

of him and the sacrifice he gave to this country.

Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the sacrifice SGT Bradley Marshall and his family have given to protecting our freedom.

REMEMBERING ELISHA "RAY" NANCE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to pay appropriate tribute today to an American hero—Elisha "Ray" Nance—of Bedford, VA.

He passed away last Sunday at the age of 94, and memorial services are being held today.

Mr. Nance was the last surviving member of what has come to be known as "The Bedford Boys"—members of Company A, 116th Infantry, 29th Division.

Mr. Nance was among 38 National Guardsmen from the close-knit community of Bedford who were called to active service in World War II. On June 6, 1944, 19 were killed when they landed on Omaha Beach at the start of the D-day invasion. Two more died later.

"We Bedford boys," Nance recalled, "we competed to be in the first wave. We wanted to be there. We wanted to be the first on the beach," he would write as he recovered from his own severe wounds.

Bedford recorded 21 casualties out of 38 men who served, all from the same small town of 3,200 people located in central Virginia.

That overwhelming loss led to Bedford's selection as the site of the National D-day Memorial—a worthy project I was honored to support, both as a private citizen and as Virginia Governor.

But Ray Nance's public service did not end with his military service.

To honor his fallen brethren, Nance returned home to Bedford and helped reorganize Company A of the Virginia National Guard, and served as its first commander. He then built a career as a rural postal carrier, and served in the Elks.

At the end of his life, he was a proud resident of the Elks National Home in Bedford.

In recent years, he visited the D-day Memorial often to help teach younger generations about the service, courage and sacrifice demonstrated by "The Bedford Boys" and others of the "greatest generation."

Ray Nance's life and example demonstrate the very best qualities—and the responsibilities—of citizenship.

My thoughts and prayers are with his widow Alpha and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A grateful Commonwealth and Nation thanks them for their lifetime of support for Ray Nance—a hero—and the last of "The Bedford Boys."

NATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to mark an anniversary, one that

was many tragic years in the making. According to the Idaho AFL-CIO, 35 Idaho workers were killed due to on the job injuries in 2007. Next Tuesday, April 28, is National Worker's Memorial Day, which celebrates the day the Occupational Safety and Health Act—OSHA—became law in 1970.

More than 30 years ago, in 1967 a construction worker in Nampa, ID, Louis Jose Archuleta, was killed in a jobsite accident. Louie and others were installing a sewer line, 35 feet deep, in sandy soil, when the soil caved in. It trapped Louie, and, although fellow workers and rescue crews worked diligently for two and a half hours, their efforts were hampered due to further collapses of cleared areas, and Archuleta did not survive.

But Louie and many other workers knew what they were facing. Just a week before the accident, Louie told his sister Victoria that it was the most dangerous job he had ever worked on. Safety inspectors were in the process of shutting the job down at the time of the accident, a process that, in 1967, took at least 5 days to shut down a job.

Louie was very active in the local labor union and served three terms—9 years—as president of Labor's Union Local No. 267 in Pocatello, ID. He was a strong advocate for a retirement system. As a result of the tragedy, the Idaho AFL-CIO joined the push for Federal legislation to protect workers, legislation that was later known as Occupational Safety and Health Act, OSHA.

With Louie, his family and the many others who have suffered due to worker safety issue, I am honored to recognize National Worker's Memorial Day, keeping in mind Louis Jose Archuleta and all fallen workers for their contribution to the infrastructure of the State of Idaho and the Nation and to the establishment of OSHA and much-needed increased worker safety standards.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. PRESIDENT, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heart-breaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this

problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

My personal and family circumstances are good with regard to income and out-go. That being said, the price of fuel, whether diesel or gasoline, is still an outrage, but there is absolutely nothing the government should do about it directly. Yes, we should make a meaningful effort to develop alternative fuel sources and methods of transportation and even responsibly drill for our own oil and gas here at home. But, the minute [price controls are started], that is when all hell breaks loose and things go to hell in a handbasket. Please advise your colleagues to not impose a windfall profits tax on oil companies. That will be another direct tax on the American consumer, [even though many do not pay attention.] Most Americans will just continue to believe it is the oil companies that are the culprits because of what we hear on TV!

Please be smart about this. Let capitalism rule. Tell our "friends" in the Middle East to enjoy selling to China and India and let us become responsibly self-sufficient, like we should be. And, by the way, if oil were not traded as a futures commodity, I am betting the price would tank quickly and substantially. What do you think?

SCOTT, *Malad.*

Thank you for asking about how gasoline prices are affecting my family. The increase of energy costs has allowed my family to make conscious decisions, instead of acting on impulses. Our family is combining trips and errands. We are going with each other instead of separately and enjoying our new shared times. I am so disappointed when I reviewed the salaries of the big oil executives and found them arrogant when I watched them testifying before the Committee on C-SPAN. It looks to me like they pocketed the money and failed to improve their facilities.

I have been discouraged that not one of Idaho's Congressional delegation has asked my family to conserve one ounce of petroleum. I do not want a knee-jerk reaction to higher prices at the pumps and check-outs; I want examination, reviews and bipartisan recommendations. It seems the decisions made in hurry during the last eight years have caught up with us. Slow down and do what is right for America.

JUNE.

I am grateful that you have given us a chance to be able to express our frustrations and opinions on what is going on with the energy situation.

We moved to Idaho Falls from Utah four years ago because my husband was able to get a job, with his Bachelors degree, that paid more per year than I was making with a Masters degree teaching. The cost of living was lower than Utah, and we absolutely love the area. We bought our home, as a foreclosure, three years ago about six miles outside of Idaho Falls, in Iona. It was cheaper to buy a foreclosure than it was to rent an apartment.

We are not extravagant by any means. We try to conserve energy. We are fixing our home as fast and as cost-effective as we can, which has not been too fast. About a year ago, because all of our bills were going up and our paycheck was not, we made the decision that it was better to forego medical insurance for the family and put money away into a health savings account (HSA). Our reasoning is that we have to live day-to-day

paying our bills, and it is an off-chance that we use our insurance. We have definitely paid more for premiums in the last two years than we have used since we married six years ago, besides the fact that the premiums were once again going up to a level that we could not afford them anyway. It was wonderful! We were able to start paying down debt (which we really do not have a lot of outside our house and student loans). We drive older vehicles that are paid off.

Since then, our bills have about doubled. We put a wood stove in our home two years ago because of the high increase in natural gas and, although that has saved us a lot of money, the price increase is still staggering. Our power bill has almost doubled also, although we use our furnace/AC about half as much as we used to, put in the compact fluorescent bulbs and put in a clothesline.

My husband works as a PSR worker and has anywhere from 6-10 clients a week, and is pretty much mandated by Medicaid to spend three or less hours with each client. The only problem is that his clients live anywhere from Menan to Ammon. His work reimburses him \$3/hour/client (billable hour—meaning he has to be with his client to bill) to pay for gas, phone and wear and tear on our vehicle. He puts about 200 miles on the “work car” each week. He is already gone about 55 hours a week, in which he is only paid 40-43 because he is not paid for drive time. Lately [he has been] working overtime which allows us to pay our bills and pay a little extra each month. But his bosses have been getting tough on allowing overtime (which is a catch-22 since they will not guarantee him 40 hours a week—if he has a client cancel on him, tough luck). We have considered him getting another job, but he really does not have any time to fit in another job, and he is scared of leaving his current job because our family depends on him for support and he does not want to go from bad to worse.

Since the price of energy has gone up, we have cut our expenses as much as we can. We did not drive much before but other than my husband working, we go to church on Sunday and go into town, as a family, to do shopping and other errands about once a month. We have also had to cut our grocery list because of the price of food. It is not just gas, electricity and natural gas that have gone up, our water, sewer and now property taxes have gone up too, where is this going to end?

We look at our budget now and wonder what else we can cut when (and we have no illusions that anything is going down anytime soon) energy costs go up anymore. We can cut our internet, landline and our entertainment budgets which will save us \$60 a month—a tank of gas right now. But other than that we are stretched pretty thin, and we are not paying anything into a HSA because there is nothing left.

I do not have all the answers, but I know that it is a failed policy on the part of our government that is making things more difficult than it needs to be. When our country is allowing a minority group of people (environmentalists) create our energy policies the majority of the people are going to suffer. I know that we have a need to protect our environment, but there are new technologies there that we are not allowed to pursue either. I am frustrated beyond words. Our government is trying to help everyone in a crisis, but is creating a greater crisis with regulations. I could have had the same policy as the government and not gotten a degree because it would not have immediate effects. I could completely neglect my children because the things I teach them now will not have an immediate effect. I could extend the analogy to a lot of things. We need to start working on new energy policies that may not

take effect until later, but will help later. Let us stop procrastinating and do.

CAROLYN.

As a small business building contractor, our fuel prices have gone out of sight, let alone building materials, which our increases can hardly cover. The only thing that does not go up is wages. We have to subsidize our workers' fuel just to get them to work. It cannot go on this way for much longer.

J.K.

Like you and countless others, I believe that many of the serious lifestyle challenges we face are energy-related. It is obvious to any thinking Idahoan and hopefully most Americans, that our physical security as a nation is gravely undermined because of our dependence on foreign, particularly Mid-East oil. Unfortunately I do not believe most people understand the severe erosion and peril to our economic security this dependence has placed us in. Our founding fathers warned us against becoming entangled in foreign affairs. I am not ignorant to how the world has become smaller, but for us to be dependent on something so critical as energy independence is to me unconscionable. I believe the Founders roll in their graves when they look down on us and see how we have trampled on the sovereignty they bequeathed to us. I am hopeful that your effort includes work to help us restore the freedoms and independence that has made America such a remarkable phenomenon on the stage of world history. I fear that we as a people and our representatives have forgotten our roots the principles we were founded upon. We are being carefully led down a slippery slope away from a heritage enshrining freedom by federal and world nannies who “know better”, patting us on the head along the way. My concern is that in the struggle to get anything “accomplished” in Washington, principles are sometimes sacrificed for the sake of expediency. Compromising principle for short-term gains, in my view, is not the noble and magnanimous deed that most ascribe them to be. Would that we defend principles in the Churchillian fashion of “We will never surrender!”

I know you wish this to be brief and so after that rather lengthy philosophic opener, I will now focus on some specifics. These specifics are predicated that we as Americans act as independent Americans, not vassals to world opinion and the Benedicts amongst us.

New Domestic Oil Reserves: I believe we are smart and responsible enough to aggressively pursue new petroleum sources domestically, including offshore sources, while being good stewards of our environment. No intelligent human wants to soil where he lives. Environmentalists were right with their concerns in the past. We did stupid things while chasing the dollar, ignoring the big picture impact of our actions. However, today's environmental wackos have swung the pendulum out of proportion. To remain a prosperous and free nation, we must have energy independence. This is not an option and we must move very quickly to achieve it. While doing this we must find a way to foster a climate of competition with existing interests rather than merely providing them more tools to control this vital segment of our economy.

A Call for a Congressional Investigation: The greatest export our country has given to the world is freedom resulting from our remarkable experiment in self-governance. The miracle of our country's success is based upon collective and individual freedom. We have wise laws prohibiting the undermining of competition. I believe that over time, the oil industries have systematically squelched

competition and any technology that has had any possible chance of adversely affecting their sacred cash cows. I would like to see a congressional investigation into how the oil industry has been involved in these things over the last 50 years. There is way too much anecdotal evidence of new conservation technologies being snuffed out, new forms of energy being squashed, and collusion amongst oil companies and nations to just simply ignore as the rantings of those engaged in fringe conspiracy theories. Something just does not smell right and I would feel a whole lot better if there was an honest effort to focus the light of day on these issues to see if there will be any cockroaches scurrying for cover.

Nuclear Energy: I know you are aware of all of the arguments for this and I will not belabor the points here. I am in favor of getting the government off of our backs and out of our faces so we can speed up the process of harnessing the power of the atom. New research should also be aggressively pursued, including fusion research for the long term. Current nuclear regulations and bureaucracy have strangled us and created the mess we are in today. It would be an interesting exercise to pull the string on who has benefited from all the obstacles that have been placed in the path of the nuclear industry. While encouraging nuclear energy, care must be taken so that this new form of energy provides competition to those who already have one hand at our throats and the other in our back pockets.

Alternative Forms of Energy: Research should be supported exploring hydrogen, wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, etc. I believe this to be a national security issue and justifies the involvement of the federal government to achieve it. Although these will not solve our problems immediately, we should be doggedly engaged in reducing our dependence on oil from multiple fronts with lasting solutions.

Conservation: While I do not believe conservation adequately addresses the solution to our problems, I believe it plays a part. Conservation efforts need to be encouraged as long as they do not impinge upon the free market or individual constitutional freedoms. The question needs to be asked and then answered, “Who has a vested interest in keeping things as they are by undermining conservation efforts?” Then there are follow-up questions. Do they have the means to impose their wills? If the answer is yes, how and where have they done so? These same questions can also be applied to our lack of progress in moving toward alternate non-petroleum energy sources, including nuclear.

Political: I believe there are very powerful forces at play benefitting those who currently have money, influence, and power, maintaining and advancing their interests. I believe this to be the root problem of our energy situation. Unless this is addressed, I do not believe we will accomplish any lasting cure. We may win a minor skirmish here and there and deflect or delay the end result, but unless we attack the heart of the problem, in my opinion, we will lose the battle. The battle is over freedom. It is an ancient battle that has been waged from before the foundations of the earth. You are in a unique position to make a difference and what little ability and support I can give to you in that struggle is yours to draw from. I do not envy you if you choose to engage this problem head on but I hope that you recognize the truth in what I am saying. Much is at stake. You would risk much in attempting to tackle it. My prayers are with you.

Thanks for listening and soliciting input on this issue. I wish you good luck and

pledge you my support in this Herculean effort if you so choose to fully engage yourself in it.

KEITH, *Rigby*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PETER FITHIAN

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, as Hawaii celebrates its 50th anniversary of statehood, I would like to recognize Mr. Peter Fithian for his illustrious career of 50 years and invaluable service as founder and director of the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament.

Peter has been a dear friend of mine for many years, and I am honored to have this opportunity to share with you the profound impact he has had on my home State of Hawaii. His tremendous commitment to the people of Hawaii has led to the establishment of the internationally renowned Billfish Tournament, which truly put Hawaii on the map of sport fishing, drawing both spectators and competitors from all over the world. I commend him for his tireless efforts in building a long-standing tradition while promoting tourism and marine conservation in our island community. Through Peter's unwavering passion in cultivating Hawaii's proud heritage of recreational fishing, he has founded not only an event that encourages warm fellowship, but has created an educational opportunity that deserves our highest praise.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the great service and accomplishments of Mr. Peter Fithian.●

BOSTON AREA RAPE CRISIS CENTER

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, next week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week when our country honors the heroism of crime victims and shows our gratitude to advocates who work to protect those who have been victimized. I am proud to say that as part of this commemoration Attorney General Eric Holder will be honoring the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, BARCC. I would like to add my congratulations and sincerest thanks for the important work that is done at BARCC.

BARCC has been helping victims of rape and sexual assault in Boston since 1973, making it one of the first such centers of its kind. Highly trained counselors and advocates team with volunteers from the area to create a nurturing, and supportive, environment for these victims. Through their hard work and selfless dedication, they serve over 4,000 victims a year providing critical services to the people of Boston. Additionally, they participate in statewide and national training in best practices and education sharing their knowledge and experiences. BARCC is also committed to preventing future victims by doing out-

reach in the community on sexual assault awareness, particularly on the many college and university campuses in Boston. Their comprehensive expertise in violence prevention, victims' rights, and victims support is what makes BARCC such an exceptional facility.

I join Attorney General Holder, the people of Boston, and Janet Yassen, director of the Victims of Violence Program, Cambridge Health Alliance, who nominated BARCC for this honor, in expressing our gratitude to the staff and volunteers at BARCC for the incredible service they provide.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 98 World War II veterans from all over Louisiana who will travel to Washington, DC, on April 25 to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable service members.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring each surviving World War II Louisiana veteran by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. The veterans visited the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iwo Jima memorials. They also traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns.

This is the second of four flights Louisiana HonorAir is making to Washington, DC, this spring. It is the 15th flight to depart from Louisiana, which has sent more HonorAir flights than any other State to the Nation's Capital.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American service members were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today more than 33,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. This group had 31 veterans who served in the U.S. Army, 23 in the U.S. Air Force, 35 in the Navy, 1 in the WAVES—Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service—7 in the Marines, and 1 in the Merchant Marines.

Our heroes trekked the world for their country. Their journeys spanned Europe, the Utah and Omaha Beaches, France, the Rhineland, Central Europe,

Holland, Italy and North Africa. They fought in the Pacific as well—at Russell Island, Gilbert Island, the Philippines, Tarawa, Luzon, New Guinea, Tinian, Guam, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, New Hebrides, Saipan and Bougainville. Their fight for freedom extended to Alaska, Azores, Iceland, and the Aleutian Islands.

One of our Army Air Corps veterans received the Croix de Guerre Avec Palm and the Bronze Service Star for campaigns in Northern France, Central Europe, and the Rhineland. He also fought at Utah Beach on D-day. Another of our Army Air Corps veterans fought in the Mediterranean Theater and completed 50 missions as a ball turret gunner.

One of our marines received the South Pacific Purple Heart, and an Army veteran fought at Omaha Beach with GEN George Patton. Yet another Army veteran was on GEN Douglas McArthur's staff.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 98 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, who will visit Washington, and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ELDER GRANGER, M.D.

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding service that MG Elder Granger has given to Arkansas and our great Nation through his work in the military medical services.

Since 2005, MG Elder Granger, M.D., has served his country as the deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Prior to joining TRICARE, Major General Granger led the largest U.S. and multinational battlefield health system in our Nation's recent history as Commander of the Task Force 44th Medical Command and Command Surgeon for the Multinational Corps in Iraq.

Major General Granger also brilliantly implemented TRICARE's \$22.5 billion Defense Health Program that benefitted over 9.2 million people worldwide. With his compassion and dedication, Major General Granger improved patient care for the entire military health system by managing the TRICARE benefits for an international network of 75 military hospitals, 461 service clinics, and a network of civilian providers and hospitals. An enthusiastic advocate for the military health system, Major General Granger directed the launch of a TRICARE Web portal which improved communications between beneficiaries and enhanced health benefits information services. This technology is projected to reach 23 million individuals by 2009.

Through the TRICARE's mail order pharmacy program, Major General Granger increased the number of users utilizing mail-order pharmacy prescriptions by 16 percent, as well as increasing total prescription volume by