

with long term (50+) year horizon rather than by separate agencies with no budget sharing possibilities.

JOAN, *Sun Valley*.

Thank you for your letter regarding the high prices of gas and oil. I absolutely agree that many things need to be done to lower the prices. You mentioned many things, but action needs to be taken now in all areas you mentioned.

My husband and I are retired so we do not need to drive as much as others, but we have very little possibility of having an increase in our income to compensate for the high gas prices. We do, however, buy things that are affected by the rising prices in everything. Please take some action and report that to us.

One thing you did not mention is the war situation in Iraq. If we need to stay for some time because the country needs us, they should be paying for our help with their oil revenues.

ELLEN.

In response to your request for the Idaho experience re gasoline prices: My wife and I are recently retired as state of Idaho employees. As such, our income is now set and we no longer can anticipate even the miniscule raises sometimes provided by the state. As retirees we are certainly not unique in that regard, but we share with other retirees the inability to absorb the rapid and unjustified escalation of energy costs. We are fortunate to enjoy a comfortable home, although still with a mortgage. Because of the unjustified escalation of gasoline prices, we now find ourselves limiting our trips from home for shopping, medical appointments, visiting family, and just getting out of the house, to no more than twice a week. Those trips are carefully planned to incorporate as many needs as possible. Trips from home are now made for necessity. No longer do we enjoy the freedom to hop in the car for a "frivolous" jaunt. We now frequently forego fresh produce because of increased prices ostensibly the result of higher transportation costs. We purchase store brands in lieu of name brands. Dining out is now a true luxury and even then we often will order one meal and split it between ourselves. Clothes are sparingly purchased at store sales, and even thrift outlets.

As said above, we realize we are not unique in our circumstance. We understand that there is a seemingly acceptable inflationary scheme. But the inaction by Congress to adopt a meaningful energy policy requires this nation to rely on our enemies for our energy needs. It has also allowed the greed of commodity speculation to exacerbate an inordinate rise in prices to such an extent that even the Saudi's question its validity.

We categorically support a meaningful energy policy . . . one which eliminates detrimental environmental restrictions . . . realistic conservation . . . using our own oil reserves (ANWR, shale, offshore drilling), nuclear, wind, solar power . . . and build some refineries. Equally important, identify [those who are preventing commonsense policies from being undertaken]. It is time that those we have sent to Washington, D.C. do what they have been elected to do. Too many of us feel that this is not happening now and has not happened for far too long. Please share these comments with the rest of the Idaho delegation. Thanks for the opportunity to express our thoughts.

FRED and SANDY, *Meridian*.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN CATHERINE A. WILSON

• Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I would like to recognize a great American and true military heroine who has honorably served our country for over 29 years in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps: CAPT Catherine A. Wilson.

In May, 2006, Captain Wilson assumed command of Naval Hospital Bremerton. Prior to reporting, she completed a successful tour as the commanding officer of Expeditionary Medical Facility, Kuwait. Her command included the U.S. military hospital and nine troop medical clinics located throughout the country. Prior to deploying, she served as the executive officer, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton where she also commanded the fleet hospital.

Captain Wilson's past assignments included the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth where she was the Director of Fleet and Family Medicine. This Directorate was staffed by over 2,600 personnel and covered six service lines—family care, women and children's health, adult medical care, preventive care and wellness, emergent and urgent care, and behavioral care, plus nine branch medical clinics.

Captain Wilson served as the Deputy Director of the TRICARE Mid-Atlantic Region Lead Agent Office where she had direct impact on all military and civilian health care for over a million beneficiaries in Virginia and North Carolina. Her responsibilities included the administration of a \$3.1 billion managed care support contract.

In 1999, she was selected as a congressional detailee to my office, where she advised me on all health-related issues. Captain Wilson was a staff assistant for the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee for Defense, as well as the Labor, Health, and Human Services and Education Committee. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, she served as the Director of Regional Operations for TRICARE Mid-Atlantic.

Captain Wilson also worked at the Pentagon as the staff of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs. During this tour, she was the Deputy Director for Force Management, Senior Policy Analyst for TRICARE Operations Policy, and ultimately served as the chief of staff for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, health affairs, for Health Services Operations and Readiness. At that time, the MHS was a \$15.5 billion system, the Nation's second largest, and included the integrated delivery of health care to more than 8.2 million DOD beneficiaries worldwide. Captain Wilson's other executive management positions include a 4-year tour at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as the Deputy of Enlisted Force Management and the Navy Surgeon General's representative for HIV and AIDS prevention education. Her duty assignments include the Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;

Naval Hospital Philadelphia; and the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD.

Captain Wilson's military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, third award, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, fourth award, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Military Unit Commendation, second award, Overseas Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, second award, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. She is entitled to wear the Office of the Secretary of Defense identification badge and is the recipient of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, USUHS, Meritorious Service Award.

Captain Wilson's educational background includes a bachelor of science degree in nursing, a master of science degree in trauma/critical care nursing with a minor in education, and a master of science degree in human resources management and health policy. She is also certified in managed care by the Academy of Healthcare Management and earned a certificate in legislative studies from Georgetown University. She is married to Don D. Wilson, CAPT, MSC, USN (Ret.) and has two children and two grandchildren.

Captain Wilson is a meritorious leader, administrator, clinician, educator, and mentor. Throughout her career she has served with valor and profoundly impacted the entire Navy Medical Department. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation to CAPT Catherine A. Wilson on behalf of a grateful nation for her more than 29 years of dedicated military service. •

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLE ROYALE WOLF/MOOSE STUDY

• Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of the initiation of the Isle Royale Wolf/Moose research study, the longest running predator-prey study in the world. Scientific research has both enlightened and educated us, reshaping our lives in many profound ways. Continuing to critically study our environment and our impact on it is integral to our prosperity and survival as a nation and planet and will help to ensure future generations inherit a healthy world in which to live and thrive.

The remote Isle Royale National Park, located in the upper northwest corner of Lake Superior, serves as an "island laboratory" for scientists to study the interactions of the gray wolf and its primary prey, the moose. Mr. Durward Allen of Purdue University founded this effort in 1958 as a result of his desire to conduct research on an island "where the animals you are counting and studying do not wander away." Today, Mr. Allen's project is led by Mr. Rolf Peterson and Mr. John