

without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1072) was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCAIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we now have an understanding with Senator UDALL that he would be recognized first tomorrow morning to call up amendment No. 1107.

I ask unanimous consent that when we come in tomorrow morning, Senator UDALL be recognized after the leaders are recognized to call up that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. It is my understanding that Senator UDALL has also agreed to a half hour equally divided—debate, equally divided?

Mr. LEVIN. That is my understanding.

We will leave that issue for the closing statement, that he be recognized. First, I agree with the Senator from Arizona that we agree there be a half hour equally divided on the amendment. But let's leave the exact wording on that for the closing.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

#### REMEMBERING FREDERIK MEIJER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wish to speak to mark the passing of Frederik Meijer, one of Michigan's most distinguished leaders in business and philanthropy. Barbara and I were saddened to learn of his passing on Friday at the age of 91. It is by no means an overstatement to say that Fred Meijer changed the face of our State, and the legacy he leaves will continue to affect us in Michigan and America and beyond for decades hence.

Most Michiganders know him best through the business he built, one of the largest family owned companies in the Nation. Fred grew up working long

hours in the Greenville, MI, grocery store that his father, an immigrant from Holland, opened in 1934. Over the next three decades the business grew until, in 1962, Fred and his father expanded from groceries into general merchandise. They called their new store "Thrifty Acres," and it led the way to the supercenter retail stores that are now so much a part of the American consumer's daily experience. Today, Grand Rapids-based Meijer, Inc. has more than 200 stores across the Midwest, and the company is a major part of the West Michigan economy.

But Fred Meijer was not content to be just a pioneering entrepreneur. As the company grew, so did his lifelong drive to make the world around him a better place. He was an early and eager supporter of the civil rights movement. He was deeply involved in efforts by the Urban League to promote education and equal opportunity.

One of his many lasting legacies is the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation. Established in 1993, the foundation embodies Fred's commitment to ensuring that art and beauty are available to everyone. The park and gardens that the foundation supports house his collection of sculpture, one of the finest collections anywhere in the world, and places it in surroundings of incredible natural beauty.

Beyond the foundation, over the years he made generous gifts to support recreation and conservation efforts, schools and colleges and dozens of other institutions and charitable efforts across the State. There are few residents of our State who have not been touched in some way by his generosity. I have seen firsthand that generous and independent spirit, and I shall personally miss him, and personally feel the gap his passing has left in our State.

Barbara and I send our condolences to his wife Lena, his partner in life and business and philanthropy; their sons Hank, Doug and Mark; their seven grandchildren; and the multitude of those who will miss Fred's immense presence. He will indeed be missed. What a man. What a life. What a force for good in the world.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

##### CORPORAL ZACHARY REIFF

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, since the Senate last convened, I have learned of the loss of a brave Iowan who was defending freedom overseas. Marine Corporal Zachary Reiff was wounded during combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan and later succumbed to his wounds. This news has hit the close knit community of Preston, IA very hard. My prayers go out to all who knew Zach, particularly his parents Marcia and Matt, as well as his brother Kolby and his sister Emily. By all accounts, he was active in school, having played football, wrestled, and ran track as well as participating in school plays. As such, there

was certainly no shortage of people in the community with memories to share. It is also evident that Zach is well thought of judging by the outpouring of good will following the news that he had been wounded. Zach is described as a caring person. Certainly, the beaming smile in many pictures posted on a Facebook prayer page in his honor makes even those who didn't know him wish that they had.

Friends say that Zach was proud to serve his country and liked his work. Zach Reiff is one of those special Americans who throughout our history have not hesitated to put their life on the line for the Stars and Stripes and everything it stands for. Our country is truly blessed to have patriots such as Zach Reiff. We owe him more than we can express and we have an obligation to remember him and his sacrifices in the name of liberty.

#### CUT ENERGY BILLS AT HOME ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Cut Energy Bills at Home Act, which Senator SNOWE, Senator BINGAMAN and I have introduced. It has been a pleasure to work again with Senators SNOWE and BINGAMAN on an important piece of energy legislation. We have written this bill in a fully cooperative process, and my colleagues have been especially accommodating of changes requested by California's experts; I thank my colleagues for their efforts.

This legislation would put the construction industry back to work by creating a homeowner tax credit for home renovations that increase the energy efficiency of the home by at least 20 percent. The tax credit would increase in size with every 5 percent in additional energy efficiency improvement achieved. Homeowners who improved the efficiency of their home by more than 50 percent will qualify for a maximum credit of \$5,000.

This legislation helps address the continued high unemployment in the construction sector while making a long-term investment in America's building infrastructure. The construction industry has the highest unemployment rate of any sector nationally, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The current residential building stock exceeds demand, making a rapid recovery in new housing starts unlikely. According to the Census Bureau, 14.3 percent of the housing units in the United States in the second quarter of 2011 were vacant, even as prices continue to drop.

Thus the construction industry needs jobs, but artificially stimulating construction of new homes would exacerbate a situation of oversupply and depress home prices further.

Our Nation's buildings also need the upgrade. Buildings account for about 40 percent of the U.S. energy appetite, as well as 40 percent of its carbon dioxide