

process by which Senator KERREY of Nebraska and Senator BROWN of Colorado and others put together this package was, to me, a model of bipartisan cooperation.

We did not hear much about it during the 1994 campaign. People assumed that everything that happens out here is partisan. But that is not what I have found. There are people in this body who do want to get together on a bipartisan basis to solve the deficit problem. They have done it. They have put a lot of time into it. They are willing to do it again.

For my part, I came away from that process greatly encouraged that there were Senators on both sides of the aisle who were willing to band together to find some common ground in reducing the deficit, even if it meant bucking the partisan political rhetoric of their respective parties.

Mr. President, I believe that in this 104th Congress we can achieve that kind of bipartisanship again, and I want to signal today as we move into next week of the budget resolution, that I am not only ready but very eager to participate in that bipartisan effort. I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to go forward as though in morning business.

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

HONORING A COURAGEOUS YOUNG GIRL, AND CARING COMMUNITY

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I would like to spend just a moment talking about a courageous young girl in my hometown of Boise, ID.

Nine-year-old Susie Hamilton, a bright, vivacious, and loving girl suffers from a rare and deadly form of leukemia. She has been in and out of hospitals in Boise, Salt Lake City, and Seattle for the past 8 months. A bone marrow transplant is her last hope for life.

Mr. President, Susie is blessed with two outstanding parents who are leaders in the community. Her father, Steve, is a Boise Fire Department battalion chief, dedicated to saving lives. I have worked with him personally on a variety of projects. Her mother, Becky, works at Boise Cascade Corp. Both have spent many long hours away from their jobs to tend to Susie's needs.

There have been some rough times for Susie, Steve, and Becky. I would

like to read from a newspaper column by Tim Woodward in the Idaho Statesman, who wrote about this family:

Leukemia alone is bad enough, but there were other heartbreaks. When a match was found for a donor after hundreds of tests, the donor turned out to have hepatitis. Susie got it through a transfusion. Last month, she had to have a lung removed. When a doctor praised her courage, she whispered, "What choice, do I have? I want to live."

The community has responded, raising over \$12,000 to offset medical bills. Today there is a silent auction at Susie's school to raise money. Boise firefighters have switched shifts so Steve can spend time with Susie. Boise Cascade has given Becky as much time off as she needs, and has even given the family use of the corporate jet to fly to Seattle.

This ribbon I am wearing, Mr. President, is just one more sign of the community's willingness to rally around their neighbor. Members of the police and fire departments, sheriff's department, workers at Boise Cascade, Susie's classmates and teachers, employees at city hall, and others in Boise are wearing these ribbons to show their support for the family.

I would like to read this letter I just received from Susie's grandmother, Barbara Dennett:

My Granddaughter, Susie, was diagnosed with adult leukemia in October of 1994 and since then has endured prolonged hospitalization for chemotherapy and several surgery's in Salt Lake. Susie is now in Seattle undergoing preparations for a bone-marrow transplant. This is her only chance to overcome the leukemia—her only hope for survival.

After searching for 8 months for a bone marrow match, isn't it ironic that on this 50th anniversary of World War II's death and horror, a German soldier will be the donor to save the life of a little 9 year old girl in America. I believe this to be a noteworthy occasion.

This soldier was scheduled to go out on maneuvers, which would delay the bone marrow transplant 15 more days, but chose to make himself available for the draw instead stating he did not wish for her to suffer a minute longer than necessary. His bone marrow will be hand delivered from Germany to Seattle. Hand carried, the transplant will begin the minute it arrives.

Thank you for your time and consideration in seeing that President Clinton receives this information. When I told Susie, that every one was praying for her all over the world, she ask "even the President of the United States?" How could I answer with anything other than "yes, even the President". A card or call from him would go a long way in helping her believe that we are all telling her the truth when we say that there is always hope that she will be well again and a bright future lies ahead.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter this letter into the RECORD. I also ask unanimous consent that the newspaper article be printed in the RECORD.

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

SPECIAL 9-YEAR-OLD TOUCHES A CITY'S HEART

(By Tim Woodward)

If you've seen a Boise firefighter lately, you may have noticed he was wearing a purple ribbon on his uniform.

They're wearing purple at City Hall, too. The mayor, city council members and other office workers all have purple ribbons pinned to their clothing.

Purple ribbons dot lapels at the Boise Cascade Corp., the Ada County Sheriff's Department, Life Care Center, hospitals, doctors' offices, Highlands School.

The ribbons are symbols of support for a kid who has had more bad luck than any 9-year-old deserves. Susie Hamilton has a rare and deadly form of leukemia. She has been out of hospitals nine days in the past eight months. A bone marrow transplant is her last hope for life.

Steve Hamilton, Susie's father, is a battalion chief with the Boise Fire Department. Hamilton has dedicated his life to saving lives. Now his fellow firefighters are helping him in the fight to save his daughter's life.

When Susie got sick, the firefighters donated shifts so her father could be with her. When she needed a marrow donor, the firefighters raised \$4,000 and added 527 names to the donor registry.

Susie's mother, Becky Hamilton, works at Boise Cascade. The company not only extended her leave time, it flew the family to Seattle in a corporate jet when Susie needed to see a specialist there.

On May 12, the fire department, Boise Cascade employees, the sheriff's department, Highlands School and civic groups will sponsor a silent auction to raise money for medical expenses. Businesses have donated raft trips, airplane rides, bicycles and other prizes. The auction will be at Highlands, Susie's school.

"Everywhere we go, whether it's the hospital in Salt Lake or the one in Seattle, the people we work with are just amazed at the support network we have in Boise," Steve Hamilton said. "They say it's unheard of in this day and age to have that kind of community involvement."

So far, Boiseans have donated more than \$12,000 to the Susie Hamilton Leukemia Account (200 N. 4th St, Boise, ID 83702). Velma Morrison dropped by last week with a check for \$2,500.

One of Susie's grandmothers helped her write a children's book. "Lillie the Laughing Giraffe Loses Her Spots and That's No Laughing Matter" will go on sale May 12. Boise's Legendary Publishing Co. donated its services. All of the proceeds will be used for Susie's medical expenses.

"Boise is known as the City of Trees, but to me it's the city of love," Susie said. ". . . I've learned a lot about love and friendship and caring since I got sick. I want to thank everyone who has helped me—my friends, my family and people I'll never get a chance to meet."

Leukemia alone is bad enough, but there were other heartbreaks. When a match was found for a donor after hundreds of tests, the donor turned out to have hepatitis. Susie got it through a transfusion.

Last month, she had to have a lung removed. When a doctor praised her courage, she whispered, "What choice do I have? I want to live."

The search for a donor was worldwide. The winner: a soldier in the German army. The transplant will be May 10, in Seattle.

Hundreds of people will be thinking about a brave little girl that day.

They'll be saying prayers, wearing purple ribbons, hoping a miracle will save a life that has touched a city's heart.