

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 in 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