

the well-admired president of the company.

Clay was deeply passionate about conservation. He believed that it was possible to preserve the diverse ecosystem in Grand Teton National Park while also welcoming the millions of visitors who came to enjoy its splendors each year. This guiding principle led to his involvement in the transfer of the historic JY Ranch to the National Park Service. Owned by the Rockefeller Estate, the JY Ranch was a parcel of about 33,000 acres that was originally purchased by John Rockefeller, Jr., in the early 20th century. In 2007, Laurance Rockefeller asked Clay to manage this important transition. The project was completed in 2008, and the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve was opened in Grand Teton National Park for the public to enjoy. Clay was especially proud of this achievement because it brought so many of his passions together.

Clay's extensive background in hotel management, as well as his experience as a concessionaire in Grand Teton National Park, was especially useful during his service on the Jackson Hole Airport's board of directors. This experience, coupled with his unique perspective, made Clay an effective liaison between the National Park Service and the Jackson Hole Airport. He was instrumental in the design and construction of the airport's terminal renovation and expansion project. With Clay's advocacy, the airport was able to complete all renovations while working with the Park Service to maintain the environmental integrity of Grand Teton National Park.

Clay's penchant for giving back to the community was incredible. He devoted his free time to serving on several local and State boards and committees, each as different as his wide range of interests. He was a proud member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and also served in the Army National Guard. He always strove to improve the quality of life for his family, friends, and the community of Jackson, and his impact will be felt for years to come.

Clay is survived by his wife of 49 years, Shay Orlin James, and his children and their spouses, Scott and Jennifer James and McKenzie and Robert Hammond. He loved his grandchildren Emma and Cole James and Rigdon and Riley Hammond. He also is survived by his brothers and their spouses, several nieces and nephews, and many close family friends.

It is an honor to celebrate Clay James and his extraordinary legacy of community service. He was kind, personable, and a natural leader. I know that the community of Jackson shines brighter because of his special contributions.●

REMEMBERING A. DAVID HAMILL

● Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the life of Ranson

Mayor A. David Hamill, who recently passed away at the age of 71. I first met Dave following my election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000, and I came to know him as a passionate advocate for the city of Ranson. We began working together very early in my House tenure, revitalizing Ranson through Federal Brownfields initiatives.

With his height, his booming voice, and his mischievous sense of humor, he certainly cut an impressive figure. And while he was in many ways a larger-than-life persona, his greatest strength was his willingness to listen. He tried to genuinely understand the needs of his constituents and the people with whom he worked. Indeed, his humility was evident in an excerpt from the open letter he wrote to the city last month, sharing his worsening prognosis. He wrote, "I have tried to do what is best for the City of Ranson—sometimes my result may not have been successful as I planned, but it was not for my lack of passion or desire to do the right thing."

Born in Kitchener, Ontario, Dave met his wife, Helen, while working in Macon, GA. Although they married in Canada, Dave would always submit job applications to local employers when he and Helen would return to her hometown of Ranson, WV. They would return to Ranson for good in 1979 when Dave was hired at Abex, in nearby Winchester, VA. Dave rose to become a certified purchasing manager and negotiated purchasing contracts for the company's eight factories in its North American division. When Dave became a U.S. citizen, he almost immediately began his public service career. Beginning with the planning commission, Dave soon became a member of Ranson's city council. In 1987, he was appointed mayor and was subsequently reelected seven consecutive times, most recently in 2013.

Dave will be celebrated for his many accomplishments as mayor, including his work with the Brownfields initiative, the redevelopment surrounding the American Public University System campus, Ranson's annexations for future growth, the city's streetscape projects, Ranson's youth football field, and the Fairfax Boulevard extension project. The list could certainly go on, but to highlight only the accomplishments of the man would be to overshadow Dave's spirit and his dedication to the city he served.

In addition to his wife, Helen, Dave is survived by his three children: Cindy, Melissa, and James; and nine grandchildren. In addition to his public service, Dave was also very active in the United Methodist Church, where he was a lay speaker and lay member to the Methodist Annual Conference.

I will miss Mayor Dave Hamill, as will all who knew him. I am honored to have worked with this talented individual and am proud to have called Dave my friend for more than 15 years. Today I ask my colleagues to join me

in honoring the memory of "Ranson's Champion."●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017—PM 41

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying reports and papers; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on the Budget; and Appropriations:

THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT *To the Congress of the United States:*

As I look back on the past seven years, I am inspired by America's progress—and I am more determined than ever to keep our country moving forward. When I took office, our Nation was in the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression. The economy was shedding 800,000 jobs a month. The auto industry was on the brink of collapse and our manufacturing sector was in decline. Many families were struggling to pay their bills and make ends meet. Millions more saw their savings evaporate, even as retirement neared.

But thanks to the grit and determination of the American people, we rescued our economy from the depths of the recession, revitalized our auto industry, and laid down new rules to safeguard our economy from recklessness on Wall Street. We made the largest investment in clean energy in our history, and made health care reform a reality. And today, our economy is the strongest, most durable on Earth.

Our businesses have created more than 14 million jobs over 70 months, the longest streak of job growth on record. We have cut our unemployment rate in half. Our manufacturing sector has added nearly 900,000 jobs in the last six years—and our auto industry just had its best year of sales ever. We are less reliant on foreign oil than at any point in the previous four decades. Nearly 18 million people have gained health coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), cutting the uninsured rate to a record low. Our children are graduating from high school at the highest rate ever. And we managed to accomplish all of this while dramatically cutting our deficits by almost three-quarters and setting our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path. Together, we have brought America back.

Yet while it is important to take stock of our progress, this Budget is