

more than half of the equipment to be parachuted in was lost. But soldiers persisted, risks paid off, and bravery triumphed over peril. On that dangerous early morning, following a treacherous English Channel crossing, 150,000 Allied troops took the shore, and 100,000 continued inland. Mr. President, 9,000 men were lost that day, but it went down in history as the decisive battle that turned the tide of the war.

I am proud to bring your attention to what these men did. And as I recognize their valor on this remarkable anniversary, I think it is both fitting and necessary to recognize the valor of our troops in battle today who are no less brave, and who face uncertainty and risk, as did those who fought for freedom in the Second World War. I wish I could stand up here and draw other comparisons between these two wars—WWII and the global war on terror—and between the threats of Nazism and terrorism, because it is without a doubt that World War II, despite our human losses, brought a unity of cause to our Nation, and that would be a great place for us to be again. But the fact is that we are in a different world and a different century; we face a different enemy, and, most of all, our Nation has tremendous differences on how to deal with this enemy.

However, as with the heroism demonstrated by our fighting forces both then and now, there are other unmistakable parallels. The invasion on D-day marked a pivotal time in history when the outcome was uncertain. The great generals going into battle had faith and trust in their troops, but knew their bold strategy carried with it great risk. Just before the invasion, MG Leroy Watson, commander of the 3rd Armored Division, sent his troops this message:

This is the greatest military operation in the history of the world. Its success or failure will determine the course of events for the next hundred years.

General Eisenhower, also uncertain about the outcome, prepared a letter which he never had to deliver, accepting responsibility for the loss. He expected catastrophic failure and military victory. He wrote to his troops:

My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the Air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do.

The leaders knew the danger, but also knew the consequences of failure. In Iraq, and in the fight against terrorism, we must continue to stay the course, because the stakes of not winning are too high, and, as was the case on D-day, we are again in a pivotal time in history. And again, the outcome will surely determine the course of events for the remainder of this century.

D-day was a tremendous battle, with thousands of casualties over the course of a day. It was a time of great loss for our Nation. And amidst those losses stand stories of bravery, individual

valor and resounding brotherhood—stories that enveloped the historic battle and personalized it for a nation. And I can tell you that the soldiers I met in Iraq, and the troops whose stories I heard at Fort Benning and Fort Stewart, will be remembered in the annals of our Nation as warriors who are as brave, as strong, and as committed as the heroes of D-day we remember today.

And the Generals who led these brave men will also never be forgotten. World War II saw Eisenhower, Patton, Marshall and Bradley—all of these men have secured their places in history. And today and in the future we will remember the legacies of Petraeus, Odierno, McChrystal, and Fallon—generals and admirals whose leadership, ingenuity, courage and forthrightness are shaping the Iraq strategy, and no doubt its military outcome.

So in drawing these parallels, my conclusion is that in the history of war, there are some constants: the bravery of soldiers, the uncertainty of battle, the value of leadership, and the necessity of victory. These things never change. They were evident on June 6, 1944, and they are evident today. And so it is on the 63rd anniversary of D-day, the decisive battle of World War II, that I recognize the heroes who fought, lived, and died valiantly. And I thank them and their families for setting an example and standard our warriors remember on the battlefield today, and for creating a generation that is willing and able to set the same standard and example for our heroes of tomorrow. I hope that our men and women in uniform serving around the world today will draw courage from the example of those who have gone before them as they execute the responsibilities we as a nation have trusted them to carry out.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" FRANCE, JR.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I wish to speak today to pay tribute to a great Floridian, Bill France, Jr.—a man who lived the American dream, a man who literally turned an idea and hard work into a multibillion dollar national exhibition we today know as NASCAR.

Bill France was a great Floridian in many other ways as well. He was someone who contributed greatly to his local community of Daytona Beach, FL, as well as to the State of Florida at large. Mr. France left us at his home in Daytona Beach, when he passed away earlier this week after a long and difficult battle with cancer.

What we in Florida know, and what the news reports confirmed immediately following his death, is that Bill made NASCAR everything it is today: The sold-out races, the national network television coverage, the regalia and the memorabilia—it all can be credited to this man and his love of the sport.

Born right here in the Nation's capital, Bill France moved as a young man with his family, Bill France, Sr., and his mother Anne to Daytona Beach, FL, in 1935 to escape the Great Depression. With \$100 in his pocket, Bill, Sr., started a new life for his family in Florida, setting up an auto repair shop and quickly taking a great interest in racing. In 1938, he would set up the Daytona Beach Road Course, and from there, as they say, the rest is history.

This course he set up back in those days was so unique, and to see photographs of it is one of those things that one can only harken back to the old Florida that is no more. But the races were essentially conducted on the strip of sand in Daytona Beach. They would circle around A1A, the strip of highway that was there at the time, and then circle back around on to the beach. The spectators would sit there on the beach side and watch these cars as they raced literally on the beach.

Bill, Jr., spent his young life around the racetrack and worked toward the legacy his father had begun to build. He worked on cars, helped out during races, and beginning in 1956, he worked every day of the week for more than a year on the construction of the Daytona International Speedway.

In 1972, Bill, Jr., took the reins of the racing organization that his father had helped to found in 1948 and took the risks and made the decisions that took NASCAR to a whole new level.

The International Motorsports Hall of Fame describes it this way:

Other than the founding of NASCAR itself, Bill, Jr.'s appointment to leadership is probably the most significant event in the history of the sanctioning body. As rule-maker, promoter, ambassador and salesman, France has set the standard by which all other forms of motor sports are measured. He has taken it from a regional sport to a national sport, and nurtured its growing popularity on television, culminating in a record-setting \$2.4 billion broadcast contract.

He served for a quarter century leading NASCAR to unbelievable heights and set the stage for what it has become today.

I know I speak for hundreds of thousands of fans, the drivers, the pit crews and anyone and everyone who enjoys NASCAR, as well as Floridians and Daytona Beach residents, when I say a well deserved "thank you" to Bill France, Jr., for making our weekends a lot more exciting, more enjoyable, and a lot faster. Florida thanks you for your vision, Bill. We will miss you, but you leave behind a legacy we will never forget.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Senator Craig Thomas, who, very sadly, passed away Monday evening. As all of us in the Senate know, Craig was a respected Member of this body. A number of my colleagues have made very kind remarks on the floor about their relationship with

Craig. While I have not served as long in the Senate as have many of my colleagues who knew and worked with Craig over the years, I did have an opportunity to get to know him since being elected to the Senate in 2004.

I think one of the most important things we have all witnessed with Craig's passing is the outpouring of support and stories about the people he impacted in the Senate, in Wyoming, and across the country.

Without question, the Senate is a lesser place today without Craig's presence. One of the clearest indications of any politician's popularity is his or her support back home. Craig's leadership as the senior member of the Wyoming delegation was overwhelming—primarily due to the confidence he earned from his constituents back in Wyoming. That confidence was something he fought to keep since first being elected to Congress back in 1989.

Craig's battle with leukemia was very indicative of the way he led his life and how he worked on behalf of his State and our Nation. I also believe if his diagnosis hadn't been made public following his reelection last November, I doubt anybody would have known of the battle he waged as he underwent his chemotherapy treatments.

Craig did timeless work on behalf of the citizens of Wyoming and our Nation. His absence from the Senate will be greatly felt. Kimberley and I are deeply saddened by Craig's passing and extend our prayers to Susan and her family. Craig's hard work over the years on behalf of Wyoming and our Nation is a testament to his character and gives all of us something to strive for.

Craig Thomas was a man of the people. He was a Wyoming original. He represented the very heart and soul of the people of his State and of our Nation. He personified hard work and integrity. He was a "what you see is what you get" kind of a guy. Wyoming and America are a better place because of his service.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I join the many Senators who have paid tribute to our colleague Craig Thomas. Many of my colleagues have come to the floor since Senator Thomas's passing, and it is clear how many friends he had in this Chamber and how well everyone thought of him and the work he did.

We all knew him as a hard-working Member of the Senate who quickly earned his colleagues' respect. That respect was grounded in the way Craig Thomas served his country throughout his life. He spent 4 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the Wyoming State Legislature, the U.S. House of Representatives, and since 1995, the U.S. Senate.

During his years in the Senate, Senator Thomas served Wyoming with great dedication. Raised on a ranch, Senator Thomas understood the concerns of rural Americans, and I appreciated his efforts in the Senate to

stand up for the people who keep our rural communities strong. That is an important concern in my State, and I know it is in Wyoming as well.

I was very pleased to work with him to improve competition and fair treatment for farmers and ranchers. I know that he was committed to giving farmers and ranchers a fair shake in the marketplace, and his constituents appreciated that dedication.

Senator Thomas also worked on a range of health care issues important to rural Americans. He well understood the challenges that people in rural areas face as they seek access to health care services and helped to address those concerns. The Senate benefited from his leadership as cochair of the Senate's Rural Health Caucus, where he showed tremendous commitment to these issues. He led the push to maintain full funding for several rural health discretionary programs, and I am grateful for his efforts. That was just one of the many ways he contributed to the work of the Senate and served the people of Wyoming.

As we remember Senator Thomas, we can all be grateful for the life he led and his outstanding service to the Senate and to our country. To his wife, his family, his staff, and his many friends, I offer my condolences and my deepest sympathies.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to join others in paying tribute to a wonderful colleague, Senator Craig Thomas. Tragically, last night, he lost his battle with leukemia. I want to send my heartfelt condolences to his wife Susan, his children, Patrick, Greg, Peter, and Lexie, and to his staff.

Since January, I had the pleasure to serve with Senator Thomas on the Finance Committee. I found him to be a hard-working Senator and very concerned about his constituents' struggling to get health care in rural areas.

I also had a chance to work with him last year on the Michigan Lighthouse and Maritime Heritage Act. This legislation sets up a process whereby the National Park Service would work with the State of Michigan to create a lighthouse tourist trail.

As my colleagues know, he was chairman of the National Parks Subcommittee, which had jurisdiction over this legislation. During consideration of this bill, he was helpful to me and the people of Michigan even though these lighthouses are thousands of miles away from his home. He held a hearing on this legislation, worked with me to get it to the floor and ultimately to the President's desk.

On behalf of the people of Michigan, we appreciate his support of this legislation.

Senator Thomas was a wonderful man—kind and decent to everyone. We will all miss him.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, with a combination of great sadness and admiration, I join my colleagues in honoring the life of Craig Thomas, a person of strength, passion, and integrity.

Those who have had the blessing of traveling to the State of Wyoming appreciate its amazing beauty and variety. Craig Thomas reflected the geography of his State. He could be as peaceful and serene as Wyoming's rolling prairie grass lands, and he could be as striking and powerful as its majestic mountains.

Growing up, he learned the creative dynamic of frontier life: rugged individualism joined with an ethic of neighbor-helping-neighbor when the need was great.

In this sometimes stuffy and frustrating Washington world, he was a fresh breeze of unconventionality. He maintained his Wyoming vision of life throughout many years in this city, and the people of Wyoming deeply appreciated his strong immunity to the political disease called Potomac Fever.

Craig Thomas lived a very meaningful life and made the State and country he loved a better place to live in. From his young days as a marine to his last days as a Senator, his heart was service and he put everything he had into making a difference for generations to come.

Because of his service here, our national parks are a legacy that will be passed to future generations in better shape than he found them. Because of his fiscal conservatism, fewer dollars of debt will be passed on to our children. Because of his vision and integrity, a model of public service will be available to those who come after.

Laurie and I send our prayers to the Thomas family. We thank them and the people of Wyoming for sharing Senator Thomas with the Nation.

Every one of us on this floor can learn a lesson from his life and remember Craig Thomas by living the values and commitments he taught us.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, when Craig Thomas passed away on Monday evening, the U.S. Senate lost more than a Member; our institution has lost a good man and I a good friend—someone who was proud to be called an American cowboy. Sharon and I extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Susan, his family, his friends, his staff, and the people of Wyoming whom he served with such complete dedication.

Over the last few years, I worked closely with Senator Thomas. I came to know him well and came to respect him enormously. We both represented small, rural States with critical constituencies—his most emblematic being the farmer, mine the miner. We both maintained a deep commitment to our home States. Perhaps most importantly, we both had a history of public service.

Throughout our careers, I would say that we had a very good partnership. We served together on the Senate Finance Committee and fought to make this country more independent of foreign energy, to promote the development of clean coal technologies, and to preserve the rural American lifestyle.

Through it all, I greatly liked and admired Senator Thomas and appreciated him for the fine human being he was. He was a man of strong principle, one who knew the bottom line and didn't hesitate to consult his colleagues on the other side of the aisle. What I will remember most about him, however, wasn't his ability to work with his so-called foes or our tough fights in the Senate, but for his deep affinity for the beauty of this country.

In fact, over the years, when I have traveled to Wyoming and looked up at that towering, earthly skyline of the Grand Tetons, I have often thought of Craig.

Craig, after all, was perhaps one of the people who shared my deep love of the Grand Tetons. It was in those mountains and the Gros Ventre that we found a common bond. Together, we exchanged our marvels about the alpine lakes, the cutting glaciers, wind-swept glaciers and sparkling rivers.

I will never forget his advice on enjoying the beauty of Jackson Hole or his stories about long horseback rides or camping in the cool shadows of the mountains. I will never forget his interest in the wildlife and his appreciation for the foliage. Nor will I forget how passionately he protected the autonomy of the park, and how much he cherished the culture and beauty of his home.

Senator Craig Thomas held my deepest respect; and, to his family and the people of Wyoming, I offer my deepest sympathies. He was a valuable public servant, a true fighter and a friend—and, more than anything, a true American.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleague, our friend, and a great statesman, Senator Craig Thomas.

It is a somber day in the Senate Chamber as we mourn this loss.

His passing leaves a significant mark on the many lives he touched throughout his life. On behalf of myself and my wife Annette, I send my deepest sympathies to his wife Susan, his four children, and the entire Thomas family.

Craig was an influential force in the Senate for the people of Wyoming, as well as a thoughtful leader on national issues.

Craig served the people of Wyoming with distinction and honor.

His roots in the State ran deep, and Wyoming had no greater advocate. He has built his reputation as a fiscal conservative while focusing on the unique issues affecting the American west.

He was honest, humble, good natured, and loyal. It was these characteristics that he brought to the Senate and to his work. He was an effective leader because he believed you could get a lot accomplished when you did not care who took the credit.

Craig was committed to the values and principles he believed in deeply. He loved his State, and it showed. He was committed to protecting our Nation's natural resources, improving the lives

of those in rural America, and a leader in advocating a sound national energy policy.

It was my true privilege to have served with Craig over the past 13 years in the Senate. While we continue to mourn his passing, we should try to carry on with the same determination and energy he brought every day to the challenges he faced.

He will be remembered as a dedicated American, a marine, a public servant, and the quintessential American cowboy who gave so much of his life in service to the Nation.

I offer my thoughts and prayers to those close to Craig in this difficult time, especially to his family.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to discuss some of the changes that need to be made to our national energy policy. The simple truth is, our country is headed down the wrong energy path. Our current path has led to record-high electricity and gas prices. These prices are not only hurting ordinary families, they are also hurting businesses who are seeing their costs go up dramatically. The growth of energy-intensive industries such as manufacturing is actually being stunted due to skyrocketing electricity costs. We already know the negative global impacts our current energy path is having on our environment. It is clear we can't continue down this energy path anymore. It is not good policy. It is not good economic policy, and it is not good environmental policy.

Mr. President, I will be introducing a bill that will lead the Nation down a path to a better, cleaner, more independent energy economy, a path that takes us away from higher electric bills and leads to new opportunities for investment and innovation, more jobs, and more economic development. As the chart beside me illustrates, 52 percent of our electricity is currently generated from coal; 15 percent is from natural gas; 3 percent from petroleum; 20 percent from nuclear; 7 percent from hydro; and 3 percent from renewable energy. Clearly, this is not a diversified energy portfolio. Clearly, something needs to be done about rising energy costs.

It is estimated that Americans will spend over \$200 billion more on energy this year than last year. That is an increase of nearly 25 percent. The bill will allow us to meet our future electricity needs. It will allow us to diversify our electricity supply. It will allow us to reduce the vulnerability of our energy system, and it will allow us to stabilize electricity prices, protect the environment, and most of all, stimulate the economies of rural America.

It is time to act. It is time to pass an aggressive renewable electricity standard, one requiring that all electricity providers would have to generate or purchase 25 percent of their electricity

from renewable sources by the year 2025. Twenty-two States throughout the country have already demonstrated the value of establishing renewable electricity standards.

This chart shows what is going on around the country. I am looking at Rhode Island, to try one State, a 16-percent standard by 2019. You see California, 20 percent by 2010. You see Washington, 15 percent by 2020. All over the country, we see a change afoot. The checkered States are ones that have voluntary goals, such as Illinois. The striped States have standard goals, and the green States actually have standards put into law.

While the States are already heading down the path toward the new "green economy," the Federal Government has not even made it to the trail head. The Federal Government is stuck in the fossil age.

I am proud to say my State of Minnesota is further down the path than any other State. In February, the Democratic Minnesota State legislature passed and our Republican Governor signed into law what is considered the Nation's most aggressive standard for promoting renewable energy in electricity production. It is a "25-by-25" standard. By the year 2025, the State's energy companies are required to generate 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources such as wind, water, solar, and biomass. The standard is even higher for the State's largest utility, Excel Energy, which must reach 30 percent by 2020. The CEO has been in my office and said it is going to be tough but they are going to make it, and they are going to be able to meet this goal without raising rates.

I admire what the States and communities and businesses are doing across the country. I admire them for their inspiration, and I admire them for their initiative. There is a famous phrase: the "laboratories of democracy." That is how Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis described the special role of States in our Federal system.

In this model, States are where new ideas emerge, where policymakers can experiment, where innovative proposals can be tested.

Brandeis wrote over 70 years ago:

It is one of the happy incidents of the federal system that a single courageous state may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country.

But he did not mean for this to serve as an excuse for inaction by the Federal Government. Good ideas and successful innovations are supposed to emerge from the laboratory and serve as a model for national policy and action. That is now our responsibility in Congress.

The courage we are seeing in the States, as they deal with global warming, climate change, should be matched by courage in Washington, DC. We