

commute into Boise. Now that so many people have moved out of town, it is like flushing good money and good air away as people drive back into town to work. Instead of spending money on adding two more lanes on the freeway, money should go to provide more options to get people out of their cars. I have a friend who used to be in a van pool, but then the people in her group moved and now she cannot get back into a different van pool.

We did decide to live close enough to our work (3 to 6 miles) that we are able to bike and save gas. But even we feel the rise from gas prices because so much of what we purchase depends on gas, and so what we buy from food to clothes have gone up in price. And the more I read, the more I realize that we should not be going into ethanol production from corn. This causes more problems than it helps.

We really need to say as a country that we will work on this energy issue together. We need to start conserving as much as possible. Building "green" should not just be a nice add-on option. Any new building should be required to be as energy efficient as possible and government money should be invested in research to make buildings even better.

America needs to stand up and say we can do this, we can be creative and get out of our gasoline rut. We need to help people on the fringe who are on fixed low incomes. But for people who make poor and selfish decisions on their driving habits should have to pay for that. So for those people, gas prices are too cheap. We do not even pay the true cost of gasoline in regards to the environment or human health issues. We truly need a new vision and will power.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

ANNETTE, Boise.

I am an over-the-road truckdriver, and these fuel prices are killing us. Back East and out West, we are seeing fuel prices up toward \$5.00 a gal. Where is it going to stop? We need to drill in ANWR, and off our East and West coasts. And we need more refineries. It seems to be like Washington, D.C. does not care for the working class people anymore. They just see us as an endless path to money. Take from us all they can then forget us and sell us out to the highest bidder. Where will it stop?

ROGER, Chubbuck.

Dear Mike: I am a semi-retired person. I work at a bagel-deli at almost Eagle Road, since I live in Boise, and only live ½-mile from BSU. I drive 12 miles each way to work. Since I make \$8.50 an hour, and it costs me \$4.00 (my truck gets 22 miles per gallon), to go to work, it is far more difficult than it was as \$2.50 a gallon for fuel.

I am 62 years old. I have always believed in all renewable resources. I cannot believe that people think that nuclear fuel is unsafe, plus the fact that we aren't accessing our oil?

Best regards,

BOYD, Boise.

Dear Senator Crapo—I am at a loss to understand why Congress chose to support ethanol instead of hydrogen fuel. The vehicles have been developed, have clean emissions, and it seems practical since hydrogen is abundant. However, hydrogen fuel pumps will have to be installed around the country before the general public can buy and use these vehicles. This is something that Congress can and should support.

I am so opposed to ethanol. It can't be transported via the current fuel lines, because of its corrosiveness. There is a world food shortage, and none of our farmland

should be used to grow fuel instead of food. Ethanol gets lower mileage, and frankly, I do not like having even 10% ethanol fuel in my engine. Ethanol is not the solution to our fuel problems.

Electric cars, while cleaner, still need a valuable resource (electricity) to operate.

Energy credits are really good. Hopefully, there is something in the tax code for developers of alternate sources of energy (solar, wind, thermal, etc.). I also am in favor of nuclear energy. The European countries are certainly using that. I know that nuclear waste is an issue, but I think it is one that can be solved.

This is not a "story," but I took the opportunity to express my opinion about this.

DIANA.

Dear Senator Crapo, I have a gift and awards business in Moscow, ID where we engrave various items (most of which are made in China), and are experiencing increasing freight prices for all our received items. Freight rates are changing every day not only for delivery, but for other items we purchase used in our business. My employees are feeling the high gasoline prices commuting to work, and are looking for some sort of relief from me. This will drive up my cost of doing business and I will have to pass this cost on to my customers which in turn will be passed on to everyone.

I am glad that you sent out this e-mail requesting a response to high gasoline prices. I commend your position on this issue. I am sending out e-mails to all my elected officials stating that if you don't support a national energy policy (drilling, nuclear) then I will do everything in my power to replace you the next election. It's time that the people take back their government. Like it says "We the people" . . . An intelligent, responsible representative of the people will get on board and do what he or she is getting paid for, representing the people not just special interest.

I want to encourage you to spread the word that "We the people" are getting sick and tired of not being represented as we request be. People that I see on a daily basis agree that this country is going down hill not even sideways. We are in trouble economically with loss of our manufacturing base, no positive energy policy will jeopardize our entire way of life in the U.S. and will set us up eventually for a war we don't want.

Please carry the banner, inform your colleagues and let's get this country on the right track again! "We the people", love this country.

Sincerely,

DICK.

Mr. Crapo, Thank you for standing up to Senate and demanding something be done on our behalf. Rest assured I will remember those that did come election time. There is no reason why we can not explore our own sources of energy instead of sending our tax dollars to other countries.

As for how it has affected my family. We bought a camper and pickup truck last year to take family vacations and see this beautiful country of ours. With the rise in gas prices we are limiting ourselves to travel only where one tank of gas can get us. We had planned trips to Yellowstone, Las Vegas, the redwoods in California and Washington State. All those trips are cancelled as we have to stay close to home. It is so bad right now that I cancelled attending my nephews wedding in Washington because the gas prices there are worse than ours.

We used to go to Meridian (we live in Kuna) once a week for groceries and to go out to dinner. We now do like we used to when we lived in Cascade. We go to Meridian

once a month for groceries and rarely go out to dinner because of fuel cost. My wife and I have even discussed trading the Dodge Durango that she loves and buying a small car for her commute.

While I understand that there are countries out there that have it worse than us but this is supposed to be the greatest and yet we can not even provide our citizens with our own energy. We at the whim of the Arab controlled oil and I see it only getting worse if we do not do something now.

Thank you again.

TIM AND AMANDA.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOSE ANTONIO DIAZ

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Yolo County Sheriff's Deputy Jose Antonio "Tony" Diaz, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on June 15, 2008.

Tony Diaz was born in Jacona, Mexico, on September 20, 1970, and immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 4 years old. His family settled in Dixon, CA, where he graduated from Dixon High School in 1989.

Tony Diaz's family instilled a strong work ethic in him from a young age. As a teenager, he worked in agricultural fields in the summer. Shortly following his graduation from high school, Tony went to work for the California Human Development Corporation where he worked to assist farm workers, and was soon promoted to the corporate office. Tony's strong skills with computers led him to a position in the Yolo County Information Technology Department in 1999 where an assignment with the Sheriff's Department piqued his interest in law enforcement. Tony put himself through the Yuba College Police Academy and became a sheriff's deputy in 2004.

As a dedicated member of the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Diaz served with pride for 4 years in several areas including court security, transportation and patrol.

Deputy Diaz will be remembered as a loving son, a proud father of three daughters, a devoted friend, and respected colleague.

Jose Antonio Diaz's brave service and commitment to public safety will not be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE LEE HOUSTON

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, recently in Palm Springs, CA, hundreds of people gathered to honor the fine work of Jackie Lee Houston, and to see the plans unveiled for a new plaza to be built in her honor. I am very pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important work and contributions of Jackie Lee Houston.

During the ceremony, Palm Springs Mayor Steve Pougnet pointed out the amazing contributions of Jackie Lee

Houston. She has been an integral part of the fine work being done at Angel View Crippled Children's Foundation, the Palm Springs Art Museum, the Palm Springs International Film Festival, the Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert, the Stroke Recovery Center, and Desert AIDS Project. Houston is also the sponsor of the "Jackie Lee Houston Scholarship," offering support to residents of the region hoping to pursue post-graduate training in design.

It is especially fitting that the new Jackie Lee Houston Plaza will offer an entry to the Palm Springs Convention Center because every year the Palm Springs International Film Festival opens there. It is a project that has had Houston's full support. It is also fitting that the plaza will offer visitors a desert landscape where they cannot just enjoy the native plants, but also help to build a sense of community that is so important to Houston.

I am delighted that the amazing community and philanthropic work of Jackie Lee Houston will be memorialized with this plaza in Palm Springs. I commend Mayor Pougnet and the members of the Palm Springs City Council for their efforts in this regard and, of course, send my very best regards to Jackie Lee Houston.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL MELISSA A. RANK

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I join Senator INOUE in recognizing a great American and true military heroine who has honorably served our country for 30 years.

Major General Rank was born in Frostburg, MD, and entered the Air Force Nurse Corps in 1978. She earned her BSN from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1975, and worked for Baltimore City Hospitals, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and Center for Disease Control prior to entering the Air Force. She also completed a master's in nursing administration from University of Texas in 1990, and a master's in strategic studies from Air War College in Alabama in 1999.

Major General Rank's military education includes the Air War College; the Air Command and Staff College, Squadron Officer School, Flight Nurse School, and Nursing Service Management.

Major General Rank became the Assistant Air Force Surgeon General for Medical Force Development and Assistant Air Force Surgeon General, Nursing Services in 2005. She established policy for 34,000 active-duty and enlisted medical personnel. She also created nursing policy for 19,000 active-duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel.

Major General Rank's past military assignments include serving in the Office of the Surgeon General as executive management fellow for services, chief of plans, policies and programs for nursing services in the directorate of work force management, and deputy

assistant surgeon general for health care operations. She also served as United States Air Force Surgeon Chair to Air University and has commanded an aeromedical evacuation squadron in Southwest Asia and a medical operations squadron and two medical groups.

Throughout her career Major General Rank has served with valor and profoundly impacted the entire Air Force Medical Department. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. We extend our deepest appreciation to Major General Rank on behalf of a grateful nation for her more than 30 years of dedicated military service.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN-REX SPIVEY

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to honor John-Rex Spivey, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 122 in Rogers, AR.

This is a great accomplishment that requires years of devoted service and leadership. The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest level a Boy Scout can achieve and reflects John's dedicated effort and commitment to service.

Young Arkansans like John set a positive example for our youth, and I am confident that this award is one of many more that John will attain in the future.

Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating John-Rex Spivey for this outstanding achievement.●

MEASURES REFERRED ON JUNE 27, 2008

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H. R. 2245. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 4264. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida, as the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 4918. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the "Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 6052. An act to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 163. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of further research and activities to increase public awareness, professional education, diagnosis, and treatment of Dandy-Walker

syndrome and hydrocephalus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H. Con. Res. 195. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that a National Dysphagia Awareness Month should be established; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H. Con. Res. 370. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of September 2008 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month" and honoring gospel music for its valuable and longstanding contributions to the culture of the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H. R. 6377. An act to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded, and to eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6807. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accounting Requirements for RUS Electric Borrowers" (RIN0572-AC02) received on June 30, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6808. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asian Longhorned Beetle; Additions to Quarantined Areas in New York" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0104) received on June 7, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6809. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0157) received on June 27, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6810. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0159) received on June 27, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6811. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and