

benefits and raise taxes solely in order to fund additional spending.

Another amendment focused on entitlement was the KENNEDY amendment expressing the sense of the Senate that any reconciliation bill will maintain the existing prohibitions against additional charges by providers under Medicare. For the existing Medicare system, I agree this prohibition against so-called balance billing makes sense. On the other hand, the current Medicare System is going broke, and it makes little sense to tie the hands of the Finance Committee when they search for innovative ways to preserve the current system while providing new options to seniors. In effect, the Kennedy amendment is an attempt to forestall Medicare reform. As such, it is irresponsible and I voted against it.

Finally, there were several miscellaneous amendment which deserve comment. The first of these was the Graham-Baucus amendment to create a 60-vote point of order against efforts to divert savings which result from health care fraud and abuse programs from the Medicare HI trust fund to be used for other purposes.

First, it is important to note that this amendment would have no impact on the solvency of the Medicare trust fund. As a trust fund with a dedicated source of revenues, funding for Medicare part A cannot be diverted for other uses. Nor can savings resulting from Medicare reforms be used for any purposes other than to make the trust fund more solvent. Simply put, this amendment would have no real impact on Medicare whatsoever.

Second, this amendment violated the Budget Act by creating a point of order outside the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee. It is simply against the rules for the budget resolution to create points of order against legislation originating from other committees. For these two reasons, I opposed this amendment and supported Chairman DOMENICI's point of order against it.

One amendment dealing with foreign policy was the Lott amendment expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should be reimbursed for expenses related to U.N. actions in Iraq. The amendment calls on the United States Ambassador to the United Nations to modify the recent U.N. resolution which permits Iraqi oil sales to be used for reimbursing U.N. humanitarian expenses. I supported this amendment.

The bottom line is Iraq—through the revenue derived from its recent U.N. oil sales—should reimburse the United States for money expended during Operation Southern Watch and Provide Comfort—whereby United States troops protected Kurdish and Shiite Muslims from Saddam Hussein. The U.S. expenses were of a military nature, but were made to satisfy a U.N. humanitarian policy. As such, these efforts should not be financed from the pockets of American taxpayers, but rather from the purses of the belligerent

government that made them necessary in the first place.

The last amendment I would like to comment upon is the Roth amendment to take .5 cents of the mass transit gas tax—which is 2 cents total—and apply it toward Amtrak. While the issue of Federal subsidies is for interstate passenger rail service is extremely contentious and involved, using the highway trust fund to support Amtrak clearly undermines the integrity of the fund and should be opposed. If Congress chooses to continue its support for Amtrak, it should be done through general revenues and subject to the same review process to which other discretionary spending is subject.●

#### PORTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to convey my warmest congratulations to students and teachers who will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Porterville High School in Porterville, CA.

I congratulate and commend the many teachers, staff, students and alumni for their academic, athletic, agricultural and musical contributions to Porterville High School. Through their hard work and dedication, they have made a tremendous difference in the school and in the community of Porterville.

The people of Porterville should be proud of the strong community spirit and devotion that has helped build Porterville High School into an outstanding California school. I commend these community members for their dedication to education and enrichment of the students, past and present.

I send my best wishes to them for another hundred years of success.●

#### NEW MEXICO SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARD WINNERS

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the recipients of the New Mexico Small Business Week Award winners.

As you may know, each of the past 33 years, the President has issued a proclamation for the celebration of Small Business Week. This year, Floyd R. Correa, president and owner of Correa Enterprises, Inc. located in Albuquerque, NM, has been named New Mexico Small Business Person of the Year for 1996 by the U.S. Small Business Administration [SBA]. Floyd Correa is among 53 top small business persons, one from each State, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands and Guam, who are being honored by the SBA at the national ceremonies this week in Washington.

A "New Mexico Small Business Week Celebration" to honor the New Mexico Small Business Person of the Year Award Winner is also taking place in Albuquerque this week, the Advocate Award Winners, the Regional Small

Subcontractor of the Year, and the New Mexico recipients of the procurement award, the SBA's Administrator's Award of Excellence will also be awarded.

Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the other award winners.

One of the New Mexico Advocate winners is Judith A. Framan who was named the 1996 National Women in Business Advocate of the Year. She will also be honored at the national SBA ceremonies. Ms. Framan is also the 1996 New Mexico Women in Business Advocate of the Year as well as the 1996 Region VI Women in Business Advocate of the Year. Ms. Framan is the owner of Judith Framan Associates located in Corrales, NM.

A second New Mexico Advocate winner is Anne Haines Yatskowitz, who was named the 1996 New Mexico Financial Services Advocate of the Year. Ms. Yatskowitz is the executive director of ACCION of New Mexico located in Albuquerque.

The 1996 New Mexico Accountant Advocate of the Year Award recipient is Virginia M.K. Stanley, who is president of Stanley and Associates, Certified Public Accountants, P.C. located in Albuquerque. Ms. Stanley's efforts and commitment on behalf of small business in New Mexico have been substantial, both on a professional and volunteer basis.

The recipient of the 1996 New Mexico Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year is Vangie V. Gabaldon. Ms. Gabaldon is the executive director of the New Mexico Community Development Loan Fund Program located in Albuquerque. In this capacity, she has compiled a remarkable record of commitment to small business throughout the State.

The 1996 New Mexico Media Advocate of the Year Award recipient is Barbara M. Chavez. Ms. Chavez is a business staff writer/reporter with the Albuquerque Journal located in Albuquerque.

And finally, the 1996 Regional Subcontractor of the Year recipient is Mr. Adelmo Archuleta, CEO of Molzen-Corbin & Associates located in Albuquerque.

Mr. President, one important key to New Mexico's future economic progress is the health and growth of our small business sector. Our economy has produced more than 9.4 million new jobs in the last 3 years, and the lion's share of these have been generated by small businesses.

We have much to do to provide a richer and less burdensome economic environment, as the June 1995 White House Conference on Small Business concluded. Business and Government are communicating on how best to address the central concerns expressed by the small business sector, and New Mexico's delegation to the White House Conference has been particularly active in the implementation of the conference's proposals. Supporting our Nation's entrepreneurs and small business