

being cancelled. These high prices also affect the ability of Idahoans to afford to get to work, drive their kids to the doctor and buy some of the simple necessities of life.

The implications of rising fuel prices on education are also becoming apparent with media reports that some school districts are planning four-day school weeks in large part because of the rising cost of busing children to school. The costs of transporting school children will also affect field trips and other extra-curricular activities.

Similarly, American senior citizens and low income households have been disproportionately affected by higher energy costs. In 2006, before the skyrocketing and record breaking fuel price increases we are seeing today, low-income households in America spent nearly 20 percent of their income on energy-related expenditures.

This is a moral issue—an issue which for many low income families, senior citizens and hardworking families affects their access to education and even to their doctors, particularly in a rural state like Idaho.

Congress is and has been in control of the solution. To lower the price at the pump and to break our addiction to foreign oil, we must increase production of American energy, while in the short term conserving and encouraging innovation to increase renewable energy.

At her press briefing last Thursday, Speaker NANCY PELOSI (D-CA) acknowledged one of the universal truths of supply and demand when she said “certainly more supply lowers the price.” I am relieved that the distinguished gentlewoman from California appreciates this elemental economic truth.

In recognizing the truth that supply lowers the price, Democrats followed SPEAKER PELOSI, supporting a bill to halt shipments of crude oil from being put into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. They estimated that the resulting increases in supply of a mere 70,000 barrels per day would decrease prices by 5 cents a gallon at the pump. Although recognizing this truth, my Democrat colleagues continue to oppose the production of American crude oil.

Today, 73 percent of every dollar we pay for gasoline at the pump is the price of producing crude oil. Increasing the supply of crude oil, and thereby reducing the price of crude oil, is the single most effective thing Congress can do to lower gas prices.

And yet while my colleagues across the aisle understand that increasing supply is necessary, they consistently have opposed increasing the supply of American-made energy through increased production of American crude oil.

I find this stunning in large part because our dependency on foreign oil is so unnecessary. As far back as 1980, the then-Democrat Congress—under then-President Jimmy Carter—set aside a specific parcel of land in Alaska for oil and gas development. In 1996 Congress voted to explore and produce crude oil from those lands, but president Clinton vetoed that bill. Since then, Congress has failed the American people in not pursuing the domestic exploration and production of oil. It's that simple.

Congress has continued to erect huge roadblocks to exploration and development of oil on federal lands and has prohibited deep water exploration and development of oil and natural gas resources.

If we are to remain prosperous, America needs energy—American energy from every source possible. This means that we must develop and produce oil and natural gas, but it also means we must be innovative—innovative in conserving energy and innovative in producing alternative and renewable sources of energy.

Electricity is just as vital as gas. It is estimated that our demand for electricity will increase by 25 percent over the next 20 years or so.

For example, there is great potential for woody bio-mass as an alternative and renewable resource. This would allow us in Idaho to remove hazardous fuels from the forest and seek ways to use it to produce energy.

In the Northwest, whenever we talk about renewable and clean energy, we cannot forget traditional hydropower, which provides 60 percent of all power supply to the Northwest.

Hydropower is renewable and for America means no greenhouse gas emissions. Hydropower offsets more carbon emissions than all other renewable energy resources combined. It's a viable, clean and potent source of energy.

Similarly, nuclear power will be essential for our future. It is safe and clean and affordable. There are 104 reactors in the U.S. at present, and licenses for 30 more nuclear power plants are being sought by a variety of companies and groups. Nuclear power is environmentally-friendly and cost-efficient for producers and consumers alike.

In sum, we have substantial energy supplies available on the lands within our own nation.

Tragically, due to the policy changes encouraged by the majority party, Americans across this country have only continued to see higher and higher gas prices.

Congress must not, in some sad tribute to the cramped ideology of an extreme agenda, fail to allow the use of the resources we possess within our borders and within our technological and economic grasp.

America needs a sound energy policy that develops domestic energy from every source available, including crude oil, natural gas, clean coal, hydropower, nuclear power and every alternative source of energy.

To put it another way, we need all the energy we can get from all the sources we can afford to access. Period.

Madam Speaker, let's not lose our future because we dawdle in the present. Let us summon the courage and fortitude to act, and act now. As Winston Churchill, a man greatly honored by our country would, I believe, agree, the American people, and the future they hope for, deserve no less.

HONORING THE PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION BOYS SWIMMING TEAM IN THE 2007—2008 SEASON

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results

achieved by the Pleasant Valley High School Boys Swimming Team in the 2007–2008 season. This year the Pleasant Valley swimmers won 2 state championship events.

In the 100 yard butterfly Zack Bartholomew brought home the title for Pleasant Valley. And in the 400 yard freestyle relay, the team of Will Horvat, John Beck, Jared Dammann, and Zach Bartholomew took the championship.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Pleasant Valley High School Boys Swimming Team, both in and out of the pool. Perhaps Paul “Bear” Bryant—the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team—said it best: “Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself.” This year, Pleasant Valley High School proved just that.

RECOGNIZING DR. FREDERICK MARCIANO—SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S “SALUTE TO MILITARY” HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Frederick Marciano, Scottsdale Healthcare's “Salute to Military” Honoree this Memorial Day, May 26, 2008. Scottsdale Healthcare will be recognizing Dr. Marciano and other physicians with a connection to the Armed Services for their tireless service and sacrifice to this country.

More than 300 medical personnel have received exceptional trauma skill training at Scottsdale Healthcare since the program's inauguration in 2004. The program is offered in partnership with Maricopa Integrated Health System and has focused on the Air National Guard, Luke Air Force Base, and Davis Monthan Air Force Base.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such a deserving service member. Dr. Frederick Marciano is the Medical Director of Neurology at Scottsdale Healthcare, and was mobilized in April as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves to Active Duty at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in Fort Bliss, Texas. His clinical areas of expertise include neurotrauma, general neurosurgery, spinal surgery, and brain and spinal tumor surgery.

Dr. Marciano was also deployed in March 2003 to a Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, where he treated casualties from military operations including Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), and Noble Eagle (Bosnia). Notably, he was the lead surgeon in the treatment of POW Private First Class Jessica Lynch's spinal and neurological injuries.

Dr. Marciano has received the National Defense Service Medal twice, the U.S. Armed Forces Reserves Medal, the U.S. Army Service Ribbon, the U.S. Army Achievement Medal twice, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Superior Unit Award (Landstuhl).

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dr. Frederick Marciano's continued dedication to saving lives and securing our freedom.