept one more night in the jungle.

Early the next morning he encountered a Viet Cong patrol. He was shot