

caused by the present day cost of gasoline instead of looking at ways to facilitate pragmatic long term solutions to the problem!

RON, Boise.

I would like to tell you how the high gas prices are affecting me and my wife. I am 76 years old, retired, and have a chronic heart and lung disease. We live in Salmon. Salmon, being a small town does not have a hospital to care for major heart and lung disease. The nearest hospital that has facilities for major heart and lung is Missoula, Montana, about 160 miles north of Salmon, making it a 320-mile round trip. My car gets 27 miles per gallon, making it about 12 gallons per trip. Today, in Salmon, gas costs \$4.23 per gallon (and I am sure it will continue to go up); that is about \$50 per trip in gas alone. Between the two of us, we have to make the trip to Missoula approximately 20 times per year. That equates to about \$1,000 for gas alone. That smarts.

Please do what you can to stop this senseless rise in energy prices. We have the resources here in our own country. Let us start using them. Drill for oil; use nuclear; mine coal; we are smart enough to do this sensibly. Do it now.

J. C., Salmon.

Even if we opened up Alaska and any other likely source of oil, I doubt very much it would bring the price of oil down. Until we get rid of corporate government, nothing we are presently experiencing is likely to change, certainly not sharing stories of hardship.

JOHN.

My husband is retired, and I am only able to work part-time. It has put a great deal of stress on us. When we did retirement planning, we planned for cost of living, i.e., food, electric, water, gas, but never could we have imagined that we would under budget our gas costs. This country has the opportunity to resolve this issue. As other costs are also rising, medical care, food, etc, this is one area that the government can step in and resolve and help our not only our economy, but also their fellow Americans. It is our congressmen duty to take care of this issue, if not, then who is going to take care of all the people who cannot afford the gas to get to work and do not have access to mass transit or cannot afford it. Do tell.

SIGNE.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES PIERPONT COMER

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I honor a great Hoosier, Doctor James Pierpont Comer. Today we recognize the many accomplishments of Dr. Comer, a distinguished professor, innovator, author, and scholar.

Dr. Comer, in his role as an educator and mentor, embodies the spirit of hard work and service that Hoosiers value. The Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine's Child Study Center, Dr. Comer has been a member of the Yale medical faculty since 1968. As founder of the Comer School Development Program at Yale, he has advanced a teamwork approach to ensuring positive child development and academic success. The "Comer Model" has

been implemented at over 500 schools nationwide and has promoted the constructive growth of countless American youth.

A native of East Chicago, IN, Dr. Comer received his bachelor's degree from Indiana University, his M.D. from Howard University, and a master's in public health from the University of Michigan. He has received no less than 46 honorary degrees as well as numerous other accolades, including the John P. McGovern Behavioral Science Award from the Smithsonian, the John Hope Franklin Award, the Heinz Award in the Human Condition, and the Healthtrac Foundation Prize. An unparalleled scholar, Dr. Comer has authored nine books and hundreds of articles relating to child development, childhood education, and race relations.

As we honor Dr. Comer today, the words of Henry Brooks Adams come to mind: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." Dr. Comer has helped countless young people develop the building blocks necessary to become the leaders of their generation, and the students whose lives he has touched over the years will undoubtedly help shape our society through the 21st century.●

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL W. PETERSON

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I celebrate the 92nd birthday of a man I have known and admired for a long time, a man who has dedicated his life to making our world a better place for us and for our children. Russell W. Peterson was one of Delaware's most remarkable governors and has been a truly committed public servant for over 60 years.

Within the early hours of being sworn in as governor of Delaware in 1969, he delivered on a campaign promise to ease tensions in our racially charged city of Wilmington. He removed the presence of the National Guard who had patrolled the city streets for almost a year, and, along with the Delaware State Police, he enforced curfews following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

One of the most memorable accomplishments of the governor's career was the leadership role he played to protect our environment through the passage of Delaware's Coastal Zone Act of 1971. This was a groundbreaking law, the first of its kind in our Nation. Governor Peterson became known as a dedicated environmentalist for protecting the 115 miles of Delaware's coastline from heavy industry. As an activist for our environment, he was determined to help people on a local, State, and national level understand that living our lives is not at odds with preserving our environment. He also contributed to the landmark National

Environmental Policy Act as chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

The governor's most recent project has already begun to rejuvenate the city of Wilmington's riverfront. He is cochairman of the governor's task force on the future of the Christiana and Brandywine Rivers and also serves on the board of the Riverfront Development Corporation. Through these efforts, the city's riverfront is becoming a brilliant asset to our State as it attracts visitors and new residents to the area. This beautiful new face to our riverfront also has an urban wildlife refuge center that has been named after Governor Peterson, for his decades of remarkable work.

These are only a few of Governor Peterson's many, many accomplishments. Through his service, he has truly improved the lives of Delawareans and has invigorated the city of Wilmington. He is currently the Delaware Audubon Society's honorary chairman of the board and has received 15 honorary doctorates and numerous other awards.

Governor Peterson is being honored for his contributions at a luncheon next Tuesday, in Wilmington. I can't think of a more deserving individual. I wish him all the best as we celebrate his 92nd birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL WEYRICH

• Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to honor Paul Weyrich, a dear friend, and a man who has spent the past 44 years fighting to protect the freedom and liberty enjoyed by Americans today. Throughout his adult life, Paul Weyrich has actively advocated for conservative policies based on our founding principles. From his days as a young college Republican and foot soldier in Barry Goldwater's 1964 Presidential campaign to his tireless efforts on and around Capitol Hill, Paul has been an instrumental force in the conservative movement of both yesterday and today. With courage and conviction, he has declared the importance of family values, religious freedom and limited government.

History will judge us not on our titles but on the lasting ideas we advance and institutions we create. I have the honor of chairing the Senate Steering Committee, which owes its creation in 1974 to an idea born in the mind of an enterprising staffer named Paul Weyrich. After helping to found the Senate Steering Committee, Paul went on to found the Heritage Foundation with Edwin J. Feulner in 1973. Paul also founded the American Legislative Exchange Council and the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, CSFC, which later became the Free Congress Foundation. Paul now serves as chairman and CEO of the Free Congress Foundation. And Paul's leadership, uniting religious conservatives of all faiths, has made the social

conservative movement one of the most effective movements in modern history.

Finally, I would also have to add that not only has Paul dedicated his life to serving the conservative movement, his wonderful family, and his Nation, but he has also dedicated his life to serving God as a leader in his church.

Senators and conservative leaders will come and go. Most of us will be barely remembered. But years from now when a new crop of conservatives is charged with advancing our cause, the sword they will wield will be the institutions left to them by previous generations. Many of them, from the numerous coalitions to the Steering Committee to the mighty Free Congress Foundation and the Heritage Foundation, owe their creation to Paul Weyrich.

I want to personally express my gratitude to Paul for his friendship and for all that he has done to move the conservative cause forward. Paul's hard work and dedication have inspired me and countless others in the fight to protect liberty and to secure America's future.●

DES MOINES INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Des Moines Independent Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Des Moines Independent Community School District is Iowa's largest public school district, with more than 30,000 students, 5,000 teachers and staff members, and 60 schools in our State's capitol city. Serving more students than even our State universities, Des Moines has received several grants, totaling \$4,275,000, to help meet the diverse and important needs at dozens of their schools.

The school district received five construction grants totaling \$3,250,000. The first construction grant for \$750,000 was awarded in 1999 to Capitol View Elementary, a new school just a few blocks from our State capitol building. In 2000, a \$500,000 construction grant went to Moulton Extended Learning Center, a K-8 school in the heart of the city. East High School, the oldest high school in Des Moines, received a 2002 grant for \$1 million to help with the construction of their new Community Activity Center. A 2004 construction grant for \$500,000 helped build a new elementary school combining Longfellow and Wallace, now known as the George Washington Carver Community School. And in 2005, a \$500,000 construction grant helped to renovate the Walnut Street School, a growing elementary school located in the city's business district. These schools are the modern, state-of-the-art facilities that befit the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, they are the kind of schools that every child in America deserves.

The Des Moines Independent Community School District also received five fire safety grants totaling \$1,025,000 to install fire alarm systems and make other safety repairs at over two dozen schools including, Central Campus, home to some of the Nation's top high school programs, McCombs Middle School, King Elementary School, East High School, Hoover High, Meredith Middle School and Lincoln High School. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Des Moines Independent Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—chair Ginny Strong, vice chair Jeanette Woods, along with members Connie Boesen, Terece Caldwell-Johnson, Patty Link, Dick Murphy and Jonathan Narcisse, and former board members Ako Abdul-Samad, Som Baccam, Margaret Borgen, Graham Gillette, Jane Hein, Jon Neiderbach, Jim Patch, Phil Roeder, Laura Sands, Mark Schuling, Nadine Hogate and Marc Ward.

I would also like to recognize superintendent Nancy Sebring, former superintendent Eric Witherspoon, chief operating officer Bill Good, chief financial officer Patricia Schroeder, former executive director of facilities management Duane Van Hemert, grant specialist Kris Mesicek along with the principals, teachers, staff and parents at more than two dozen Des Moines schools who have helped make the most effective use of these funds.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in

Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Des Moines Independent Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

ELK HORN-KIMBALLTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School District received a 1998 Harkin grant totaling \$250,000 which it used to help build an addition to the high school. The building included a gymnasium and four classrooms for math, art and science. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves.