

Instead, his death leaves a father and mother to bury their son; a fatherless daughter, Iyanna; and a widowed and pregnant wife, Katana. Their memories of Stephen are bright and indelible: Stephen planting tomatoes, spinach, and string beans in the backyard garden with his grandmother; Stephen giving a pony ride to his 7-year-old cousin; Stephen watching “Bugs Bunny” with infant Iyanna. Today, I imagine that each of those memories comes back with a stab of grief to those who loved Stephen; but I pray that time will turn them into a wellspring of comfort.

This war leaves behind more anguish than we can easily bear. At 4 a.m. on Tuesday morning, Stephen’s mother, Jacqueline Hamilton-Carby, started out of bed in Jamaica and sat down to write him a letter: “It has been 43 days, that is 1,032 hours or 61,920 minutes, better yet 3,715,200 seconds, since I heard your voice. That is a long, 1-o-n-g time but whereas I was worried before, I have placed you in the hand of God.” On the same day, her son was killed.

But she has no doubt that he is in that hand still. “I’m not angry with anyone,” said Ms. Hamilton-Carby. “I just view it as the work of God.”

May she find comfort, and all who loved Stephen, and all who are bereaved. I add my voice to their prayers, and I pledge my highest respect to an American soldier who died in our service. Private First Class Stephen K. Richardson.

STRATEGIC REFINERY RESERVE ACT

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on a bill I introduced, the Strategic Refinery Reserve Act of 2007. This bill would authorize the Department of Energy to build enough refining capacity to meet the energy needs of the Federal Government—primarily the Department of Defense—and to supply the private market in times of shortages and price spikes.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which severely damaged oil refineries in the Gulf Coast, illustrated the Nation’s vulnerability to a disruption in supply of refined petroleum and exposed shortcomings in our current Strategic Petroleum Reserve system. The Strategic Refinery Reserve Act would address these issues by having a refining capacity of 5 percent of total U.S. consumption of gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel. Three percent of capacity would be held in reserve, ready to increase supply in the private market in times of energy emergencies. The remaining 2 percent of that would go to the Federal Government to support the day-to-day needs of the military, saving taxpayers from paying the oil industry’s inflated prices.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported Monday that drivers paid an average of \$2.80 a gallon for regular gasoline last week, up from \$2.70 the week prior. According to the

report, prices are now 11.7 cents per gallon higher than April of 2006. The price per barrel of oil, set by the Middle East cartel Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, is only one factor that pushes up the price of gas and oil in our country. Refining capacity, the infrastructure that takes crude oil and turns it into gas, is down dramatically, which pushes the price of gas up for everyone.

U.S. refineries today are running at full, or near full, capacity. In 1981, there were 324 refineries in the United States; today there are 149. Big Oil has made it clear that they are unwilling to reinvest their record profits in new refineries because the less they sell, the more they make per gallon. That may be good for oil company shareholders, but it is bad for consumers. The Strategic Refinery Reserve Act will ensure the availability of emergency refinery capacity and protect consumers from sharp increases in the price of petroleum products. Our economy, our military, our communities and our families are struggling under the burden of high energy prices. They expect us to work to bring energy prices down. This bill would do that.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH W. COTCHETT

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I recognize Joseph W. Cotchett of Burlingame, CA, on the occasion of his being honored by Santa Clara University School of Law as their 2007 Distinguished Advocate. Joe is a partner in the law firm of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy and is widely considered to be one of the leading trial lawyers in the United States by plaintiffs and defense attorneys.

The renowned Santa Clara University, SCU, School of Law is honoring Joe for his exceptional lifetime of advocacy. For more than 15 years, SCU has carefully selected Distinguished Advocates and brought them to campus to expose students to outstanding trial lawyers. This month, Joe Cotchett joins an impressive list of Santa Clara University’s Distinguished Advocates.

For the past 10 years, the National Law Journal has named Joe Cotchett one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America. In 2003, the San Francisco Chronicle named him one of the Top Ten Lawyers in the San Francisco Bay Area, saying:

The Burlingame attorney has had a star career that’s not only talked about in legal circles but has made headlines around the country. Known mostly as a plaintiff lawyer, many of his cases are filed on behalf of fraud victims, and have a widows-and-orphan flavor to them.

The San Francisco/Los Angeles Daily Journal has said that Joe is “considered one of the best trial strategists in the state” who built a career out of representing the underdog against powerful interests.

One of the Nation’s best trial lawyers, Joe fights for what he believes is right. Joe has won settlements for investors in white-collar fraud cases and represented numerous California public agencies, including the California State Teachers’ Retirement System. He took on corrupt energy giant Enron during California’s energy crisis.

Joe was the lead trial lawyer for 23,000 elderly customers in the Lincoln Savings & Loan Association debacle. After a 4-month trial, he won one of the largest jury verdicts then recorded. For his work in defense of the watchdog group Consumers Union, Trial Lawyers for Public Justice honored Joe for his “outstanding contribution to the public interest” as “Trial of the Year Finalist” in 2000.

In the 1970s, Joe was involved in early environment lawsuits to save the California coast and numerous consumer actions which laid the groundwork for many of our present consumer laws in California. In recent years, Joe has focused on financial fraud on behalf of shareholders and public pension funds.

Joe is also my appointment to the Federal Judicial Advisory Committee, which President George W. Bush, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and I authorized.

It is clear that Joe is one of the top trial lawyers in the country. What is equally impressive is that while some people would have stopped there, satisfied with this outstanding accomplishment, Joe continues to give of his time and resources. And not just with worthy pro bono work.

Throughout his lifetime, Joe has been committed to fighting the good fight. From his days as a college student in the South, challenging segregation by drinking from segregated water fountains, to his work as one of nine members and chair of the California State Parks Commission; from his involvement with the Boys and Girls Club to his work with Disability Rights Advocates, which honored him in 2003 for his nearly 40 years of civil rights work, Joe’s dedication to others has had an enormous reach.

Joe is deeply committed to giving back to his local community. He preserved the Debenedetti building, a Mission Revival Style building which is very special to residents of Half Moon Bay in California. He wrote “The Lost Coast,” the historical guide to the California coast between Santa Cruz and San Francisco. Joe is involved in numerous bay area charitable organizations involving animals, children, women, and minorities. He established the Cotchett Family Foundation to aid those in need.

Born in Brooklyn, Joe received his B.S. in engineering from California Polytechnic College in San Luis Obispo in 1960. He earned his J.D. from Hastings College of Law at the University of California in 1964. Joe served in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps and was a Special Forces paratrooper and

JAG Corps officer. As a veteran, he has continued to assist veterans.

In 2000, UC Hastings opened the Cotchett Center for Advocacy recognizing Joe as one of its outstanding graduates. In 2004, Cotchett endowed a \$7 million fund to support science and mathematics teacher education at California State Polytechnic University to serve inner-city and rural minority children. To honor Joe, Cal Poly renamed its landmark Clock Tower the Cotchett Education Building. In 2006, the Joseph W. Cotchett Business Studio for students was dedicated at Notre Dame de Namur University.

Congratulations to Joe Cotchett for being named Santa Clara University's Distinguished Advocate for 2007. This is a worthy addition to a very long list of accomplishments.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN RAYMOND GERALD MURPHY

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, it is with a sad heart that I come to the floor today and honor my good friend Raymond Gerald Murphy. Jerry Murphy died last Friday at the age of 77. A burial with full military honors is planned for Santa Fe National Cemetery this week.

CPT Jerry Murphy was the 39th U.S. marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in the Korean war. He was decorated by President Dwight Eisenhower in a White House ceremony in 1953. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Captain Murphy was also awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. Jerry Murphy was a hero in every sense of the word.

What really made Jerry special though was his service to others. When he returned from Korea, he dedicated his entire life to taking care of other veterans. He spent 23 years working in the Albuquerque VA Regional Office. Upon his retirement, he continued to serve veterans as a volunteer until he became too sick to do so. Earlier this year, Senator BINGAMAN and I introduced a bill to rename the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Albuquerque, as the "Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center." I am very sad this was not completed before Jerry died, but I hope it will be completed soon.

In addition to all of Jerry's military honors, he was also a family man. Jerry is survived by his wife Maryann, his sons John, Michael, and Tim, his daughter Eleanor, as well as eight grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers are with the Murphy family this week; I know they are proud of what Jerry accomplished in his lifetime.

Jerry Murphy was a close friend, and I will miss him greatly. I always valued his friendship and advice. Godspeed, amigo. You touched many lives and helped many people. Your legacy will not soon be forgotten.●

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wish today to commemorate the life of retired Marine Captain Raymond Gerald Murphy. Captain Murphy passed away on April 6, 2007, but left behind a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. His legacy of courage, valor, and commitment to his country will forever remain a part of the history and heart of the United States.

Captain Murphy was born and raised in Pueblo, CO. After graduating from Adams State College, he selflessly volunteered for the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to officer training school. At only 23 years old, 2nd Lieutenant Murphy led a Marine platoon to perform an evacuation mission in the hills of South Korea after U.S. troops had sustained months of heavy mortar attack from enemy forces. Lieutenant Murphy bravely commanded a small group of men up the hill to survey the situation. Met by intense enemy fire, Lieutenant Murphy pressed on to rescue wounded and killed marines, while continuing to support combat platoons. Realizing that all platoon commanders had been either killed or severely wounded, Murphy found himself in charge of the attack and began reorganizing his men. Murphy ordered his men to carry the wounded back down the hill for medical attention, and carried many men on his own back.

Having sustained a wound to his left side, and shot through his right hand, Murphy refused medical help until all of his men were brought to safety. Wounded, he continued to go back up the hill, facing continued enemy fire, until every injured and fallen marine was carried back down. As the last man down the hill, Lieutenant Murphy left not a single man on that shattered hillside in South Korea.

On October 27, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower bestowed upon Lieutenant Murphy the Medal of Honor, the highest award for his courage and heroic action during the Korean War. Lieutenant Murphy's Medal of Honor citation reads, "His resolute and inspiring leadership, exceptional fortitude and great personal valor reflect the highest credit upon Second Lieutenant Murphy and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service." I believe this encapsulates the essence of his service and patriotism as a U.S. marine.

I am honored to stand before the Senate today to pay tribute to the life and service of CPT Raymond Murphy. I would like to offer my condolences to his wife Marry Ann and his four children. His family has lost a husband and a father, and this Nation has lost a truly noble man, but may his gallantry and heroism be memorialized forever in the freedoms of this great country.●

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF RUNNING N CATTLE COMPANY

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I recognize the Running N Cattle Company of Kenna, NM, that is currently

celebrating its centennial year of operation. The Running N Cattle Company's 100th anniversary date was in May of 2006.

The Running N Cattle Company is a family owned partnership that began in 1906. William H. Cooper and his wife Elizabeth left Hopkins County in east Texas, with their five grown children, to acquire free land through the Homestead Act in New Mexico. The act promised 160 acres of land for each adult and an abundant supply of water. All seven members of the Cooper family made their claim on 160 acres, just north and east of what is now the small village of Kenna, NM. William and Elizabeth settled, making Kenna their home. Out of their five children, Joseph "Joe" Cooper was the only child who remained at the original homestead.

In 1909 Joe moved back to East Texas to marry his high school sweetheart, Gertrude Jackson. Shortly after, they traveled by train back to the homestead at Kenna where they continued ranching and began raising a family. Joe eventually purchased the pieces of land his brothers and sisters had claimed in 1906. Although Joe ran both sheep and cattle on his land, he eventually made the decision that he wanted to concentrate all his efforts on raising cattle. Joe and Gertrude had four children; Lewis Cranford Cooper born in 1915 was their only child who decided to join his father in the ranching business.

In 1937 Lewis Cooper married Lucille Martin in Clovis, NM. In 1940 they moved to the headquarters of the ranch near his parents' home. Lewis was a sharp cattle tender and bought and sold cattle from California to Kansas. Lewis enjoyed the ranching business and had a keen eye for good horses. Lewis grew up in Kenna and Elida where he stayed actively involved in his community, working to make it a pleasant place to live. Lewis and Lucille had two daughters Virginia Ann, Jenny, and Jacqulin, Jackie. Lewis and Lucille continued ranching until Lewis died, in 1971. Lucille now makes her home in Portales where she stays involved with her church, grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

Jenny Cooper, older daughter of Lewis and Lucille, married Dr. John Clemons in 1968 at the ranch home in Kenna. John has been active in the stocker yearling business at this location since Lewis's death in 1971. John has served as the general manager since 1971, along with that title, he also embraces ownership duties. The Running N Cattle Company has been continuously owned and operated by the same family. For the past 36 years John and Jenny, along with Jackie are the fourth generation to own the partnership and continue the business. Throughout the years the family has been able to purchase additional pieces of land allowing the ranch to expand. The headquarters is kept in the same