

hard pressed to find one, a sad statement on us.

As to what I do? No trips during the week except to work and back. If I can do any errand on the way, great, otherwise, it waits till the weekend. I plan one trip, one circle. If something is missed, too bad, it is missed. The real clincher is this, I tithe to my church, I give the Lord 10% of my gross income. It costs me almost as much, \$10 less, to keep my car in gasoline between paychecks. Now I think it is pretty awful when I have to give the gas company as much as I give the Lord. He gives me everything I have, the gas company gives me nothing except anger when I hear of the profits they make. And I think that pretty well sums it up, 10% to the Lord vs. almost as much to the gas company!

DIANNE, *Hayden Lake.*

I am a taxi driver here in Boise. In a year's time, the cost to fill my tank has increased nearly 100% but my average fare has remained static. If it were not for my military retirement, I would no longer make enough to cover basic costs and make a profit. I am 61 years old and am not practiced in a marketable skill so the prospect of making a move to another occupation is nil. My only reasonable hope is that Boise will increase our per mile fees in the near future; it is unlikely that fuel prices will decrease in the near future.

I have been watching your position on domestic drilling with interest. Though alternative energy sources are imperative for the future of America, I am pleased to see that you share my position that energy self-reliance is the immediate solution to our present crisis. I applaud you and urge you to continue your good work and prosecute this agenda with rigor.

EARLE, *Boise.*

Not only is the fuel much too high but I cannot find employment. I am over 60, have experience, but it seems I am "over-qualified" or I need more "experience". What a lot of rubbish! I call it age discrimination, but that is difficult to prove. With the fuel prices so high, if I do find employment, it will take a huge chunk of my pay just to get back and forth to work. Are unemployment benefits going to be extended for Idaho residents? My benefits ended this week, no hope of a job in sight and my husband can not work due to medical reasons. What is a person to do?

Getting Desperate.

JANET, *Emmett.*

As Director of Gritman Adult Day Health which provides day health care for elders who want to remain in their own home in Moscow and Latah County, I am including an article from the NY Times which talks about the cost of gas and how it affects rural elderly. It is very sad that these folks who often aren't able to drive are so affected by the cost of gas. Please do everything you can to remedy this: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121263496261947543.html?mod=googlenews_ws

BARB, *Moscow.*

Gasoline prices are now far too high for the average family, and causing increasing rises in the cost of living in many other areas. For instance, every time one goes to the grocery store, an increase in pricing is noted on items, and thus causing many to have to go without needed supplies. Saving a percentage of income has become just a dream for many, and others cannot make ends meet without going into further debt.

BEVERLY, *Parma.*

Yes, gas has gotten way out of hand. Do what you can to decrease the costs and return to a life with some normalcy.

DIANA, *Kootenai.*

Thank you for at least noticing that we have a problem with the cost. I do not believe, however, that anything can be done with out us paying somewhere else. I make a good living working for the military here in Boise but am still unable to put any money aside. It is funny that every time we receive a pay raise that the price of fuel goes up and our health care premiums grow as well, so you never see any savings. Thanks again; good luck with this effort.

CLINTON, *Emmett.*

RETIREMENT OF WAYNE RIDDLE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to Wayne Riddle, who is retiring at the end of this year from the Congressional Research Service. Wayne is the model of a dedicated and talented public servant. He has spent his career working out of the public eye for the greater good, providing excellent assistance to all of us in Congress for over three decades, and also taking time to mentor younger staffers.

Wayne is a graduate of the University of Virginia. He earned a master's degree in economics from George Washington University while working at the Congressional Research Service, where he has spent the past 36 years serving as a key analyst on elementary and secondary education, and twice as head of the Education and Labor Section at CRS.

Throughout that time, Congress has given high priority to strengthening the Nation's schools, and Wayne has been helping us immensely every step of the way. He began not long after the passage of the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965—the Federal Government's major program to improve educational opportunities for low-income students. Wayne has been indispensable in our work on every subsequent reauthorization of the act and on all our efforts on elementary and secondary education, including the Goals 2000 Act during the Clinton administration and the No Child Left Behind Act during the current Bush administration. His guidance, support and knowledge on issues big and small have been invaluable to us time and again.

As Wayne retires to devote more time to his family, I know that his colleagues at CRS will miss him, and so will we. I wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement. He certainly deserves it, because he has served our country well, and made a very real difference in the lives of countless children who have benefited in their education because of his expertise and dedication.

REMEMBERING TONY DEAN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the passing of a very

close friend of mine, Tony Dean. As one of this Nation's foremost conservationists, one would be hard put to find someone who cared more about wildlife and the environment. Tony passed away on October 19.

I had known Tony for years with his radio and television broadcasting, but I was fortunate enough to get to know him much better in my 2002 Senate campaign. He told me that he was willing to do whatever I needed him to do, and he was honest to his word. With his natural and effective connection to television viewers, Tony starred in two commercials that were critical to the success of my 2002 campaign. I have no doubt that Tony's support was crucial, though it resulted in many tests to his courage. Even amidst the backlash of his supporting my campaign, he said, "Tim, I know I did the right thing, and I'd do it again in a second." Tony stared down the people who threatened him, and he refused to blink.

During Senator TED KENNEDY's eulogy of his brother Robert, Senator KENNEDY stated that, "Few are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change." Tony had all those qualities, though most importantly, moral courage. And Tony Dean had moral courage in spades.

It was my pleasure to have worked with Tony and I would like to offer my condolences to his family, friends, and fellow advocates. They have much to be proud of, and it is my hope that their memories will be rich with the great many accomplishments he achieved during his career. Those of us who loved him pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will someday come to pass for the world. We will miss you, Tony. More than any of us can say.

FORT POLK BARRACKS PRIVATIZATION PILOT PROGRAM

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, on September 27, the Senate passed the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which the President signed into law on October 14. The legislation includes critical provisions that will directly improve the quality of life for our men and women in uniform, support needed reforms in the operations of the Department of Defense and provide our soldiers, sailors, Air Force personnel and marines with the tools they need to defend our freedom. I thank and commend Senator LEVIN and our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for the thorough work on this detailed legislation and their perseverance in crafting the legislation in a difficult and at times uncertain process.

There were a number of filed floor amendments to the bill that were not