

recovering from a natural disaster, or administering life-saving blood to a sick patient. It is indeed the legacy of this organization to go and serve those in most need—even to the endangerment of the volunteer. Clara Barton once elaborated on importance of service to others, “I may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it, and while our soldiers can stand and fight, I can stand and feed and nurse them.” Though the focus of the Red Cross has grown over the years the tenacity to help those in need and who face grave danger has never wavered.

Since 1943, every President of the United States has proclaimed March as American Red Cross Month and in turn, the organization uses this month to promote the services provided to the public each and every day. Communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need and the Red Cross depends on the support of the public to achieve its mission.

I am pleased to join with the Red Cross and highlight the courageous work that this organization accomplishes year after year and celebrate March as American Red Cross Month. As one of the best known humanitarian organizations, the Red Cross has been at the forefront of providing aid to soldiers during times of war and peace and helping individuals and families prevent, prepare for and respond to large and small scale disasters for more than 127 years.

I am very pleased of the work that the Kansas Red Cross has achieved over the years and am especially delighted to highlight the work of the Kansas Capital Area Chapter for their involvement in the creation of the “Holiday Mail for Heroes.” This program is a partnership between the Red Cross, Pitney Bowes, and the American people. Holiday Mail for Heroes distributes holiday cards to military veterans and active duty personnel throughout the world. This past year, over 1 million cards were received and sorted by hundreds of Red Cross volunteers. Pitney Bowes boxed and shipped them to different distribution sites—the Kansas Capital Area Chapter being one of them—and I am proud to report, shipped more than 1,000 cards.

In addition, to the focus on veterans, the Red Cross also provides programs that promote health and safety services as well. These vital services help to save lives and strengthen communities through education, training and products that enable people to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters and other life-threatening emergencies. I know that I am profoundly grateful for the services that the Red Cross has given to my state during our times of challenges with natural disasters.

Last year alone, more than 5 million people took advantage of such educational opportunities, attending Red Cross first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation—CPR—and automated external defibrillation—AED—training classes. I know that I am profoundly

grateful for the services that the Red Cross has given to my State during our times of challenges with natural disasters.

Other educational programs and services include Aquatics, such as basic swimming lessons, lifeguarding and water safety, care-giving, and HIV/AIDS education.

The American Red Cross has been able to provide services because of the tireless and dedicated work of volunteers, often known as “Red Crossers.” Many of these “Red Crossers” have been involved in their communities for 10, 20 or even 80 years.

Mr. President, it is very fitting that we celebrate March as American Red Cross Month and continue to advance the principles of this very essential organization.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today’s letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Our family is being greatly affected by the rising energy prices, especially gasoline; we are average middle income America here and we do not have a lot of extra money to keep up with the rising gas prices. If something could be done such as more development of domestic oil, fossil fuels, nuclear research or anything else, besides depending on OPEC prices, that would be a really boon for our Nation as a whole and help with our correct recession. Have a blessed day.

BRENT and CHARLENE.

My wife Suzanne and I are Idaho natives of 33 years. We have three children who are approaching the teen years. I earn a modest income as a police officer in Caldwell. From the time of our marriage over 13 years ago until last year, Suzanne had served our family as a homemaker and educator of our children. Part of curriculum Suzanne employed involved music lessons, sports, and dance, which required many miles per week of driving from our home to each event. Even though we operate a fuel-efficient vehicle getting over 30 mpg, the transportation costs

have always been substantial. Last fall, we made the decision to enroll our children in a local charter school focusing on our children’s talents in music. I am proud to say that they tested into the school a grade level above their age and have all received high honors in their first year. This is a testament to Suzanne’s hard work and skill as a teacher.

Since Suzanne and I enrolled our children into school, she decided to take a part-time job in Meridian to help our income. At about the same time Suzanne entered the work force, fuel prices began to rise and have never stopped. Now we still have travel for music lessons, sports, and dance, as well as Suzanne’s commute to work. Despite our efforts to conserve, Suzanne’s income is completely used up and then some paying for higher fuel prices. Each year over the past 5 years or so, I have made more money, but we have had a continually harder time providing for our family’s needs. I believe that this is due in large part to the price of fuel.

I hope that this recent fuel price increase will prompt the members of Congress to act and the citizens of our country not to accept less than the best solution to the problem. I am in favor of allowing the free market to solve the energy problem with innovation. I do not support the intrusion of the Federal Government with taxes and regulations. I think the ideas of windfall profits taxes for corporations’ amount to no less than theft and would serve only to severely damage our Nation’s long-term productivity and morale. I would like to see the following things happen ASAP and believe if implemented that they would solve the fuel shortage very soon, as well as stabilize the market for decades to come without any compromise to the environment:

Build nuclear reactors to produce a clean, long-term supply for electricity. Retire all dams on the Snake River in Idaho and Washington once nuclear reactors are online.

Lift the drilling restrictions on domestic petroleum exploration.

Allow for the construction of enough oil refineries and infrastructure to handle the projected increase in demand and oil production.

Immediately stop production and government subsidy of ethanol. It is not efficient and cannot support itself. Corn is best used for food.

Stop refining so many different grades of gasoline. Refine only 92 octane gasoline and #2 diesel fuel. This will provide fuel for all cars currently in use while increasing current refinery production capacity through consolidation.

Offer tax incentives to auto makers to produce vehicles that get good mpg (35+ for cars, 25+ for trucks). Allowing the free market to solve the problem, which they are already trying to do, is the best and quickest way to get it done.

I hope this letter finds its way to those who can help effect the change necessary to keep our country secure and prosperous. Thank you for time.

SCOTT, Middleton.

Fuel is a necessity in our country, just as milk and eggs cannot be traded in futures markets oil should not be speculated on. I work in the transportation industry. Currently, due to high fuel prices, business is poor, reducing my income. There is little or no public transportation available to me so my costs have increased dramatically in spite of my efforts to travel less. I cannot continue on this path much longer without painful sacrifices or perhaps an additional job. Meanwhile it is business as usual in Washington, [partisan arguing without any solutions from people who may be in higher

income brackets than the majority of Americans]. We have the resources we need in this country. Let us have access to what rightfully belongs to the American people. Maybe it takes 10 years for this to have an effect. Where will we be 10 years from now if we do nothing now? New technologies need to be developed, but in the meantime we should use some of the resources that we have available to us, if we do not, those countries who are using the resources available to them (China? Venezuela? Brazil?) will own us. Our government and special interest groups have made it so that we cannot use our own steel, coal, oil, timber, and many other natural resources; we are being regulated back to the days of the horse and buggy. The way I see it, not only is this fuel crisis an economic threat; it is a threat to our national security.

Please share my sentiments with your peers. Better yet, how about having some of us from the middle class come and talk some sense to them. As a regular citizen I do not have the capability to make an "emergency appropriation" to cover my shortfalls. Inaction on the part of Congress and the Senate will have serious consequences in the near and long term.

JOHN, Idaho Falls.

I appreciate the opportunity to send you my thoughts on the "Energy Crisis". Like many Americans our age, my wife and I had dreamed and planned of the time we would retire. While never rich, we were always comfortable. When we retired we had sufficient for our needs and a little to spare.

We have five (5) children and 23 grandchildren. As our children were growing, one of the many happy memories they had of their grandparents was each summer knowing they would come with their 5th wheel trailer and spend time with us. Sometimes we camped with them, other times they just parked in front, or alongside our home and used their trailer as their home away from home. They were then in the same position we are now. Their children had moved from the area seeking jobs and opportunities not found were our parents lived.

For years we planned to be able to live a similar life. Spending time with each of our children and grandchildren building memories and connections of love that would help knit our family into a family similar to the one we shared with our parents.

About 5 years before my retirement, we purchased a modest 5th wheel trailer and a pick-up truck to pull it. We wanted to have everything paid for prior to my retirement. The trailer will never be used as we had planned because the cost to pull it is greater than we feel we can afford. We have one son who lives here in Idaho Falls, and we are able to enjoy his family on an ongoing basis. Our son who with his family lives in Oklahoma will get to see us for a few days once a year. Even driving our car which does get quite good mileage makes the cost for multiple trips per year out of the question. Our daughter and her family who live in the Seattle, WA, area similarly will be able to enjoy an annual visit (again driving our car). Our other daughter and son live in Utah, and because of the relatively close proximity, we are able to visit several times per year.

We had dreamed of being able to take our grandchildren at various times to see some of the wonderful sights of our country, such as Yellowstone Park, Mount Rushmore, Zion National Park and other such areas. With our truck and trailer it would have been a wonderful adventure. By car with the costs of lodging, meals, and especially fuel even that is not a viable option.

Do we suffer with insufficient food, power, or other necessities of life? The answer is no.

Do we long to be able to share with our loved ones the time and experiences that our children enjoyed with their grandparents? The answer is definitely yes.

The impact of our situation will influence negatively not only my wife and I but future generations as well. Traditions that were important in our lives will be lost. The connection from one generation to the next and the generations that follow will be weakened.

We feel blessed that we presently have sufficient for our daily needs, and a little to spare, but we also feel betrayed by a series of decisions and events that have taken from us our dreams.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this to you.

ORVILLE and RHEA, Idaho Falls.

I work at the INL, and my wife has a painting and decorating business. I ride the bus to work, and my wife has two employees for the summer; they are college students. We have had to use our home equity line of credit to cover the extra cost of fuel and everything it has caused the price to increase on. People we come into contact with at the INL or through the painting business are saying the same thing. People have less money to spend because the cost of everything is going up, due to the fact that the price of oil affects everything, just not driving. With less money to spend, people are doing less, putting off home repairs, vehicle repairs, skipping a visit to the doctor or dentist, the effects are being felt by everyone.

Drilling for oil off our coasts, in Alaska, oil shale and other areas should be a No. 1 priority. The technology exists to do it safely and environmentally friendly. Yes, there should be windmills, ethanol, biodiesel and other alternatives, but those alone will not solve the problem. More oil is being used worldwide, so more needs to be produced. Oil is used in so many things that it will always be in demand. I would rather see my money go to the oil companies, than to the Arab countries. If we are drilling in America, then the money stays in America. I am tired of the lies to the American public that it will take time to drill, how long will it take to get other technologies online. Or the lie that the oil companies have millions of acres of leases. Tell these people to stop the smoke and mirrors game, they were sent to Washington to represent the people, not play games. If they were working for my wife painting, they would have been fired for not getting the job done they were hired to do.

BRIAN.

As a family, we are finding the increase in gasoline prices in Idaho especially difficult as we try to continue our regular activities. We rely so much on our transportation needs as we attempt to take advantage of the many opportunities afforded to us here and serve throughout the community. The costs are beginning to have a negative impact and limit so many of our friends as well, as so often, we are all living with tight budgets each month. Raising a family is expensive and getting much more so as the gas prices are passed on to food, clothing, and other costs.

Our ancestors saw the need to be self-sufficient, to use and re-use and make do with what they had. This is the best and most effective way to be good stewards of our land and happened long before the trend to go "green". Indeed, much of the "green" activity today borders on the ridiculous. We would really like to see our Nation become self-sufficient, as well by drilling in our own country, eliminating our dependence on foreign oil. Our lands are special to all of us, especially those of us in remoter areas that are still beautiful and pristine, such as Idaho

and Alaska. But if we act responsibly, we can continue to preserve our lands and provide for our own people.

We would also like to see some alternative fuel innovations encouraged with incentives to use them.

Thank you for all you do for our State. We know that it is hard work, especially working with a Congress that is often unwilling or unable to see the obvious solutions many in the public can see so clearly.

CHRIS and SHAWNA, Boise.

The unacceptable rises in every facet of living is really beginning to affect the quality of life for both myself and my fiancé. We have really noticed the strain on our pocket books despite having paid off several debts thus freeing up more of our money. Because of the prices in gas, we are forced to restrict our more frivolous pursuits. We find it hard to partake in dining out and spending money on entertainment. Travel, which we enjoy doing often, is almost out of the question completely. Our spending habits are becoming more and more conservative and only the necessities are being purchased. I know we are not alone in this, for all of our friends and relatives are cutting back and struggling to make ends meet.

It cannot be good for the American economy when we are forced to spend most of our money on just getting by. We work hard for our money and resent having it stolen from us at the pumps, the grocery store, and at home while using everyday appliances. While oil companies are enjoying record profits, (Exxon making \$40.6 billion in 2007; according to US News), Americans are paying record prices for a gallon of gas. Is there any question as to why gas prices are so high?

This madness has to stop. We must pursue other fuel alternatives and fast! Not in 5 or 10 years but today. Our country is heading into a depression and printing more money is not going to solve it. Let us put our Americans to work by making fuels here, at home. It is time we become self-sufficient once again.

ROMA, Boise.

Thank you for the fine job you do for Idahoans. We realize current energy prices are wreaking havoc because the cost of transportation impacts prices for everything we buy including food and clothing. Those hardest hit, are the poor, elderly and our working families. My grown children and their kids are pinching every penny to try to make ends meet. It is getting much harder.

In the short term, I would like our country to utilize safe offshore drilling. (I heard the rigs in the Gulf Coast withstood Katrina very well.) At the same time, we need to understand and utilize "best practices" with renewable energy. When we were in Europe a few weeks ago, my husband and I learned they use nuclear power. An electrical engineer we met in our travel group tried to help me understand that nuclear power is safe. I would like to believe that is true, but my only concern is that we not leave a mess for our grandchildren and their grandchildren to solve.

Our citizens need to do our part by not buying the gas guzzlers our auto makers so happily design. We can also get off our duffs and walk more and use bicycles. When we were in Holland, my husband and I were amazed at how many people, old and young, use bikes. Kid do not ride school buses; they ride their bikes to school. For that to work here, we need safe bike paths. I would be terrified to let my grandkids use the bike path on our Emerald Connector overpass in Boise.

Thank you and God bless you.

MARJEAN, Boise.

I thank you for your efforts concerning the energy problems we face. We live in the very

rural area of Salmon. Public transportation is not an option. Most home sites are within a 10-mile radius of town; however, public trails and non-motorized travel is not an option either. Our family is suffering from the increase in energy costs to the degree that we have had to alter an already modest lifestyle. We live in an area where pickups and SUVs are a way of life. We use our truck to mend fences, irrigate, transport lumber and haul equipment. We have reduced the insurance on this vehicle to liability and only drive it now when we have to. We have purchased a small 1989 "beater" car that gets 25 mpg to travel to town. We would purchase a more economical vehicle if we could, in particular, one that utilizes hybrid technology. However, our family cannot afford a \$30,000 vehicle; this is a "luxury" afforded to the wealthier classes.

On visiting Sun Valley recently, we saw a beautiful trail system, a bus system and pedestrians/bikes everywhere. Their community is unique in Idaho. They have the economic foundation to provide alternatives to their citizens that lessen the burden. It is not safe to travel on bike or scooter along US Hwy 93 and 28 into the town of Salmon. Our populous is too small to support a bus system. We would like to see more support for the development of alternative transportation, in particular, non-motorized travel such as a beltway that would connect the rural outskirts to the center of town. As Salmon grows, we are also seeing more children traveling along these narrow and inadequate strips of highway. We would also be providing a safe means for them to access community services such as the library and swimming pool.

Many of us are already car pooling and have limited our trips to town as much as possible. Please help us find other means to lessen the burden of living in rural Idaho.

MICHELLE, *Salmon.*

I have been riding a bike to work this is great; however, I am financially strapped to the point where I will not spend any money for anything other than food, gas. We are not traveling; our kids are not entering into sports. We are staying close to home. I am only buying gold and silver for retirement because I suspect Congress and the Senate will never fix the problem of inflation. If the situation worsens, I will become another bankruptcy casualty.

1. Remove the Federal reserve or get us on a two tiered gold standard and a path back to financial responsibility.

2. Bring our troops home no foreign spending on anything but American-A nationalistic view.

3. Incentives for companies to return to America.

4. Drill, drill, drill, blue collar workers state we are being lied to about the amount of oil off of Alaska.

STEVEN, *Nampa.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING CURT MENARD

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special resident of my home State of Alaska, Curt Menard.

Mayor Curt Menard passed away March 3, 2009, after a long battle with myeloma.

Mayor Menard was the embodiment of a true Alaskan. Honorably serving in our Nation's Air Force took him to our State where he left his mark. Curt and

his wife Linda purchased one of the original homesteads in the Matanuska-Susitna—Mat-Su—valley and Curt became one of the first dentists in the area. He devoted his life to the people of the Mat-Su, and for that we are all grateful to this remarkable man.

On behalf of his family and his many friends, I ask today we honor Curt Menard's memory. I ask that his obituary, published March 5, 2009, in the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman, be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman,
Mar. 3, 2009]

Curtis Delbert Menard, 64, died March 3 at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, from complications of multiple myeloma.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Wasilla High School with Pastor Larry Kroon of Wasilla Bible Church officiating. The following are pallbearers: Curtis C. Menard, Larry, Sgt. Maj. Ret. Ritchie, Nancy, Jim, Gabrielle, Tanner, Harrison, Sullivan, Brock, Grant, Jack, Alexandra, Jane and Charles Menard, and Lewis Bradley. Burial will take place later in the spring at the Menard homestead.

Dr. Menard was born June 16, 1944, in Detroit. He graduated from L'Anse High School in 1962, received his undergraduate degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., and graduated from Marquette University School of Dentistry Class of 1968.

He had served with Habitat for Humanity, The Alaska Railroad Board, American Legion, Salvation Army Board, and as chairman of the Multi-Use Sports Complex, and was a member of Wasilla Bible Church. He was an honorary member of the Wasilla Rotary Club, was the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and the Frontiersman Mat-Su Dentist of the year. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, flying, marathons, farming, coaching, politics, and well wishing.

His family wrote, "Curt Menard was raised in L'Anse, Mich., born to June and Curtis Menard. At 15 years old he met the love of his life, Linda. Linda and Curt moved to Milwaukee, to pursue his life-long dream of becoming a dentist. In 1968 he graduated as class president from Marquette University School of Dentistry. He joined the United States Air Force and was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. He worked exclusively with Vietnam soldiers in preparation for the war. During that time he learned to fly and there his love affair with planes commenced. He flew a 206, SuperCub, Citabria and a PA 14. In 1972 he purchased one of the original homesteads in the Mat-Su Valley and built the first professional building and dental office in Wasilla. He especially loved his dental contract in the village of Togiak. Three years later Curt lost his dominant right arm in an electrical accident. With unsurpassed determination, Curt learned to practice dentistry with his left hand. Sen. Curt Menard's public service began as a school board member. Encouraged by his experience, he ran for office and became a state legislator. By this time, he had two thriving dental offices, Palmer and Wasilla Dental Center, 33 employees, five children, and was a respected community leader and politician. He had a love for farming and not only baled 55 acres of hay every summer, but enjoyed cows, chickens, turkeys, homing pigeons, pigs, horses, a cat and many dogs. In 2001, tragedy again struck the family. Curt's son, Dr. Curtis C. Menard II passed away in a plane crash.

"Curt was diagnosed in 2003 with multiple myeloma, an aggressive and painful cancer

of the bone. In 2006, in true Curt fashion, he took on the task of running and being elected Mat-Su Borough Mayor. In 2007 he went through a stem cell transplant at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. In a selfless manner he put his community before himself and carried out his mayoral responsibilities until the very end. And if you met "Doc" today, his hook would not be the first thing you would notice. You'd see the twinkle in his eye, feel his zest for life and compassion for his fellow man, share his love of his countryside and then, maybe, you'd notice the hook. But by then you'd be so hooked on the man, it wouldn't matter."

Survivors are his wife Linda of Wasilla; sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Gretchen Menard of Milwaukee, Steven Menard of Wasilla, Dr. Dirk and Alicia Menard of Fairbanks; daughter and son-in-law, McKenzy and Jared Boyd of Milwaukee; daughter-in-law, Dr. Carole Menard of Wasilla; grandchildren, Brock, Grant, Jack, Alexandra, Gabrielle, Tanner, Harrison, Sullivan, Jane, and Charles; father, Curtis C. Menard of L'Anse, Mich.; brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry and Virgie Menard of L'Anse, Sgt. Maj. Ret. Ritchie and Maj. Ret. Joyce Menard of L'Anse, and Jim Menard of Nome; and sister, Nancy Menard of Germantown, Wis. He was preceded in death by his mother, June Menard; and son, Curtis C. Menard II.●

REMEMBERING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the life of a great American, John Hope Franklin, who died last week at the age of 94. Dr. Franklin was a witness, participant and documentarian of the struggle of African Americans for civil rights and the fight to have this country fulfill its promise to become a more perfect union for all of its citizens.

Dr. Franklin once said, "I want to be out there on the firing line, helping, directing or doing something to try to make this a better world, a better place to live." In his life, Dr. Franklin did just that through his work with W. E. B. Du Bois, his efforts on Brown v Board of Education with Thurgood Marshall and by marching from Selma to Montgomery with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. How wonderful that this great fighter for civil rights was able to witness the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States.

As a historian and a teacher, Dr. Franklin enriched this Nation by educating us all about race issues. He began his teaching career in 1936 at Fisk and continued teaching over the next six decades, at schools such as Howard University, the University of Chicago, Cambridge University in England, Harvard, Cornell, the University of California Berkeley, Duke, and other institutions. He had a passion for teaching, and I was fortunate enough to sit in on Dr. Franklin's classes at Brooklyn College in the 1960s. Having him there was like having a real star in our midst, and students who were lucky enough to get into his class bragged about him from morning until night.

Dr. Franklin was the author of nearly 20 books, beginning with "The Free