

over 1,000 personnel and oversight of a \$48 million annual budget. He was the first member of the Mississippi Air National Guard to simultaneously command two major units, the Combat Readiness Training Center and the 186th Air Refueling Wing.

Brigadier General Spragins was assigned to the Tennessee Air National Guard in November 2005 as the chief of staff. In this capacity he was responsible to the adjutant general for readiness of Tennessee's three flying wings and three mission support units. In addition to duties as chief of staff, Brigadier General Spragins also served as the air deputy commander, joint forces Headquarters, Tennessee National Guard. Brigadier General Spragins was also attached as the battle commander for Air Force North, Tyndall AFB, FL. In this capacity he was responsible for ensuring the air sovereignty and air defense of the continental United States.

During his long and distinguished career, Brigadier General Spragins successfully completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff, and the Air War College with the Air University. His decorations and awards include Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Mississippi Magnolia Cross, Tennessee Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

Upon the retirement of Brigadier General Spragins after 34 years of dedicated service, I offer my congratulations to him and his wife Judy. Brigadier General Spragins is a credit to both the Air Force and the United States of America. I know that I speak for all my colleagues in expressing heartfelt appreciation to him. I wish Brigadier General Spragins blue skies and safe landings and congratulate him on completion of an outstanding and successful career.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL TANNER O'LEARY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Corporal Tanner O'Leary and his heroic service to our country. As a member of the Army's C Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division based in North Carolina, Corporal O'Leary was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On December 9, 2007, he was killed in action in Afghanistan.

A native of rural Eagle Butte and a 2003 graduate of Timber Lake High School, Tanner joined the Army in 2005. His teachers remember Tanner as a student who loved to learn. He was active in school science fairs and on the football team. As his former science teacher recalls, "Once Tanner latched on to something he didn't let

go; I know that was how it was with him with the Army as well."

Growing up on a ranch west of Timber Lake, Tanner was a hard worker who enjoyed spending time with his family. He took great pride in his daughter Alexis, and his family will always remember what a wonderful father he was. Friends and family will miss Tanner's easygoing, fun-loving personality.

Corporal O'Leary gave his all for his soldiers and his country. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude, and the best way to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to our country. I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Corporal O'Leary. He will be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

FURTHER CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 307 of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels for legislation, including one or more bills and amendments, that reauthorizes the 2002 farm bill or similar or related programs, provides for revenue changes, or any combination thereof. Section 307 authorizes the revisions provided that certain conditions are met, including that amounts provided in the legislation for the above purposes not exceed \$20 billion over the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 and that the legislation not worsen the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2017.

I find that Senate amendment No. 3551 offered by Senator ALEXANDER to Senate amendment No. 3500, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2419, satisfies the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for the farm bill. Therefore, pursuant to section 307, I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2008 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 307 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE FARM BILL

[In billions of dollars]

<i>Section 101</i>	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	1,900.340
FY 2008	2,024.841
FY 2009	2,121.615
FY 2010	2,176.237
FY 2011	2,357.103
FY 2012	2,498.980

<i>Section 101</i>	
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	-4.366
FY 2008	-25.955
FY 2009	14.689
FY 2010	12.516
FY 2011	-37.447
FY 2012	-98.116
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2007	2,371.470
FY 2008	2,508.833
FY 2009	2,526.124
FY 2010	2,581.393
FY 2011	2,696.822
FY 2012	2,737.603
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2007	2,294.862
FY 2008	2,471.548
FY 2009	2,573.005
FY 2010	2,609.877
FY 2011	2,702.851
FY 2012	2,716.412

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 307 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE FARM BILL

[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	14,284
FY 2007 Outlays	14,056
FY 2008 Budget Authority	17,088
FY 2008 Outlays	14,629
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	76,881
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	71,049
Adjustments:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	0
FY 2007 Outlays	0
FY 2008 Budget Authority	0
FY 2008 Outlays	0
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	74
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	36
Revised Allocation to Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	14,284
FY 2007 Outlays	14,056
FY 2008 Budget Authority	17,088
FY 2008 Outlays	14,629
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	76,955
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	71,085

FURTHER CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, earlier today, pursuant to section 307 of S. Con. Res. 21, I filed revisions to S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution. Those revisions were made for Senate amendment No. 3551, an amendment offered to Senate amendment No. 3500, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2419.

The Senate did not adopt Senate amendment No. 3551. As a consequence, I am further revising the 2008 budget resolution and reversing the adjustments made pursuant to section 307 to the aggregates and the allocation provided to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee for Senate Amendment No. 3551.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 307 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE FARM BILL

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101 (1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	1,900.340
FY 2008	2,024.835
FY 2009	2,121.607
FY 2010	2,176.229
FY 2011	2,357.094
FY 2012	2,498.971
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	-4.366
FY 2008	-25.961
FY 2009	14.681
FY 2010	12.508
FY 2011	-37.456
FY 2012	-98.125
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2007	2,371.470
FY 2008	2,508.833
FY 2009	2,526.124
FY 2010	2,581.369
FY 2011	2,696.797
FY 2012	2,737.578
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2007	2,294.862
FY 2008	2,471.548
FY 2009	2,573.005
FY 2010	2,609.873
FY 2011	2,702.839
FY 2012	2,716.392

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 307 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE FARM BILL

[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	14,284
FY 2007 Outlays	14,056
FY 2008 Budget Authority	17,088
FY 2008 Outlays	14,629
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	76,955
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	71,085
Adjustments:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	0
FY 2007 Outlays	0
FY 2008 Budget Authority	0
FY 2008 Outlays	0
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	-74
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	-36
Revised Allocation to Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	14,284
FY 2007 Outlays	14,056
FY 2008 Budget Authority	17,088
FY 2008 Outlays	14,629
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	76,881
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	71,049

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, with only a few legislative days left to us before the Christmas holidays and the end of this session, we continue seeking to make progress in filling the many U.S. attorney vacancies across our Nation and the high-level vacancies at the Justice Department.

Today, the Senate will confirm three more nominations for U.S. attorneys, including the nominations of Gregory A. Brower to the District of Nevada,

Diane J. Humetewa to the District of Arizona, and Edmund A. Booth, Jr. to the Southern District of Georgia. Two of the three nominations—Ms. Humetewa and Mr. Brower—are replacements for two of the outstanding U.S. attorneys who were fired almost a year ago as part of the ill-advised, partisan plan to replace well-performing U.S. attorneys. I thank the home State Senators—Senators REID, ENSIGN, MCCAIN, KYL, CHAMBLISS, and ISAKSON—for their consideration of these nominations.

We also are proceeding to fill one of the many high-level vacancies at the Department of Justice by confirming the nomination of Ronald Jay Tenpas to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the Justice Department. I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for chairing his hearing.

Over the course of this year, the Judiciary Committee's investigation into the firing of United States attorneys and the influence of White House political operatives on Federal law enforcement has led to resignations at the highest ranks in the Justice Department, including the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, the chiefs of staff of the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General, the White House liaison, as well as several White House officials.

When I met with Michael Mukasey before his confirmation hearing to replace Alberto Gonzales as Attorney General, I emphasized the need to fill the many vacancies that remain at the Department with nominees who will restore the independence of Federal law enforcement.

In the days before the congressional Thanksgiving recess, the White House made a show of releasing the names of a score of nominees for high-level positions in the Department of Justice. Yet, that announcement was mostly bluster. We received the nomination of Mark Filip to be the Deputy Attorney General nearly 3 full weeks after the announcement was made. Had the nomination been sent immediately following the White House announcement, the committee could have considered Judge Filip's nomination in early December. As it was, after a 3-week White House delay in sending up the nomination, I immediately set a hearing on his nomination for next Wednesday, December 19, once the Senate received it.

Nearly a month after the White House announced its intent to nominate Kevin O'Connor be the Associate Attorney General and Gregory Katsas to be the Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Division at the Department of Justice we have only now received those nominations. We have not yet been provided with their background materials to allow us to review them. Because of the administration's delay, we will not be able to consider those nominations before the end of the year.

The Judiciary Committee has reported 20 executive nominations this year. To make further progress, the committee is holding back-to-back hearings next week, before the Christmas break, on six nominations for senior leadership posts at the Justice Department and Executive Office of the President, including the recently received nomination to be Deputy Attorney General.

There are now 23 districts with acting or interim U.S. attorneys instead of Senate-confirmed, presidentially appointed U.S. attorneys, over a quarter of all districts. Many of these vacancies, including several for which we consider nominations today, could have been filled a year ago had the White House worked with the Senate.

In the course of the committee's investigation into the unprecedented mass firing of U.S. attorneys by the President who appointed them, we uncovered an effort by officials at the White House and the Justice Department to exploit an obscure provision enacted during the Patriot Act reauthorization to do an end-run around the Senate's constitutional duty to confirm U.S. attorneys. The result was the firing of well-performing U.S. attorneys for not bending to the political will of political operatives at the White House.

When it comes to the United States Department of Justice and to the U.S. attorneys in our home States, Senators have a say and a stake in ensuring fairness and independence in order to insulate the Federal law enforcement function from untoward political influence. That is why the law and the practice has always been that these appointments require Senate confirmation. The advice and consent check on the appointment power for U.S. attorneys is a critical function of the Senate.

I had hoped when the Senate unanimously voted to close the loophole created by the Patriot Act, passing S.214, the "Preserving United States Attorneys Independence Act of 2007," it would send a clear message to the administration to make nominations that could receive Senate support and begin to restore an important check on the partisan influence in law enforcement.

Yet, even as we closed one loophole, the administration has been exploiting others to continue to avoid coming to the Senate. Under the guidance of an erroneous opinion of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, the administration has been naming acting U.S. attorneys and interim U.S. attorneys sequentially. They have used this misguided approach to put somebody in place for 330 days without the advice and consent of the Senate. This approach runs afoul of congressional intent and the law.

We will continue to make progress when we can, and I will continue to urge the White House to send the Senate consensus, qualified nominees. I congratulate the nominees and their families on their confirmation today.