

Our energy independence is easily bought by reducing the usage, or waste. We as Americans drive around in our SUVs and pickups when there is no need to do so, we have only one person in a vehicle and it is a huge waste of energy to drive it helping only the ego of the person driving it. We would do a lot better if we had some sort of mass transit and drove smaller cars instead of some huge dinosaur eating toy. If a person wants to drive that sort of vehicle it is up to them to pay the penalty for it.

As far as gas prices go I personally would not mind to pay five dollars a gallon if a much larger percentage of the cost of the fuel was a tax that went straight toward a mass transit system to get us all where we need to go in an efficient manner, it is done in Europe so it is possible here!

As for all those complaining about the high fuel prices, buying a vehicle that gets poor mileage is like not putting money in the bank for retirement or hard times. You reap what you sow!

Maybe we should do a better job educating to enable people to be able to think through a decision.

JOHN, *Meridian*.

Our lives are suddenly controlled by the energy prices we have to pay. Our summer vacations consist of going 200 or 300 miles to see our children and grandchildren. We are not extravagant and travel frugally. This summer our trips have been slashed in half or more because we cannot afford the gas to get there. We filled our propane tank to be prepared for winter, and are already \$1000.00 in debt for heating. This amount will not last all winter, by February or before we will need to fill it again, that is if it is a mild winter. Our heating bill has tripled in the last year and a half. Our food bill has gone up at least one third. We have to drive 8 miles one way to work; we have to have money for gas to get to work, so everything else has to go. We are trying to find ways to cut back on other things, because we do not have enough money to reach the end of the month.

We need to have common sense regarding our energy resources. We can develop fuel sources and be smart about it at the same time. Our dependence on foreign oil has got us around the throat.

ARLENE.

You know all the stories that us Idahoans could send you would not make any difference. The difference will be when the elected officials of this country start doing the right thing for the American public. Only you and the other elected officials can put a stop to all the hullabaloo that is going on at our nation's capital.

It has been said time and time again that a democracy can only last a couple of hundred years until [corruption takes root]. I think we are pretty close to that now. We cannot even take care of the American citizens properly!

JACK, *Idaho Falls*.

I thought you would like to know of our experience with the increasing prices of gasoline and how our family has been affected. A few months ago my husband was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. We live in a small farming community with the nearest center for chemotherapy and radiation being just over 100 miles round trip. His cancer treatment was administered five days per week for 6½ weeks. We had to make this 100-plus mile trip Monday through Friday 28 times. As if the financial burden of the medical treatment and the loss of work was not enough, the price of gasoline did not help. We spent well over \$500 on fuel to drive him

to receive his cancer treatments. Although he is finished with the treatment he will have several follow up visits over the next few months. There is no public transportation in this area, and the rising cost of fuel makes it difficult to want to leave your home! I sincerely hope that a solution can be found to lower the cost of fuel and make life affordable once again.

AMBER, *Grace*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF CORPORATE-SPONSORED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Kentucky students who have received corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Program presents this award to over 1,000 high school seniors and I am very proud that eight recipients of this award reside in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The corporate-sponsored scholarships are a partnership between the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and local companies who wish to support students in their communities. In order for a student to receive a corporate-sponsored scholarship the student must advance to the finalist level of the National Merit Scholarship competition and meet the criteria set forth by their individual corporate sponsor.

The eight students from Kentucky who received this award are Meaghan M. Sanders of Assumption High School, Austin C. Brownlow of Kentucky Country Day, Allan J. Hsiao of DuPont Manual High School, Victoria Greenstone of Sacred Heart Academy, Matthew R. Seabold of St. Xavier High School, Elliott W. Rosenberg and Kyle R. Rosenberg of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, and Matthew S. Miller of Beechwood High School.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating these students on their outstanding achievement. It is students like these who will provide Kentucky and the United States with our leaders of tomorrow.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL JOHN L. HOWLETT

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize a man who lived a life of honor, serving his country, his community and his family. John Leo Francis Howlett, Ph.D., U.S. Army, retired, served our country in the Army for 30 years and retired at the rank of colonel. Dr. Howlett served in Vietnam and then in the Army Officers Reserves. Upon completion of his Active Duty time, Dr. Howlett obtained his Ph.D. in education and became involved in his community through teaching at the college level, first in Michigan and Wisconsin, and then Washington State, Oregon, and Minnesota. He returned to Spokane, WA, where he finished out his teaching career and retired in 1999.

While vocation tends to determine our geography, our lives are defined by our character. Dr. Howlett was a man of strong faith, high integrity, commitment to challenges, and a true family man. It is said that he never missed a game, meet, tournament or even practice in the sports lives of his five children. He taught his children to respect our tremendous natural resources and imparted his love of hunting, fishing, sailing, and camping to them. The example he set—high achievement, attaining goals, and excellence—lives on in the lives of his children, all high achievers and highly educated in their own right.

John managed to fight the cancer that took his life for 5 years, and passed on July 4, 2005. His son, Mark, described his father thus: "In today's world this is what America needs, a hard working patriot that believed in family, his country, and bettering the children of tomorrow. He was one of a kind, a family man, outdoorsman, husband, father, brother, son, teacher, coach, Catholic and most importantly my best friend!"

I am honored to reflect on this life well-lived.●

REMEMBERING MIDGE MILLER

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, on April 17, Wisconsin bid farewell to a pioneer in politics. Midge Miller was a remarkable woman, and I want to take a few moments to honor her service, her activism, and her extraordinary spirit.

Midge arrived in Madison, WI, in 1957. By that time in her young life she had served as a missionary in Japan after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, had lost her husband to a tragic shipwreck, and was about to begin graduate school in Madison. She was also the mother of four young children.

She went on to serve as assistant dean of UW's College of Letters and Science, one of Wisconsin's most effective State senators, a 9-year member of the Democratic National Committee, and a founder of the National Women's Political Caucus. Along the way she found time to volunteer for a host of causes, all of them aimed at advancing peace and equality and giving hope to people who too often found themselves outside the "system." She defended civil liberties, expanded civil rights, protected the environment, and fought for consumers.

Always mindful of her many roles, Midge could all at once be a remarkable leader, active constituent, and a responsible steward of everything, and to everyone, she touched. When the phone rang and her gentle voice came through on the other end, no matter on what subject or cause, listening, learning, and being compelled to action were the only obvious responses when she was finished with you. From my first days in office right up until recently, Midge was always there to advise me but also hold me accountable. She showed her loved ones in her family and those she came to love in her

community what it meant, in the words of Gandhi, to be the change we want to see in the world. Countless people, especially women in our State, credit her for the opportunities and inspiration she provided that helped them reach their potential.

She was an extraordinary mentor, motivator, and mother. She was tireless and tenacious. She never lost her zeal to make the world a better place. Throughout her life, Midge Miller exemplified public service, social responsibility, goodness, and grace. For all those reasons and many more, I am honored to have known Midge Miller and send my heartfelt condolences to her family.●

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I remember a good friend, a great Wisconsin progressive, Midge Miller, who recently passed away at age 86.

Midge was famous for many things, including her vital work on Eugene McCarthy's Presidential campaign, her efforts to help found the National Women's Political Caucus and the Madison Institute, and her service on the Democratic National Committee, in addition to her many years of service representing the west side of Madison in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Above all, though, Midge was known for who she was rather than the many things she accomplished. She was, very simply, a force of nature. Midge was a dynamo who was always striving to do more and to get those around her to do the same. That was why she was loved by so many and why she will be so greatly missed.

I was proud to serve with Midge in the State legislature, where she was a legendary figure. She was a true reformer, a role model, and a treasured colleague. When I arrived in the State Senate as a young legislator, Midge was always complimentary and supportive, which meant a great deal to me. At the same time, in true Midge fashion, she never failed to give me either additional work or a reading assignment. It was that determination to keep working for change, and to make sure that the rest of us were working for change alongside her, that truly made Midge one of a kind.

Midge was an outstanding representative for the people she served. In the State assembly, she used the skills she had honed from her work on the McCarthy campaign, advancing women's rights, and as a leader in the Democratic Party, to great effect. She was a terrific ally, a formidable opponent, and an unfailing advocate for the people she represented. And, in the end, she didn't just represent the west side of Madison, she represented all who care about economic and social justice, and the countless other causes she championed.

As I make this tribute to Midge, I am particularly proud of the way she represented what is best about our State's progressive tradition. She was absolutely committed to making democ-

racy work for everyday people, people who deserve a decent wage, safe working conditions and good health care, and who deserve to be treated equally, no matter their gender, their religion, or the color of their skin. Her values were the progressive values that have helped to strengthen our State, and the Nation, for more than a century.

Like so many Wisconsinites, my thoughts are with Midge's wonderful family, as people across the State and across the country mourn her loss. We are so fortunate that Midge devoted her tremendous energy, devotion and skill to bettering all of our lives. I am grateful to have known Midge Miller, and I am honored to pay tribute to her today.●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 895. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

S. 896. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 895. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability; read the first time.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 896. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability; read the first time.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 897. A bill to limit Federal spending to 20 percent of GDP; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 898. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide grants and flexibility through demonstration projects for States to provide universal, comprehensive, cost-effective systems of health care coverage, with simplified administration; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 384

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes.

S. 437

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 437, a bill to amend the Inter-

nal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the deduction of attorney-advanced expenses and court costs in contingency fee cases.

S. 455

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of 5 United States Army Five-Star Generals, George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Henry "Hap" Arnold, and Omar Bradley, alumni of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to coincide with the celebration of the 132nd Anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Command and General Staff College.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide coverage for individuals participating in approved cancer clinical trials.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 553

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota to include existing hiking trails along Lake Superior's north shore and in Superior National Forest and Chippewa National Forest, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 645

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

S. 677

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to amend title