

trillion last year—it's more difficult for the private sector to borrow and invest. When businesses can't grow their operations, they can't afford to hire new employees.

Congress can also ameliorate the uncertainty that is preventing new hiring by not raising taxes and costs on employers. Unless they are extended, the lower tax rates that have been in place since 2001 are set to expire at the end of this year, triggering a \$2 trillion tax increase over the next decade. Businesses will remain timid about hiring if they think new taxes will add to the cost of their business and consume the capital that could be used to pay new employees.

There are other steps Congress can take—promoting our Nation's exports by passing free-trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, and increasing production of domestic energy resources, for example.

Passing bills that increase our Nation's debt and create disincentives to work will not encourage investment in the economy. If we want business owners and entrepreneurs to start creating jobs, Congress should act so that it does not become harder and more expensive to do business.

TRIBUTE TO MARY MCBRIDE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize Mary McBride for her years of service to the U.S. Senate and the people of Washington State. Mary served on my staff for the last 9 years of her distinguished public career. Prior to her service in my office, Mary served as the Washington State Director of USDA Rural Development during the Clinton administration. As of March 1, 2010, Mary is assuming yet another role in the Federal Government as Region X Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mary is a thoughtful and dedicated public servant. She covered three diverse regions in Washington State on my behalf: central Washington, the Olympic Peninsula, and South Puget Sound. The issues facing each of these regions differ greatly, and Mary was able to immerse herself in the concerns facing my constituents and build lasting relationships in each community. Whether working on farm worker housing, economic development or gang violence, Mary approached each topic with an outstanding knowledge of the Federal process and resources and with a strong commitment to solving problems and creating opportunity.

I would like to thank Mary for her years of service to me and the people of Washington State. Her career is a tremendous example of public service, and her dedication to her work is truly appreciated. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and know that her many talents will continue to serve the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Obama administration.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY OLSON

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize Judy Olson for her years of service to the U.S. Senate and the people of Washington State. Judy served on my staff for 11 years prior to becoming the Washington State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in August of 2009.

During her many years on my staff, Judy served as my eastern Washington regional director. Covering a region that spanned 13 counties and 24,239 square miles, Judy brought a tireless dedication to the needs of my constituents in this vast region. A longtime resident of Whitman County, Judy and her husband farmed wheat, dried peas, and lentils. This gave her deep understanding and firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing our farmers and agricultural communities. Over the years, Judy continuously worked to ensure that the people of Washington State, whether they lived in Spokane or in Omak, were well served by the Federal Government.

I would like to thank Judy for her years of service to me and the people of Washington State. Her career is a tremendous example of public service, and her dedication to her work is truly appreciated. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and know that her many talents will continue to serve the Farm Service Agency in the Obama administration.

REMEMBERING KENT M. RONHOVDE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn that Kent M. Ronhovde of the Congressional Research Service died on February 19. Mr. Ronhovde devoted a 36-year career at CRS to serving both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol, Senate and the House.

Mr. Ronhovde was a senior leader and an adviser to Director Daniel P. Mulhollan. For the last 7 years as Associate Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs and Counselor to the Director, he brought astute judgment and keen insight into some of the most sensitive issues facing the Service.

CRS provides members of Congress authoritative, objective and non-partisan analysis. All of us appreciate CRS experts' solid advice untainted by advocacy, hidden agendas or personal biases. Kent Ronhovde was instrumental in preserving those core values of CRS.

Mr. Ronhovde was the primary liaison between CRS and its Senate and House oversight committees. He managed the CRS Review Office in which all CRS written work is judged for conformance with CRS policies.

Mr. Ronhovde was a native Washingtonian who received his JD at Georgetown University Law Center and served in Vietnam. He subsequently earned a master's in public administration while

at CRS. CRS hired him in 1974 as an attorney and he rose progressively through the American Law Division and CRS senior management.

Some of us here today may remember Mr. Ronhovde's excellent work as a legislative attorney in the American Law Division in the 1970s and 80s. He served senators, committees and their staffs in such areas as criminal law, intelligence activities, gun control and terrorism. He wrote extensively on legal issues raised in connection with the reports of the Senate Select Committee to Study Government Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities—Church Committee—and of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

His distinguished performance led to his selection as section head in 1985 and assistant chief of the division in 1986. As assistant chief, he managed the Federal Law Update, a twice-yearly series of seminars on important issues of law and policy related to the legislative business of Congress. In 1996, he was promoted to a senior management position in CRS and in 2003 assumed the duties of associate director and counselor to the Director. Throughout this illustrious career, Mr. Ronhovde guarded and exemplified CRS's core values: authoritativeness, confidentiality and objectivity. He honored and respected CRS's role in serving the Congress and he ensured the role was undertaken judiciously and wisely. His astute counsel, sound judgment and devotion to the institutions of CRS and Congress will be sorely missed.

Mr. President, I extend my sincerest condolences to Mr. Ronhovde's wife Juliet, daughters Kristen and Brooke, their families, and to all his many friends and colleagues at CRS.

RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, last week, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the *McDonald v. City of Chicago* case.

Despite much of the rhetoric surrounding this case, *McDonald v. Chicago* isn't a case about gun control. It is a case about our constitutional, fundamental rights as Americans.

Our freedoms in the Bill of Rights—including those of speech and religion and the press—are incorporated by the 14th amendment. They cannot be infringed upon by the states. The Supreme Court ruled on that issue long ago.

The issue in *McDonald* is whether an individual's second amendment right to keep and bear arms must be protected against State infringement. The case follows the Court's landmark 2008 ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. In *Heller*, the Court—for the first time—ruled that the second amendment protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms.

There is precedent dating back more than 100 years that reaffirms that the second amendment applies only to the