

energy needs, I look forward to helping solve a great deal of our energy issues because through our Committee on Finance we will be dealing with a lot of tax issues that deal with the efforts to spur production and alternative energies.

A very big part of your program that you have introduced—and we compliment you for being a leader in trying to solve the energy crisis—will be the work of the committee on which the Senator and I serve. I will be very happy to work on that.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JOANN OWENS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the month of May, since 1963, has helped the Nation focus on the contributions and achievements of America's older citizens because the month of May is a month where we recognize these achievements. Congress does this by cooperating with various organizations in bringing senior interns to Washington, DC, for 1 week out of the month of May. There are other things that are done as well.

The image of those over the age of 65 is dramatically different than it was as recently as a generation ago. Older Americans increasingly redefine modern maturity. They reshape cultural boundaries, and they dispel age-old stereotypes associated with getting older. They are leaders in our families, in our workplaces, and in our communities.

Each week this month I am going to recognize a different Iowan and highlight what these older Iowans are doing as a contribution to the workplace and communities. The one I recognize this week is a 68-year-old woman from Sioux City, IA. JoAnn Owens understands the value of family and understands community involvement. Through her initiative, her concern, and her commitment, she has touched the lives of many in her family and in the entire Sioux City community.

Born and raised in Sioux City, Ms. Owens moved to New York in her twenties and spent much of her adult life on the east coast. In 1993, at the age of 60, she moved back to Sioux City to care for her ailing mother. Seeking a way to keep herself active, and at the same time stimulate her mind, Ms. Owens began to volunteer in the community. For the last 7 years, she has served as a senior companion by providing care to people in the community who need extra assistance in order to live independently.

She currently volunteers 4 days a week helping young people suffering from brain injuries to develop their academic skills. Ms. Owens also serves as a volunteer judge for the Woodbury County Drug Court Program. She is a member of the city's Human Rights Commission and active in the Quota Club, an international service organization.

Ms. Owens describes herself as a woman motivated by challenges. As a volunteer with the Sioux City Police Department, Ms. Owens took the initiative to develop a program to provide domestically abused women with cellular phones so they could better protect themselves. She also spent a series of weeks attending the Sioux City Police Citizens Academy where she was trained on the responsibilities and challenges facing police officers.

Ms. Owens' concern for her family is also a driving force for her involvement. Her desire to play an active role in her mother's care prompted Ms. Owens to join the care review board at the care center where her mother lived. Although Ms. Owens' mother passed away 5 years ago, she is still involved as a resident advocate, currently serving as the chairperson for the care review committee. She visits with the residents at least once a month and works with staff to take care of any problems at the center.

Ms. Owens has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Her concern for their education motivated her to become a member of the Board of Education equity committee. She is currently the chairperson of the committee. Her mission is to ensure that education in Sioux City is equally and equitably dispensed to all students.

Beyond her community involvement, Ms. Owens enjoys raising tomatoes, reading, and feeding the birds, squirrels and rabbits. She lives with her cat Mr. Roberts and her dog Jordan.

I thank Ms. Owens for helping to make Sioux City a better place to live. Her initiative and compassionate care for others is an example to us all that we should contribute to our communities, no matter what our age.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, am I correct that the Senate is now in a period of morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

#### BUDGET RESOLUTION DELIBERATIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the deliberations that are now going on in both Houses of the Congress about the budget resolution, which will be before the Senate certainly some time this week.

This is a most important time in this session and, I believe, is a moment of historic opportunity for our economy.

As I have followed the debate, I have seen questions raised about, where is the Centrist Coalition in the Senate? Where are the so-called moderates? I know some voted for the Senate-passed budget resolution when it came up in the Senate earlier. I think some of those moderates are having second thoughts or are raising questions about the state in which that resolution came out of the conference committee, from which, as we know, Members of the Democratic Party were excluded.

I want to speak with my colleagues today about my own feelings on this budget resolution. I do so as someone who has been a proud founding member of the Senate bipartisan Centrist Coalition, a founding member of the Senate New Democratic Coalition, because I truly believe this budget resolution, as it has come out of the conference committee, challenges and tests each of us on our fundamental views about what Government is about and what, most of all, fiscal responsibility is about.

I have always believed that at the heart of being a so-called centrist or moderate is fiscal responsibility—that we will take care of the people's money here—more than a trillion dollars of it that we have charge of every year—with the same fiscal responsibility that the American people handle their own money in their personal lives, in their families, and in their businesses.

As I looked at this budget resolution that has emerged from the conference committee, it is my strong feeling that it lacks more than just the two missing pages that are now being retrieved. This budget resolution profoundly lacks fiscal responsibility. It will not only do nothing to address the economic downturn that more and more Americans are feeling the pinch and pain of right now; I fear that it will set us on the road back to increasing debt, to budget deficits, to increasing interest rates that go with increasing deficits and debt, and to the rising unemployment and falling investment that go with higher interest rates.

This budget resolution is fiscally irresponsible. It is a tax plan, as colleagues have said, that is trying to look like a budget plan. I will put it this way: It is a tax plan, but it is not what we need, which is a prosperity and progress plan. It does not answer the question of how we continue the prosperity and progress of the last several years.

I want to cite a few concerns I have about this budget resolution as it has emerged from the conference committee, which we will debate this week. First, to the best of my understanding, there is no longer a short-term, immediate economic stimulus component to this budget. During the recent debate on the Senate-passed budget resolution, several of us in both parties spoke to the need for an economic stimulus, as we watched important economic indicators going down. When the budget