

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on his election to the position of 111th president of the American Osteopathic Association.

In 1965, Dr. Peter B. Ajluni graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathy to become a board certified osteopathic physician. For 35 years, Dr. Ajluni has delivered high quality service to his patients.

Currently, Dr. Ajluni is a senior orthopedic surgeon in the Bone and Joint Center at the Regional Medical Center in Mount Clemens, Michigan. He has also served as president of both the Michigan Osteopathic Association and the Michigan Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Furthermore, Dr. Ajluni has served on the American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees since 1998.

As president of the American Osteopathic Association, Dr. Ajluni will lead 59,000 osteopathic physicians to deliver high quality and cost-effective health care in this vital profession. In addition, Dr. Ajluni will help to ensure the osteopathic community is united in their profession and that they receive the highest quality of education and training programs.

Dr. Ajluni resides in Michigan's Ninth Congressional district with his wife Judy. They have a daughter and two sons. I am proud to have the Ajluni family as constituents.

Madam Speaker, once again, I congratulate Dr. Ajluni on his election as the President of the American Osteopathic Association and for his long dedication to high quality patient care.

H.R. 2775, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT PROGRAM

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I introduce H.R. 2775, a bill to authorize funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant ("EMPG") program.

H.R. 2775 authorizes \$1.35 billion for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2011 for the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") to continue to implement the EMPG program. The bill codifies the EMPG program under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act").

EMPG is the Federal Government's principal program to build the capability of State and local governments to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Administered by FEMA, EMPG is truly a partnership between the Federal Government and State and local governments that has withstood the test of time. This grant program has been in existence, under different names, since the 1950s and derives its authority from the Stafford Act.

As recent history has shown, despite the grave potential threat that terrorism poses, our country faces and responds to the threats of natural hazards far more frequently. The terror of Katrina is still fresh in our memories, and our Nation faces smaller-scale natural disasters every day. Just last month, a region of my district was devastated by a threat that started in the U.S., then roared across the Canadian border: not a terrorist attack, but a 75,000 acre forest fire.

Despite the risk that our country faces from all hazards, EMPG receives a small fraction of what the Federal Government spends on terrorism-specific programs. In April, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing on the Federal Government's programs related to preparedness for all hazards. At that hearing, Members of the Subcommittee learned that in FY 2006, EMPG received only a small fraction—about 10 percent—of the funding allocated to terrorism preparedness programs.

EMPG has a long, successful history of fostering true preparedness capabilities at the State and local level. The program requires a non-Federal share of 50 percent, but state and local governments overmatch Federal funds by approximately \$96 million each year. This 50-percent cost share is specifically designed to require State and local governments to contribute their resources to building strong emergency management capabilities. This is why, unlike many other Federal grant programs, State and local governments have not sought an increased Federal cost share for this program.

Recently, some in Congress and in the Administration have sought to undermine and undo the EMPG program, by proposing changes that stand to gut the core all hazards nature of the program. I introduce this bill today to provide the current EMPG program with statutory reinforcement.

The administration proposed in its FY 2008 Budget request that EMPG should be combined with terrorism programs. I am pleased that the FY 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, passed by the House last week, rejected this misguided proposal and funds EMPG as a separate program. The Committee on Appropriations recognized the importance of the EMPG program as "the one true all-hazard sources of funding for emergency managers," as stated in the Committee report. In the same manner that Congress must wall off and protect the appropriation for EMPG, we must act to reinforce this program through an authorization.

It has been suggested, in the other body, that the EMPG program be codified as an amendment to an act other than the Stafford Act. In fact, the Senate does exactly that in its version of the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Bill (S. 4). This approach would be a mistake. If EMPG is authorized outside of the Stafford Act, DHS may use its administrative authority to turn EMPG into another terrorism preparedness program. This shift would undercut all-hazards preparedness and place States in danger of not being ready for natural disasters and other non-terrorism hazards, which are significantly, even drastically, more likely to occur.

The Stafford Act is the natural and historic home for this program. The authority to prepare for all hazards must be kept together with the authority to respond to, recover from, and mitigate against all hazards, which is found in the Stafford Act. This view is supported by the nation's State and local emergency managers.

One of the key lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina is that separating the programs and organizations that prepare for disasters from the rest of the emergency management system leads to sluggish and ineffective response. Recognizing this mistake, Congress reunited preparedness with the rest of emer-

gency management functions in FEMA at the end of the 109th Congress, by passing the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act. This reorganization of FEMA became effective less than 3 months ago, on April 1, 2007. Authorizing EMPG as a program separate from the other emergency management programs would begin to undo this much-needed reform, and reinstate the mistakes that led to the Department of Homeland Security's dismal response to Hurricane Katrina.

IN HONOR OF LENORE GOLDEN SHACKELFORD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lenore Golden Shackelford of Quitman, GA. In recognition of her 60 plus years of service to her community in south Georgia and her nomination by the National Coalition of One Hundred Black Women as a "Woman Who Inspires."

Ms. Shackelford, a native of Quitman, GA, has spent the greater balance of her life in service to the community there. In 1950 she started her professional career as a Social studies teacher and Girls' Basketball Coach at Morven Rosenwald High School in Brooks County. She went on to teach the fourth and fifth grades at New Empress Elementary School in Brooks County before returning to school and receiving her Certification in Guidance and Counseling from Florida A & M University in 1959.

She returned to service in education as a Social Studies Teacher and School Counselor at Washington Street High School in Quitman, GA. Ms. Shackelford was one of the first certified school counselors in the state of Georgia and the first school counselor in Brooks County.

Ms. Shackelford was a devoted teacher and counselor, who made it her mission to have direct interaction with each of her students in order to help them have productive futures. During her 30 years as a school counselor, Ms. Shackelford was also very active in her community. She coordinated community committees to address personnel issues in the Brooks County School System, organized Human Rights Committees, and played an instrumental role in establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Brooks County Public Schools.

So, on this the 19th day of June, 2007, I with great honor commend Ms. Lenore Golden Shackelford, for her many years of unheralded service to the people of Brooks County. She is truly a credit to the Second Congressional District of Georgia, the State of Georgia, and the United States as a whole.

§8 GASOLINE IN AMERICA'S SAUDI ARABIA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Alaska is America's Energy Ace in the Hole. If our Nation truly

wanted to kick our OPEC habit, we would be using our own abundant resources of all kinds, including our conventional resources in Alaska. Not only is Alaska home to North America's largest producing oil field, it is also home to more clean coal than the entire lower 48 States. With modern technology, this resource could be used to produce clean energy and transportation fuels that would last for centuries. The people of the State of Alaska also claim the largest natural gas reserves and by far the largest unconventional natural gas reserves in a form of frozen natural gas known as methane hydrates. It is also home to that small part of ANWR that holds the promise as the largest energy complex yet discovered on our continent. Between its tens of billions of barrels of oil and untold amounts of clean burning natural gas, it could help Americans and generate revenues while providing high paying jobs here at home.

Unfortunately, there has been a decades-long campaign to deny America and Alaskans the benefits of this domestic energy. The consequence is that Alaska's pipeline that once sent over 2 million barrels each day of U.S. oil to American consumers now sends less than 800,000 barrels per day. America now imports the 1.2 million barrels per day that Alaska used to send to the West Coast. America now sends \$84 million per day, over \$30 billion per year, to foreign nations like Venezuela and nations in the Middle East who hate everything America stands for. The oil that isn't produced in Alaska also increases prices for all Americans, who can see it daily at the pump or monthly in their utility bills.

Recently a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, Mr. Russell Gold, traveled to the village of Shungnak, Alaska, to find out what impacts the increased cost of energy are having on the people who live there. It is rich irony, Madame Speaker, that in a State with huge energy resources people are suffering from high energy prices because their government has outlawed the production of this energy. It is reminiscent of Coleridge's lament in the Rime of the Ancient Mariner: "Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink."

It is shameful that it is government policy that some people should suffer from higher costs of energy because others who do not suffer believe costs are not high enough and energy is too available for Americans. I hope Members will take the time to read what may be a story coming to their neighborhoods soon, if Alaska's energy resources continue to be locked away from the American people.

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 9, 2007]

RUNNING ON EMPTY ON A ROAD TO NOWHERE

(By Russell Gold)

SHUNGNAK, ALASKA—When Genevieve Norris was born 59 years ago in this remote Eskimo village, hunters used dog sleds to pursue caribou and moose. Wood stoves kept out the cold during the long, dark winters.

Then Shungnak entered the petroleum age, and fuel was barged up the Kobuk River every summer. Noisy electrical generators arrived, which allowed lights and indoor plumbing to be installed. Soon, nearly every home had snowmobiles, fourwheelers and heaters.

Now as crude-oil prices have doubled in the past couple of years, Ms. Norris and the rest of the village are being priced back out of the petroleum age. She heats her home with wood as much as possible and only occasionally buys gasoline for an outboard engine to

go fishing. "Fuel right now, I'm only purchasing if I have to," says Ms. Norris.

Even though Shungnak is in energy-rich Alaska, home to the largest U.S. oilfield discovered in the past half century, it is at the very end of the oil-distribution system. By the time gasoline makes it here from where it is refined, it costs \$8.11 a gallon, more than twice the current U.S. average.

The U.S. has long enjoyed among the lowest oil prices in the industrialized world—and until recently, even in remote Alaska, fossil fuel was affordable to the majority of people. Decades of cheap energy prompted Americans to use more and more petroleum, lengthening their commutes in the lower 48 states and trading in dog sleds for snowmobiles in Alaskan villages.

Today, the price of oil and all the products made from it has surged and seem likely to remain high for some time. This has raised the unsettling question: What happens to a community accustomed to cheap energy when the energy is no longer cheap?

Remote villages like Shungnak have long been fragile economies with little to offer residents by way of jobs and opportunity. High fuel prices have made a bad situation worse, threatening the survival of Shungnak as well as more than a hundred other remote villages. Some of the estimated 101,000 people living in these villages have left for Alaska's large cities, creating what one former state elected official has called "energy refugees."

These native-Alaskan villages are among countless poorer communities across the world that have been hammered by the new century's energy-price boom. Over all, strong economies such as China and most of the U.S. have held up well despite the sting of higher fuel prices. But in poor regions, the price shock has hit hard. Thousands of Nepalese took to the streets of Katmandu last year, resulting in bloody clashes with police, to protest a 25% rise in gasoline prices. In July 2005, under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, the Yemeni government lifted gasoline subsidies and the resulting riots left 22 people dead. The government buckled and restored subsidies. In Africa, Guinea's decision to reduce gasoline subsidies over the past two years helped spark general strikes and riots that claimed at least 11 lives.

The village of Shungnak was officially founded in 1899, but Eskimos have lived in the region for thousands of years traveling between summer camps and winter camps. Today, the village is a collection of 75 homes, a store, a school, a community health clinic and a city office building along a half dozen dirt streets. The foothills of the Brooks Range rise in the distance over the tundra.

Petroleum didn't arrive here until the middle of the 1960s. As the crow flies, Shungnak is only 310 miles northwest from the Flint Hills Resources refinery outside of Fairbanks, Alaska. But since there are no roads to Shungnak, the journey is a complex route that stretches more than 2,000 miles, passing mountain meadows where grizzly bears graze, caribou herds sipping from glacier-fed streams and mile after mile of rugged, unpopulated coastline.

TANKER CARS

First, fuel from the Fairbanks refinery is loaded onto rolling tanker cars and taken south through Denali National Park, past Mount McKinley and into the Port of Anchorage. Then it's loaded onto a barge and towed through the Unimak Pass, a navigable break in the Aleutian Islands, before it heads north for Kotzebue on the coast.

From there, the fuel is loaded once a year on a shallow-draft barge and pushed up the

Kobuk River during a brief period when the snow melt engorges the river and makes it navigable. By the time it gets to Shungnak, it has traveled a distance equivalent to the drive from New York to Las Vegas.

Last year, one of the barge companies made it up the river and delivered distillate—a blend of heating oil and diesel that powers nearly everything from generators to furnaces—to the school and electric company. The other barge company, less experienced in the region's serpentine rivers, couldn't make it up to Shungnak during the brief window of time that the river thawed. Fuel had to be flown in from Fairbanks on propeller cargo planes, raising the cost to \$8.11 for a gallon of gasoline and \$6.50 for a gallon of heating oil. In February, heat in the town's only two-story building, which holds the city offices, post office and tribal-council office, went out for three days because the tank ran out and no one was willing to pay to fill it up again. The temperature inside dropped to 30 degrees below zero.

MANY JOBLESS

Half of Shungnak village is jobless, according to the state. Commerce Department data suggest that Alaskans living in remote villages like Shungnak already receive about 50% of their income from government programs, two and halftimes the average in the U.S. Now the situation is exacerbated because it is difficult to attract economic activity because of the high energy costs. Village leaders say their only choice is even more government aid.

"Half the village doesn't know how to go out and do a subsistence way of life . . . their lifestyle is living off the store, even though you hear them say 'We're natives, we can survive,'" says Raymond Woods, a member of the Shungnak tribal government.

Some residents are leaving town. Ms. Norris's daughter moved to South Dakota and her high-school-aged son talks about leaving after he graduates.

Those that remain behind are scraping along. Henry Douglas, 48, says he eats less meat and fish than he used to. Like most people here, he receives state energy assistance—credit at the tribal store. He got \$1,500 in January to pay for heating oil. It lasted him through March. Afterward, he used a wood stove in the main room of the log cabin where he lives with his sister and his nephew.

His younger brother, George Douglas, 39, says he's fortunate to have a job as a school-maintenance worker. The paycheck gives him the \$100 required to fuel up his Polaris snowmobile. He uses it to hunt caribou and distributes the meat to three households of relatives, including his brothers. Few of his relatives can afford to hunt much anymore because of the high cost of fuel.

Signs of the cost are everywhere in Shungnak. On a recent visit, there were photocopied fliers posted throughout the village with a stark reminder: May 29 is the day the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative bill collector was scheduled to be in Shungnak. The co-op, known as Avec, has seen past-due accounts soar in the past couple of years. Last year, it took out ads in local papers threatening to cut off paying customers if they allow delinquent customers to move in with them.

Researchers at the University of Alaska Anchorage estimated that one-quarter of household income in remote villages last year went to paying utility bills, double the percentage in 2000. The poorest residents in remote villages spent 61% of their income on utility bills, also double the level a few years ago.

Fuel bills are also swallowing the city's budget. Last November, the village's fuel and

electrical bill accounted for 61% of total expenditures, according to town administrator Helen Mitchell. In response, it has cut costs. The hours for city workers were cut to six hours from eight hours a day last year. The part-time patrolman position was eliminated a couple of years ago.

The result of these crushing bills is that remote villages face a slow decline. Four schools in the last two years have shut their doors when they fell below 10 students and lost most state funding. In Shungnak, school enrollment is off 7% in the past decade. A few miles down the Kobuk River, the village of Ambler has lost 29% of its school-aged population.

Despite shrinking enrollment, the regional school district has been on a building boom in recent years, largely supported by state grants. That, in turn, has only increased its need for fuel. The new schools, despite better insulation, require more petroleum to operate.

NEW SCHOOL

In nearby Noatak, an 18,000-square-foot school was torn down and replaced with one more than twice as large with a new air-circulating system and more lights.

"We have a very fragile economy in most of these villages already and then you add the jolt of high fuel-oil prices. It's my guess that many of these communities will not find themselves viable if fuel prices stay here," says Mike Black, director of community advocacy at Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. The villages, he says, "are begging, borrowing and stealing to get enough fuel."

The extreme costs of fuel in rural Alaska have led to numerous energy experiments. But various efforts to reduce rural Alaska's dependence on petroleum-based energy have struggled. Petroleum is easy to store, handle and transport, says Brent Sheets, head of the federal government's Arctic Energy Office in Fairbanks. "It is hard to beat diesel fuel," he says.

A proposal to build a small nuclear power plant for one small town was shelved when a study concluded that the federal security requirements made the project uneconomic. Solar isn't a good fit for Alaska, because fuel demand goes up in the winter when the state gets little sunlight. The Energy Department office even looked at turbines designed to harness river energy, dodging logs and car-sized icebergs, but plans never made it past the theoretical stage.

One alternative-energy success story is in Kotzebue, the hub community to the west of Shungnak on the Chukchi Sea. On the tundra outside of Kotzebue, where the only sign of life is paw prints from an Arctic fox, are 17 windmills capable of generating one megawatt of electricity. The windmills "are a hedge against rising fuel costs," says Brad Reeve, a Minnesotan who came to the town 30 years ago to run the public-radio station and now heads up the electric cooperative.

As the cost of bringing in diesel has grown, electricity from the windmills has looked better and better. But the windmills have a high upfront cost—they sit on special pilings with chemicals that ensure the tundra remains frozen to hold the windmills steady. And on a recent morning, as a computer in the coop's offices showed 2.8 megawatts of demand, the wind wasn't blowing. All of the electricity came from distillate-burning generators, a reminder that Kotzebue needs to keep a steady supply of oil.

In Shungnak, Mr. Woods, the tribal-government official, says he expects the oil will keep on flowing. Eskimos are accustomed to adapting to extreme conditions, he says. But there is little effort being made to teach children how to hunt the old way. "Their lifestyle now is so convenient," he says.

Hanging out on the steps of the village store after school with friends, 11th-grader Dion Tickett says he didn't grow up learning how to hunt or take care of a team of Alaskan huskies. He grew up watching television and riding snowmobiles, something he and his friends do to pass the time. "There's nothing to do around here," he says.

After school let out on a recent afternoon, Mr. Woods spent \$90 to fill up his Arctic Cat snowmobile to take his son out hunting. But he doesn't expect his son to need these skills. In a couple of years, when his son enters high school, Mr. Woods plans to move his family to east Texas, where he was stationed in the military. Gasoline there costs just under \$3.00 a gallon.

LEWISTON'S RECOGNITION AS ONE OF TEN ALL-AMERICAN CITIES

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the fact that Lewiston, Maine, has been recognized as 1 of 10 All-American Cities by the National Civic League.

Lewiston truly embodies both dynamic change and proud tradition and is extremely deserving of this award. Located in my congressional district in Maine, the city of Lewiston was first settled in 1770 by Franco-American and Acadian settlers, who came to Lewiston to find employment in the mills powered by the nearby Androscoggin River. Textile mills flourished as women from the surrounding countryside came for employment opportunities. The city continued to grow and expand, and by the 1950s, Lewiston had become the State's primary manufacturing center.

Unfortunately, the subsequent decline of textile manufacturing led to unemployment, decreased wages, and a need for new ideas and new industries. In the 1990s, the city began to focus on new downtown construction, bold development strategies, improved post-secondary educational prospects, expanded health care, and new cultural events. In 1992, the town acquired the Bates mill and redeveloped 500,000 square feet of space. Lewiston also joined in a partnership with Auburn, ME, for economic development, busing, 911 services and drinking water. In the downtown area, the Southern Gateway project established Maine's first fully-fiber optic community for telephone, cable and broadband services. University of Southern Maine has begun a new expansion which makes the Lewiston-Auburn College the fastest growing campus within the University of Maine system, while Bates College has been recognized as a best value college by a national publication.

Since 2003, Lewiston has invested \$20 million in affordable housing to provide opportunities for families, and since 2000, it has seen \$350 million in new business construction.

Today, Lewiston is thriving. It is home to almost 36,000 residents, and it is clear that her citizens are working together with great pride to continue building the community. Local institutions are deeply involved in helping Lewiston to grow and evolve. The Androscoggin Leadership Institute is helping the community to understand its current and future needs and find new opportunities for individuals to contribute. The local Thongragg Nature Center

Project is now the largest bird sanctuary within New England; volunteers there ensure safe access to 5 miles of recreational trails. And since the city is now home to a large Somali community, the group United Somali Women of Maine has created a DVD that stresses the importance of education, changing roles of women, and the commitment to preserving their culture for the youth of Lewiston.

It is clear that Lewiston today is a center of business, volunteerism, education, environmental action, and diversity. The citizens are mindful of their proud traditions, and have made something very special in Lewiston, ME. Their achievements are truly something to commemorate, and I congratulate the city of Lewiston for their achievements and for the well-deserved recognition of this award.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2642) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend the chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee—Congressman EDWARDS, Chairman OBEY, and my colleagues for passing the Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations for FY 2008.

This bill is the largest increase in veterans funding in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration.

As a result, this measure supports high priority programs such as Homeless Veterans Care, Mental Health Care, and Long-Term Care.

As a former psychiatric nurse at the Dallas Veterans Administration Hospital, I know firsthand the disparities contributed by lack of funding.

I am particularly pleased to see the bill provides increased funding for homeless veterans programs, three centers for Centers of Excellence for Mental Health and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to become fully operational this year. It also matches the VA's request to fund programs for minority contractor procurement and streamlines the VA billing system.

The Dallas VA has been a leader in outreach to homeless veterans, who comprise almost a fourth of the homeless adults in the Nation.

The North Texas VA Health Care System in Dallas was the first to establish a comprehensive homeless program, which helps homeless veterans with mental and physical illnesses. Dallas is one of eight cities in the country with a veteran's homelessness program targeted towards women.