

war for which we must be vigilant, and we will do everything we can to support the armed services of our country.

One of our immediate tasks must be to put our Nation's fiscal house in order. There can be no question about the need to do that. We are spending more money than we are taking in as a government. We are spending in excess of our resources by far too much. There is much work to be done to strengthen education, expand access to quality, affordable health care.

I don't talk about bipartisanship just in theory. I have had the good fortune to work with Senator JOHN ENSIGN, a Republican. JOHN ENSIGN and I are from the State of Nevada. Six years ago we were in one of the most difficult, bitter races, not only in the history of the State of Nevada but the history of our country. That race was ultimately decided by 428 votes. Here it is 6 years later, and JOHN ENSIGN is now a member of the Senate.

JOHN ENSIGN is a loyal Republican, and I do my very best to represent the Democratic Party. But because of our work together, the work of Senator REID and Senator ENSIGN, we have worked on that which is important to the State of Nevada and, we believe, to the country. We have worked together in a bipartisan basis. That work has been beneficial to our country.

With the spirit of the inauguration close to our hearts today, I look forward to the great debates ahead in the great debating society we call the Senate. I am optimistic and confident that today could be a new beginning. But it will only be a new beginning if the tone that is set today is carried forward in the years to come in making our country the country it has the potential to be.

COMMITTEE FUNDING LEVELS

Mr. FRIST. On January 6, I engaged in a colloquy with the distinguished Democratic Leader, Senator REID, concerning the budget assumptions for the next committee funding biennial period, subject to appropriations. I stated that the committee funding budget assumes an across-the-board freeze budget, with salary baselines adjusted by COLAs of 3.71 percent in 2005 as approved by the President pro tempore in early January; 3.3 percent assumed for 2006, and 3.5 percent assumed for 2007, although both the 2006 and 2007 actual COLA amounts remain subject to the approval of the President pro tempore.

Based on preliminary calculations, both Senator REID and I assumed certain funding levels, subject to appropriations. We have now received final financial calculations for an across-the-board freeze including the previously identified COLAs. To achieve our fiscal goal, aggregate funding levels would be: March 1, 2005–September 30, 2005: \$51,783,793; October 1, 2005–

September 30, 2006: \$90,923,102; and October 1, 2006–February 28, 2007: \$38,704,409. These funding levels include, but do not separately allocate, the additional 10 percent allocated to the committees in the 108th Congress. I believe this reflects the intent of the negotiation between the Democratic leader and myself.

Mr. REID. The majority leader is correct. The preliminary calculations that we were provided did not accurately reflect our goal of an across-the-board freeze including the COLAs. The aggregate funding levels identified today by the majority leader accurately reflect the intent of our agreement.

Mr. FRIST. I thank the Democratic leader for his comments.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE DISPONETT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today as our Nation celebrates the 55th Presidential Inauguration to pay tribute to Mr. Dave Disponett, a fellow Kentuckian who is in Washington, DC to attend his sixth inauguration.

Dave is a dedicated member of the Republican Party—a man I am glad to have on my team. He has been a witness to history with the swearing in of President Richard Nixon in 1969, President Ronald Reagan in 1981 and 1985, President George H.W. Bush in 1989, President George W. Bush in 2001 and again today, January 20, 2005.

Dave is in the Nation's capital today with his wife, daughter, son-in-law and 10-year old granddaughter—who is already following in her grandfather's footsteps by attending her second Presidential Inauguration.

Earlier this week USA Today published a story about Dave and his family, "Kentucky Family Hears Inaugural Call." I ask unanimous consent that the full article be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From USA Today, January 17, 2005]

KENTUCKY FAMILY HEARS INAUGURAL CALL (By Bill Nichols)

LAWRENCEBURG, KY.—When Franklin Roosevelt was sworn in as president for the third time in 1941 under the shadow of potential U.S. entry into world war, the program read: "Inaugurals take their drama from the temper of the times."

Dave Disponett, a builder and passionate Republican activist in this traditionally Democratic city of just under 10,000, agrees.

On Thursday, when President Bush takes the oath of office for a second term, Disponett, 69, will attend his sixth inauguration with his wife, daughter, son-in-law and 10-year-old granddaughter—who is on inauguration No. 2.

The Disponett clan, like thousands of other visitors who are descending on Washington, are bracing for a very different inauguration this year. "I imagine there are going to be lines everywhere, but what can you do?" Disponett says. It is the nation's first since the Sept. 11 attacks, and extraordinary security precautions are in place.

But as demonstrated by the treasure trove of inaugural memories and memorabilia—ball tickets, programs and photographs—that Disponett has saved, this mix of pageantry and politics always manages, for good or bad, to reflect the mood of the nation. Spectators seem to come for a party but end up with a little piece of time.

In 1969, Disponett watched friends climb a light pole on a Washington street to avoid Vietnam protesters who had thronged to Richard Nixon's inauguration. The trip marked Disponett's first time on an airplane; he was 33.

Twelve years later, he was moved to tears as crowds listened to transistor radios to hear news of the release of the U.S. hostages in Iran as Ronald Reagan was sworn in 1981.

"That was the most exciting day of my life," Disponett remembers. His daughter Lois Ann, 47, who attended her first inauguration at the age of 10, says the experiences she had were almost impossible to explain to her schoolmates back in Lawrenceburg. "Most people couldn't grasp it," she says of the celebrities and dazzling gowns. "It was just a world totally beyond their comprehension." She felt, she says, like a real-life Cinderella.

SECURITY CONCERNS

Inaugural historian Jerry Wallace, retired from the National Archives, points out that heightened security for the ceremony is not new. Both of Abraham Lincoln's inaugurations found troops on Washington's streets, and the 1861 event was held under threat of assassination. Woodrow Wilson's 1917 inauguration, held as the United States considered entering the First World War, also was marked by a show of force.

Wallace worries, however, that precautions for this year's event could dampen the ability of average Americans to enjoy the day.

At least 6,000 police officers—some of them heavily armed—will patrol Washington's streets, searching ticket holders and onlookers as F-16s, F-15s and military helicopters patrol the skies.

"I find all this security just very oppressive," Wallace says. "The whole dynamic behind an inaugural is not to be exclusive at all."

Charlie Brotman, a 77-year-old Washington public relations executive who has been the Inaugural Parade announcer for the past 48 years, says security for the presidential viewing stands on the stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House will be tighter than any he has experienced. Brotman believes, however, that earlier stretches of the parade will still be quite accessible to the public.

Phyllis Clark, school services coordinator for Flowing Wells School District in Tucson, will be bringing several dozen eighth-graders to the inauguration for the second time. She worries that her kids won't be able to tour the White House because of the security. "This year I told the kids that I really don't think we'll get to go in," she says.

But Clark also says the event is also an opportunity to show young people that they have to live their lives to the fullest, even in an age of terrorism. "We'll still go. And if something happens, we'll look after each other and take care of each other," Clark says. "We can't be so afraid that we don't go anywhere."

NOT GIVING IN TO TERROR

The Disponetts couldn't agree more. Last week, they were busy preparing for their trip to Washington. Ten-year-old Anna-Marie, the daughter of Lois Ann Disponett and husband Todd Hyatt, recently found her coveted

\$80 ball gown on sale for \$20 at a Louisville department store.

Dave Disponett's rising influence as a GOP activist and fundraiser in Kentucky has given his family increasingly better inaugural access since their first trip in 1969, which Dave and his wife, Brenda, believe was their first trip outside Kentucky. Campaign finance records show Disponett gave \$2,000 to the Bush re-election campaign last year, while Brenda gave \$2,750 to the National Federation of Republican women.

Disponett's life as a Republican began in 1953, when he went to register to vote and was told by an Anderson County clerk that there was no point in registering as a Republican since no Republican candidates could get elected in Lawrenceburg. That struck Disponett as not exactly in the democratic spirit, so he registered Republican. In 1967, he helped elect Louis Nunn as Kentucky's first Republican governor in 24 years. That began Disponett's side career as a Republican Party power broker, which facilitated his family's ritual of watching a president get sworn in.

RICH MEMORIES

That first year, in 1969, the Disponetts didn't to Inaugural Balls, because, they recall, they couldn't afford the \$100 tickets. They were also fairly dazzled by the Washington scene.

The family didn't go attend Nixon's second-term inauguration in 1973 because of financial reasons, but headed back in 1981 for Reagan's first inauguration. They remember the excitement of the crowd when the 52 U.S. hostages were released by Iran, and that the National Christmas Tree—kept dark because of the hostage crisis—was turned on at last. "I get goose bumps just thinking about it," Lois Ann says.

By 1981, Dave Disponett also was on his way to becoming a GOP insider. He has a signed photograph of Reagan from the occasion, on the back of which is a note from the late Lee Atwater, Reagan's political director. In 1985, the Disponetts were connected enough to have been invited to attend balls, though Lois Ann says she was surprised that they were so crowded and featured so little dancing. From George H.W. Bush's inauguration in 1989, Dave Disponett proudly shows an unopened commemorative bottle of Korbel champagne, which he bought for \$25. After eight years of Democratic rule, the family returned to their inaugural haunts in 2001, where they had the pick of events because Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, was a key inaugural organizer.

That year also marked Anna-Marie's inaugural debut. And while she fell asleep in her father's arms during President Bush's inaugural address, the experience does seem to have had an effect. She recently asked her grandfather how old he would be in 2030, when she will be 35 and old enough to run for governor in Kentucky. Dave Disponett now says he has a compelling reason to live to be 94.

Charlie Brotman, the Inaugural Parade announcer, says that despite the security and exclusivity now associated with inaugurations, the event remains a moment of national ceremony that touches even the most cynical Americans. "Fathers and mothers tell me they want to take their children, so their kids can tell their kids that they were there. It's all about the memories."

For the Disponetts, it certainly is. Their job now is to try to keep Anna-Marie from becoming too nonchalant about going to the inaugurations. When her mother told her recently that this year, she'll actually get to

dance at a ball, Anna-Marie answered, "Well, what else would you do?"

TRIBUTE TO SAMANTHA LOUISE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as I was sitting at the West Front of the Capitol on this Inauguration Day listening to the speech of the President and the hopes of all the speakers for a fresh beginning, I kept thinking of another fresh beginning that occurred yesterday when our daughter Kate presented her husband Howard with a second daughter and her daughter Bess with a sister, Samantha Louise.

While the hopes for a new beginning of an administration are always tempered by time and reality, the hopes which spring from a new baby are boundless.

And so, at the inaugural lunch today in Statuary Hall, Senator WARNER and his wife Jeanne and General Myers and Mrs. Myers, as well as our other lunch partners, raised our glasses in congratulations and best wishes to the President and Vice President, but also graciously and gleefully raised their glasses with my wife Barb and me in salute to the birth of our granddaughter Samantha Louise.

I know my colleagues will forgive this burst of a grandfather's pride as we undertake the serious business before us.

TRIBUTE TO JAN SOELTER

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, it is my privilege to honor a very special woman for her nearly 25 years of service with the Social Security Administration. Jan Soelter was raised in Billings, MT, and was a Billings Senior High School graduate. Jan furthered her education at Eastern Montana College, now MSU-Billings, and graduated with honors, obtaining a combination of degrees with a major in psychology and a minor in art.

Ms. Soelter was hired as a Service Representative at the Billings Social Security Administration in January of 1980. She was rapidly promoted to data review technician in 1981, claims representative in Bozeman, MT, in 1982, and transferred back to Billings as a field representative in 1985. Jan found her true calling when she was promoted, in 2002, to her present position as public affairs specialist.

Ms. Soelter served on the Board of Directors: in the early 1970's for the Billings Multiple Sclerosis Society, Helping Hands from 1991 through 1993, and from 1994 to 2000 for the Billings Community Center.

Jan has participated in local, regional and national workshops and conferences. She has also received many local, regional, and national awards and recognition for her employment with the Social Security Administration.

When Jan Soelter retired on December 31, 2004, we lost a very dedicated and caring public servant. She is an inspiration to us all, and a tireless worker for the cause of Senior Citizens. I have personal knowledge of Jan's dedication, drive and commitment, not only to her profession, but more importantly to the people she worked with, and the citizens she worked for. Thank you, Jan, for your service to our country.

THE COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. president, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the College of St. Catherine, in St. Paul, MN, on the celebration of its centennial year. St. Catherine is our country's largest Catholic college for women. Its numerous academic achievements would be impressive for a college of any size, but for an institution with fewer than 5,000 students, such accomplishments are downright spectacular.

Since its founding 100 years ago, the College of St. Catherine has expanded its student body from high school and lower division college students to include associate, bachelor's and graduate degree candidates in more than 60 fields. In 1937, St. Catherine became the first Catholic college to be awarded a chapter of the national honor society, Phi Beta Kappa.

Today, the College of St. Catherine continues to distinguish itself as a leading institution for women's education. Its Women of Substance series features lectures and performances of theater, music, and dance by female speakers and artists from around the world. In the classroom, the college's new Centers for Excellence focus on the role of women in such diverse fields as public policy, spirituality, and health.

Annually, the College of St. Catherine graduates more nurses than any other college or university in Minnesota. It is second only to the much larger University of Minnesota in the number of public school teachers it has educated and placed in the State's capital city of St. Paul.

Along with all of the Minnesotans whose lives have benefited from the talents, professionalism, and leadership of St. Catherine's outstanding graduates, I would like to say thank you. The College of St. Catherine's commitment to the highest standards of academic excellence and social responsibility have enriched the lives of its students and its state's citizens for a century. I congratulate the faculty, staff, alumnae, and students of the College of St. Catherine on their 100 years of excellence. I know that they will continue their great tradition for the next 100 years.