

He brought honor to my State and a deeper understanding to us all. I offer my sincere condolences to his wife Harriet, his daughter Ellen, his grandchildren, friends and colleagues, and the many students he inspired.

REMEMBERING SENATOR JESSE HELMS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to speak today about former Senator Jesse Helms, who passed away on July 4, 2008, at the age of 86. I knew Senator Helms well, and I am sure I am joined by many of my colleagues in saying that he will be missed.

Senator Helms was born in Monroe, NC, in 1921. His first full-time job was as a sportswriter for the Raleigh Times. After serving as a recruiter for the U.S. Navy during World War II, Senator Helms became the city news editor for the Times before moving on to do journalistic work in both radio and television. In 1960, he began working at the Capitol Broadcasting Company in Raleigh as the executive vice president, vice chairman of the board, and assistant CEO. He became famous in his home State for his daily CBC editorials, which featured his now-famous southern anecdotes occasionally laced with his sometimes provocative political views.

Prior to coming to the Senate, Senator Helms' only political experience consisted of two terms on the Raleigh City Council. However, in 1972, Senator Helms became the first Republican Senator elected from North Carolina in the 20th century, replacing the retiring Senator B. Everett Jordan.

During his three-decade tenure in the Senate, Jesse became known as one of the Chamber's staunchest conservatives. His refusal to compromise on his beliefs was the source of both his greatest strength as a legislator and, as I am sure some would argue, his greatest weakness. Indeed, I don't think there are any of us who served alongside Senator Helms who did not, at one time or another, find themselves in a disagreement with him.

However, while I didn't always agree with Jesse, I do have a number of fond personal memories of him.

For example, when I first came to the Senate in 1977, Senator Helms was nearing the end of his first term. About 3 months into that first session, still becoming acclimated to life in the Senate, I took a few moments to write down some of my early impressions of my fellow Senators. About Jesse, I wrote that he was "one of the dearest people in the Senate," and that he had always treated me with kindness and respect. I also noticed that, despite having a reputation for being an unmovable conservative, he had a knowledge of parliamentary procedure and tactics that was virtually unmatched.

A couple years later, I witnessed this knowledge first-hand when Senator Helms and I found ourselves on the

same side of the debate over what was being called a "labor reform" bill. Sadly, as I was working with a number of my colleagues to sustain a filibuster against this unabashedly radically liberal pro-union legislation, our friend Senator James Allen passed away. While we were all saddened by the loss of our dear friend, at the back of our minds we were worried that, without Senator Allen's mastery of Senate procedure, our efforts might fail. However, Senator Helms stepped up and provided much needed insight, helping us to block this harmful legislation. At one point during this debate, while many of us were worried about the strength of the filibuster, Senator Helms assured us, saying that we would keep the necessary Senators on the floor "if they have to wear their pajamas and bedroom slippers."

I believe we were all surprised during the latter part of Senator Helms' tenure when he coauthored the landmark 2002 legislation authorizing funds that were, at that time, unparalleled for international AIDS relief. Many of his colleagues, including myself, had sparred with Jesse over providing support for AIDS relief and research. But, in those last few months of his Senate career, I believe he showed the world that, while he wasn't always the most agreeable of politicians, he was a compassionate man who was committed to doing what he thought was right.

Mr. President, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to the Helms family. As I said, Jesse and I did not always agree on the issues before the Senate, but I can say, without reservation, that he was a dedicated public servant and dear friend to those of us who knew him well.

TRIBUTE TO GEN ALEXANDER "SANDY" PATCH AND THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION DRAGOON

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I say to Mayor Bruno, residents of Ramatuelle, France, and especially to all the French and American veterans gathered for this important event, I am honored to lend my voice from afar to the chorus of those who celebrate the past, present, and future of the extraordinary bond between our two great nations.

At watershed moments in history, France and America have always looked across the sea to each other in friendship and fidelity.

When the British colonies reached their moment of truth, our Founding Fathers stood shoulder to shoulder with Marquis de Lafayette, Comte de Rochambeau, and countless other Frenchmen who never made it home. Many French were, as we would later say, "present at the creation" of the United States. And our great experiment, in turn, helped inspire the French to not just dream of, but actually take to the streets and demand, "liberty, equality, and brotherhood"

for all of their own people and all of mankind.

So when our military leaders came together to liberate France from Nazi Germany, we weren't inventing a new story from whole cloth. We were reaffirming a centuries-old friendship, giving new life to the timeless ideals we share and the recurrent sense on both sides of the ocean that the fates of our nations are forever linked.

GEN Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, commander of the French forces in Operation Dragoon, used to tell a powerful story about a meeting with his American counterpart, GEN Alexander "Sandy" Patch. Unlike Sandy Patch, General de Lattre lived long enough after the war to reflect on his experiences.

When Patch granted him the support he needed to take the fight to the Nazis, de Lattre wrote that, "I suddenly saw the clear, grave eyes of the American commander soften. With hesitation that was full of shyness, he brought out his pocket-book and from it he took a flower with two stems, which was beginning to fade. 'Look,' he said, breaking it into two and handing me one of the stems, 'a young girl gave me it on the slopes of Vesuvius on the day before we embarked. She said it would bring me luck. Let us each keep half and it will take our two armies side by side on the road to victory.'" As the French General said, it was "a touching wish which was answered by heaven."

General Patch's gift was the personal gesture of a man who was both great and gracious. It is also a fitting metaphor for the friendship of our two countries. Each helped freedom to flower in the other, and we are bound together by the enduring fact that we each carry a part of the same idea forward with us.

GEN "Sandy" Patch—hero at Guadalcanal, liberator of southern France, whose troops would later cross the Rhine as victors—was a great American and a great admirer of the French people. Hailing from a small mining town in the western United States near the Mexican border, Patch described General de Lattre in a letter to his wife as "a typical, intelligent, broadly educated, volatile and attractive Frenchman." But when the French emerged from their homes in the liberated town of Saint Raphael and began to sing their national anthem, which had been forbidden just days before, General Patch listened to "La Marseillaise" with tears streaming down his face.

Although Patch was famously pugnacious as a young man, he grew into a man of remarkable personal discipline who remained unafraid of battle but who, as his biographer wrote, "had a remarkable and brooding concern about the human cost" of war.

He was a man who shunned the spotlight. It is said that when General Patch saw himself hailed on the cover of Time magazine as "Patch de Provence," he never even read the article.

His own sense of humility inspired his subordinates to live up to the confidence he placed in them. He was not just respected by his fellow soldiers—he was loved. Smoking his rolled up “Bull Durham” cigarettes, he remained to his last days an American original and, as GEN Dwight Eisenhower memorialized him, “a soldier’s soldier.” That is what he lived to be, and that is what he was.

For a soldier’s soldier who died of pneumonia just 2 days short of his 56th birthday, the landing here in southern France represented the culmination of his life’s work.

And what an accomplishment it was: Dragoon was a remarkable undertaking, and a great success. Coming as it did 6 weeks after Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, operation Dragoon was one of the war’s most poorly kept secrets. And yet it arrived with such overwhelming force that the Nazis could not resist it. 9,000 men arrived the first day by air, 77,000 by sea. By the third day, Hitler had instructed a few units to guard the ports and sent the rest of France’s occupiers into retreat. He is said to have called August 15, the first day of Operation Dragoon, “the worst day of my life.”

By August 28, the port cities of Toulon and Marseilles had fallen, and within just one month our armies had covered almost 500 miles and captured nearly 100,000 German soldiers.

Of course, none of this came easy. Many suffered for the great dream of a France that was once again free—of a Europe and a world free from fascism.

Women like Marie-Madeleine Fourcade and Helene Vagliano who faced torture from the Germans for their role in the French resistance—but refused to reveal any information that would endanger those who shared their cause.

Men like the French commandoes who landed miles away from the main invasion force and found themselves trapped in a minefield bravely resisting German fire.

Men like French Sgt Noel Texier, who landed a rubber dinghy and began climbing the 100-meter high flat face of Cap Negre, only to fall to his death and become, as far as we can tell, the first casualty of Operation Dragoon.

Young men like “Mac” Patch—General Patch’s only son, who was christened Alexander Patch III but known to everyone as “Mac.” Mac Patch took a direct hit from a tank gun and died fighting for a free France.

Tragically, while General de Lattre’s only son, Bernard, would survive World War Two, he too died just 6 years later on the battlefields of Indochina. Both generals outlived their sons, but neither by very much. Neither man outlived the crush of grief that came after. With their sons in battle, I can assure you that General Patch and General de Lattre never forgot the cost of war—the price of freedom. And neither should we.

And so with enormous pride for what these men accomplished and a heavy

heart for all that they lost, we come together today to mark the anniversary of the signature achievement of a great generation of men and women. We come together to commemorate a high point of French-American friendship, and to celebrate all that we won: the right to gather here today, the chance to raise our families in peace, and the right to walk as free people down free streets in a free France.

On behalf of all Americans, I want to express my gratitude to the citizens of Ramatuelle for their commitment to honor this monument of liberation and for the bond forever cemented between us by the brave soldiers and citizens who stood together to make an eternal difference.

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 over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov 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:

The cost of gasoline has made my bi-weekly trip to my folks’ home 100 miles away a lot costlier. My dad has been in a physical rehab/residential center since his back surgery in January. My mom has had to learn how to drive and handle finances again after years of my dad doing it. My mom drives almost daily the 35 miles round trip to visit my Dad. Thankfully, I purchased a Toyota Prius last September and my mom is buying a Toyota Corolla for the fabulous gas mileage each of them get.

I think the number 1 priority for Congress to be looking at was not one of your choices. The oil speculation on the commodities market has pushed the price far more than the original selling price for a barrel of oil. Take away the speculation additives and we would probably see \$3 a gallon for gas. The next option is conservation. Our vehicle (car, truck, etc.) manufacturers need to look up and see what is happening. The emissions and gas mileage laws that are to take effect in approximate 20 years are here today and if they want to stay in business they will have to meet the growing desire for more fuel efficiency and greater mileage of the Japanese. Why are we always too far behind when we are supposed to be the innovators? Looking into alternate fuels, such as hydro would be another good start. Look into these other types of fuel where we are not producing as much harmful waste as we are trying to get rid of our dependence on oil.

Thank you for your time.

Please take oil out of the commodities market, for the county’s benefit.

RHOSAN.

My husband got a whopping 3 percent raise this year. I sure wish I could put a 3 percent cap on the increase in my expenses. As many other Idahoans, we live in the country. He carpools to town (with 2 other guys), where he gets on a large van carpool. The carpool rates just keep going up as the gas keeps going up, soon all of his raise will be in the gas tank and gone. We no longer have any leftover for recreation, which only increases the tension. Why live in Idaho if you cannot afford the gas to go fishing, hiking, scouting, hunting, golfing, and all the other things we love to do?

DEBBY, Preston.

Why did you chicken out and sell us out to the gas companies? Instead of grilling the presidents of the gas companies who said they could make a profit even if gas WAS HALF THE PRICE they were selling it at, you did nothing!!! No legislation was passed to control the gas prices consumers pay. This is an old shell game that legislators and gas men have been playing for years. [Now is the time for action!]

STEVEN.

I would like to thank you for the e-mail you send out about energy cost increases. It has affected my family because that extra \$200 a month I would have been spending on eating out, backpacking, or just purchasing items for the family now means I stay at home. You know this is a growing a vibrant country and I proposed we do all the things you said. Drill offshore, in the continental U.S. and Alaska. We should pursue nuclear power and drill for natural gas as well, pursue coal gasification, synthetic oil through coal. We should not be beholden to environmental extremists. Drill, Drill, Drill

MATT, Kuna.

First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be able to speak out about what I consider a crisis in our country. My wife is an R.N. at Kootenai Medical Center and the high gas prices have really hurt our budget. I am disabled and have to be taken for doctor visits as well as many trips for medications. My mother is 78 years old and lives in Dalton whereas we live in Post Falls.

We have to take her to her doctor and shopping, etc. She lives on a fixed income and cannot afford to drive nor can she afford the high energy bills that most low income families have to pay. For those people it is either pay for gas and take the money from food they need or even medications they cannot afford due to these unreasonable costs. It is ridiculous to expect people who, like my sister, get \$35.00 a month in food stamps and barely enough to live off to pay these prices. I, for one, do not like to rely on imported oil to get from one place to another. We need our government to find a better way to provide us citizens with fair and reasonable prices for gas and other energy such as natural gas and electricity. There has to be a way not to rely on others for our needs and succumb to their ridiculous prices without destroying our public lands. I feel, for starters, vouchers should be given to the folks who need the help the most and possibly for those who provide a service to their community such as health professionals, police, etc. We need to help each other but with my family, my wife and I foot the bill for family due to their inability to afford even the small things that are needed for everyday living.

Thank you for your time.

God Bless,

DUWAYNE.