

taxes and we have to have higher taxes and we have to raise taxes. They don't want to say it publicly and openly, but that is what they are working toward.

That is a big divide in the Congress, as I see it. I hate that we have a dispute over this spending, but apparently we have. It is discouraging to see the vote. But I think, as we continue to talk about it, perhaps the American people will talk to their Senators and Congressmen. When I travel around, they talk to me about spending. Of course, they want their projects. They say: Oh, don't cut that. But overall, they want constraint.

I believe the American people fundamentally will respect us if we maintain some discipline. That means, on the discretionary account, staying within our budget figure, which is basically flat spending. When we are in a crisis, we try to keep our spending level. We have a deficit. We ought to stay level. We are not slashing anything. We have to stop going for more and more red ink, more and more new spending programs that we have not had before to fund heating oil in the warmest winter on record.

We are going to keep talking about it. There will be more votes in this Congress and in this Senate. We did pretty well last year. We did do some reduction—modest reduction in entitlements with the Medicaid Program. We limited the growth of Medicaid, and we were proud of ourselves. Over 5 years, it was going up 41 percent before we passed the cost-saving bill, and now it is going up 40 percent. We thought we were quite proud of ourselves to save a little money that way. If we would do that on the other accounts, like Medicaid and Medicare and some other accounts—just a little bit—we would have big numbers as we go along and make a real difference in what we are doing. But it looks like that may not happen.

So we are going to have to, I guess, reengage the American people, reengage the Members of Congress, and they are going to be asked by constituents: How did you vote? How did you vote on LIHEAP? Did you vote to spend another \$1 billion? Maybe we can begin to have the American people talk some sense into those of us in Congress.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I have some remarks to make in tribute to a combat infantry and armored brigade from Mississippi which has returned from Iraq. I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. COCHRAN are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF THE 155TH SEPARATE ARMORED BRIGADE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to the service of the 155th Separate Armored Brigade of the State of Mississippi. The 155th has a rich history of extraordinary military service to our Nation. It has participated in the War of 1812, the American Civil War, the Spanish-American War, both World Wars, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and operations in Bosnia.

Recently, the 155th completed a year-long tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 4,000-member brigade combat team was attached to the II Marine Expeditionary Force and deployed to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. They conducted operations that included rebuilding infrastructure, hunting down insurgents, and supporting elections. Each of these activities made an indelible impact on the people of this fledgling democracy and improved their chances of surviving and prospering in a much safer and secure environment.

It is truly remarkable what our soldiers have accomplished. They served in a combat environment where they thwarted continuing attacks from a determined insurgency. They endured the hardships of being away from their families. They suffered the loss and injury of their fellow comrades. They had to endure the worry for their families' well-being as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the gulf coast. Through it all, they remained dedicated and determined to carry out their mission.

As Mississippians have done for centuries, these soldiers left their families and the comforts of home to answer the call of duty. This was not done without cost. During its deployment, the 155th lost 24 soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. These soldiers left behind wives, children, and loved ones. They answered the call of duty and gave their lives for America's freedom and security. This wasn't done for fame or fortune. It was done out of a commitment to duty and service to our great country. They are true heroes.

The 155th is the modern-day "Mississippi Rifles" that has carried on the

proud traditions of Mississippi and our Nation.

As we honor these brave men and women, it is appropriate for us to also honor their families. No one understands the hardships of war and sacrifice more than a soldier's family. For 18 months, these Mississippians sacrificed as their loved ones answered our Nation's call. Although their lives were disrupted, they assumed the role of both mother and father. Their resilience and courage during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita continue to be admired by us all.

Of course, they did not accomplish all of this alone. Our Mississippi communities came together to provide support which ranged from countless letters and packages, to daily support at home that included clearing storm debris and ensuring shelter for their loved ones, to support for the families of fallen comrades and those who were seriously wounded.

As we pay tribute to the accomplishments of the 155th and give thanks to their sacrifice and service, it is important we remember our country is still at war. The State of Mississippi has over 500 of its citizens deployed in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan continuing to fight the global war on terrorism. In addition, we have citizen-soldiers in various stages of mobilization preparing to answer our Nation's call. Our country's military is the most committed and powerful in the world, and they are well prepared to serve in our hometowns and across the globe. We will keep them in our prayers as they continue their great legacy of sacrifice and service.

BOULDER CITY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Boulder City, NV.

Boulder City lies 24 miles east of Las Vegas, and 40 miles from Searchlight near Lake Mead. It's very close to my hometown, Searchlight, and it is a city dear to my heart. Boulder City is a Nevada treasure, and I am proud to honor them today.

Boulder City was created by the Federal Government on March 11, 1931, to provide housing to the thousands of people who built the Hoover Dam. Because Boulder City was operated as a Government reservation, the residents could not buy homes and unlike its neighboring cities, liquor and gambling were prohibited. In fact, gambling is prohibited in Boulder City to this day.

As the first planned community built in the United States, Boulder City has gone to great lengths to maintain its small town feel. Boulder City only sees about 400 new residents each year due to a growth control ordinance that was enacted in 1979.

Boulder City is most widely known as the home of the Hoover Dam. Twenty-one thousand men worked for 5 years and poured more than 5 million