

the late seventies. At the time I was working in Wyoming, on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. This Forest includes part of a geologic formation called an "over-thrust belt". These are areas where layers of sedimentary deposits that include organic matter have been covered over by other geologic layers, often as the result of shifting of the earth's surface. In this process, organic matter gets trapped underneath the layering. Eventually, it gets changed into hydrocarbons—oil and gas.

During the Reagan era the Bridger-Teton National Forest, and other Forests that included over-thrust geology issued hundreds of leases to industry to explore for oil and gas. Many exploratory wells were drilled on the Bridger-Teton Forest, some in very sensitive habitat (one within the view-shed of Jackson, Wyoming). At the time, no fields were developed for commercial use on the Bridger-Teton Forest, but I am aware some deposits were found. With today's prices, it is highly likely some of it would be economic to develop. But, given the current environmental concerns no politician is willing to risk their careers to even suggest environmental constraints be lifted to further explore the potential there or anywhere else within our borders, e.g., ANWR or off shore.

A key point I want to make regarding my experience is industry did a very good job of being sensitive to the environment in the exploration I was involved with. In fact, many of the old exploratory well sites are included in areas environmentalists are currently proposing for Wilderness designation by Congress. Of course, they wish to close off any options to further explore and perhaps develop our own resources for their own ideological reasons. But, because of my experience I know it can be done without destroying any significant sensitive ecosystem values, especially with the new technology available with is much better than we had available in the seventies.

I appeal to you to approach Senator McCAIN and encourage him to truly be a "change" candidate for President by making a part of his platform energy independence for our nation. And, have part of that program opening up and use of the energy and other natural resources our own nation has to help accomplish that goal and less overall dependency on foreign imports. DRILL HERE, DRILL NOW, PAY LESS!!

Sincerely,

CARL, *Nampa.*

Baloney!! You are an oil company sellout like the rest the GOP. American needs to diversify its energy sources, not drill for more petroleum. Even the best estimates of U.S. reserves do not come close to meeting U.S. energy demands. This issue is central to our economy, national security, and the environment and it is the reason why I have abandoned the Republican Party . . . or rather why you have abandoned me. Change, or America and the rest of the world will leave you behind!!

KIRK.

I do not think our story is unique, but we are both in our 70's and on Social Security. However my husband, who will soon be 73, still must work to get us through every month. We no longer travel any where. Our children and grandchildren are all out of state, and they also find it hard to make ends meet, so they do not travel either. We no longer have the chance to enjoy the much sought after "retirement" that we have all come to expect. Some still can, but very many can just keep their head above water. We have cut back on thinking about the usual plans for enjoyment we were looking forward to and are grateful that we can at

least, at the moment, afford our food, utility's, a few bills, and still squeeze out enough gas money for my husband to go 60 or so miles roundtrip to work each day. We know it will get worse, and we're not alone.

PATTY.

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: I can't imagine anyone, anywhere in the USA who is not *mightily upset* over the exorbitant increase in fuel prices. I know my wife and I, our family of 4 couples and their children totaling 15, have already started making plans to reduce our vacation travel this summer to within a 100-mile radius of our homes in Twin Falls. We will take day trips to the South Hills and take a 4-5 day Labor Day trip. As a family, we have been planning a trip to Disneyland in the fall so that our older grandchildren could enjoy a few days in the park. We were planning on using our refund money, coming from Washington DC, to fund the trip which would have included fuel for the trip, lodging, meals and entrance into the park. I speak for my wife, our adult children and myself when I say that the current energy situation is inexorable.

Being a good Reagan Republican, I wholeheartedly endorse the drilling for more oil in Alaska, allowing additional drilling for oil off both coasts and exploring for additional shale oil in Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado. I know that many existing oil pumps have been capped; they need to be uncapped. This will upset the environmentalist crowd tremendously, but I feel it is about time that they are put in their place. The Sierra Club and others like them are prime examples.

Thank You for all you're doing to assist us here in Idaho.

Regards,

GRANT, *Twin Falls.*

DEAR SENATOR: Thanks for your common sense approach to energy issues now facing our country, and Idaho in particular. It completely escapes me as to why Congress continues to bow to the shouts of a few (environmentalists) while ignoring the overwhelming desires of the majority. Latest polls indicate over 60% of Americans want us to use our natural resources to help solve our short term energy requirements.

We have a small company with a fleet of 4 service vehicles. The vehicles are all small, compact hatchback type autos that are quite fuel efficient. We average about 2000 miles per week for all 4 vehicles. When gas was \$2.00 per gallon, we could expect to spend about 650.00 per month on fuel. Now we are approaching \$1500.00 per month for the same mileage with no end in sight. Like most companies our size, we choose to absorb some of those costs for the sort term, but as it becomes clear that the prices we see today are the prices we will see in the foreseeable future, we will have to pass on the additional (and unexpected) costs to our clients. Our clients are made up mostly of small retail and service businesses who will, in turn, pass on their increased expenses to their customers and clients, the everyday citizen and the base of your constituency.

Our story is a small one but one I believe is representative of the vast collection of small businesses across the country. This energy issue will cut deep into everyone's pocket, and not just at the pump!

It is time to pass legislation that will encourage responsible use of our natural resources in our own country. It is absurd that the Red Chinese can legally exploit natural resources within 50 miles of our shores when U.S. companies are prohibited by federal law to do the same thing. What happened to practicality and commonsense in our U.S. Congress and Senate? Can we actually sac-

rifice what amounts to a breach in our national security over environmental issues that may have been valid in the 1960s but are absolutely outdated (by superior technology) today.

I believe (as do the majority of Americans) that we can use the natural resources God has provided our great nation in a responsible and conscientious way that will leave a clean environment and a strong economy.

Sincerely,

TOM, *Boise.*

#### DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I offer these remarks in recognition of 35 years of excellence by the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, in combating organizations responsible for the flow of illicit narcotics into the United States. The DEA was created by Executive order on July 1, 1973, in order to establish a single unified command to conduct "an all-out global war on the drug menace." DEA is presently mounting this global attack in 21 divisions throughout the United States and in 87 offices in 63 countries—the largest international presence of any Federal law enforcement agency.

The mission and purpose of the DEA remain as vital today as they were in 1973. After months of hearings and testimony in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, the Senate Committee on Government Operations issued a report in October 1973 noting among other benefits that the creation of DEA as a superagency would provide the momentum needed to coordinate all Federal efforts related to drug enforcement outside the Justice Department, especially the gathering of intelligence on international narcotics smuggling. The DEA has steadfastly served this Nation to that end, mounting an intelligence-driven attack against the most notorious and ruthless international drug cartels and kingpins. DEA's global reach also has been a key component of combating terrorism, as these ideologically-motivated groups have been shown by DEA to fund some of their activities and weapons purchases through drug trafficking proceeds. The agency's re-entry into the intelligence community in 2006 is tacit acknowledgement of the value of DEA to the Nation's security.

For the past 35 years, DEA has identified, targeted, and methodically disrupted and dismantled the operations of those responsible for the illicit drug traffic. Whether it is crack and powder cocaine, methamphetamine, opiates, marijuana, or prescription drugs, DEA agents have courageously infiltrated drug trafficking organizations and brought to justice the most significant and despicable criminals this Nation has faced. The cost of this fight has been tremendous in terms of treasure, but no cost has been greater or more pointed than the price of life and suffering paid by the men and women of

DEA and their families. Since establishment, a combination of 57 special agents, task force officers, and support staff have valiantly given their lives for the Nation in support of DEA's noble mission.

On behalf of the citizens of Missouri, I want to remind the DEA that the agency is not alone in this fight. Missourians and their communities have stood strong against the scourge of drug trafficking and abuse, and our law enforcement agencies have stood shoulder to shoulder with the DEA. Our commitment to protecting young people from the inherent danger of addiction and keeping the ideal of hope strong is unwavering.

I am proud to offer my congratulations to the DEA not only for its marked achievements, but also for its commitment to excellence. The agency has served as a model for interagency collaboration and information sharing across the Federal law enforcement community. Its workforce is both talented and diverse, with the most recent Administrator and Administrator-nominee being women. Additionally, the agency was ranked in the Top 20 best places to work in the Federal Government, placing 18 out of 222 agencies in the Partnership for Public Service's 2007 rankings of "The Best Places to Work in the Federal Government."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CONGRATULATING MS. BAILEE CARROLL MAYFIELD

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I congratulate Ms. Bailee Carroll Mayfield on receiving the American Veterans, AMVETS, scholarship award. The AMVETS National Scholarship Committee has awarded Ms. Mayfield a \$4,000 scholarship after competing successfully against nearly 200 applicants. AMVETS has recognized Ms. Mayfield as an outstanding high school senior exhibiting academic excellence, promise and merit.

The AMVETS organization awards only six scholarships per year. Each scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who is the child or grandchild of a United States veteran, and is seeking a postsecondary education. Ms. Mayfield plans to utilize her scholarship at Eastern Kentucky University to pursue a career in psychology.

Ms. Mayfield has proven herself to be an exemplary student, rightfully receiving the AMVETS Scholarship Award. She is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to students everywhere. I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the future.●

##### SALUTE OF TERRY DEVINE

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, to those who live in Fargo, ND, Terry DeVine has been a prominent and steady voice for decades. DeVine was hired by my

State's biggest newspaper, the Fargo Forum, in 1981. DeVine was known as a consummate newsman. It has been said that, if a big story was brewing, DeVine wanted it. His readers know that he got it more often than not.

Throughout his 27 years as managing editor, and later as a columnist, he maintained an integrity and dedication to journalism that was self-evident, spread every morning across the pages of the Forum for all to see.

As a marine during Vietnam, he escorted wounded journalists off the battlefield. He began work with the Sioux Falls Argus Leader newspaper after the war, followed by a time with the Associated Press in Sioux Falls, before finally landing at the Forum, where his presence has been unmistakable.

DeVine's recent retirement saddened many. Justly, the conclusion of his tenure has been seen in Fargo as the end of an era.

In North Dakota, community matters. People share a connection and a concern that is not to be found in all places. But community cannot flourish in a vacuum. It requires a dialogue. It takes a willingness to be truthful and involved. It calls for an understanding of events that is untarnished and open. Perhaps Terry DeVine's greatest contribution has been to consistently furnish these qualities, and through this, to support the community he lives and works in.●

##### IN HONOR OF MICHAEL WYNNE

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, as cochair of the Senate Air Force Caucus, I wish to speak about former Air Force Secretary, Michael Wynne.

The Air Force has three core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. I believe Secretary Wynne has striven to live up to these values throughout his illustrious career. Upon graduating from the U.S. Military Academy in 1966, Wynne served in the Air Force for 7 years, concluding his uniformed career as a captain and assistant professor of astronautics at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He then joined the ranks of General Dynamics, working on revolutionary programs such as the F-16 and M1A2 Main Battle Tank. After 23 years of service with General Dynamics, rising to the rank of senior vice president, Wynne joined the U.S. Department of Defense and served as the Principal Deputy Under Secretary, then Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. In 2005, he was confirmed as the 21st Secretary of the Air Force—assuming responsibility for organizing, training, equipping, and providing for the welfare of its nearly 370,000 men and women on active duty; 180,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve; 160,000 civilians; and their families.

On his first day in office, Secretary Wynne issued a new mission statement for the Air Force, declaring that the

“mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests—to fly and fight in Air, Space and Cyberspace.” He then declared three priorities for the Air Force: winning today's fight; taking care of the Air Force family; and preparing for tomorrow's challenges. In terms of today's fight, Wynne oversaw the deployment of more than 25,000 airmen to the Middle East. He worked to ensure that over 3,000 Rover kits were deployed to the theater so that ground forces could receive full motion video directly from unmanned aerial systems flying orbits around the clock. He also realized the critical importance of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. Wynne doubled the number of Predator orbits in Iraq and Afghanistan in less than a year, while simultaneously exceeding the Department of Defense requirements for Predator orbits, by 2 years and four orbits.

Secretary Wynne can also take great pride in the support he provided for those who sacrifice so much on the front lines. He was instrumental in facilitating the aero-medical evacuation program, which led to a vastly improved survival rate for wounded troops who were able to reach aid stations over previous wars. Additionally, Wynne also supported an initiative to create a seamless transfer of medical records from theater to stateside and then to the Veterans Administration. Lastly, he understood the need to look after the entire Air Force family—active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian—through instilling a culture of empowerment, accountability, and continuous improvement.

In terms of America's future, Secretary Wynne worked hard to fulfill his tremendous responsibility to ensure that the U.S. Air Force would be well postured to address future potential threats. I would like to thank Secretary Michael Wynne for his service to our country and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.●

##### IN HONOR OF GENERAL T. MICHAEL MOSELEY

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, as cochair of the Senate Air Force Caucus, I have been afforded a unique opportunity to get to know GEN T. Michael Moseley, former Air Force Chief of Staff. I believe he is best defined by three distinct traits: a commitment to excellence, compassion for those with whom he serves, and a deep appreciation for history.

Whether reviewing his time in the cockpit, eventually commanding the prestigious F-15 division of the Air Force's Fighter Weapons School; his service as a professor at the illustrious National War College; his command of distinguished units, such as the 33rd Operations Group and 57th Wing; his pivotal role in executing the air wars over Afghanistan and Iraq as head of