

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](mailto: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.

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.

Your letter indicates your priorities are all screwed up. Your statements that "... I support legislation to fully utilize proven American oil and natural gas reserves in a way that preserves the environment... enhanced domestic production, expanded refinery capacity, renewable and alternative energy sources, nuclear power, conservation..." are just plain silly.

Unless you and everyone else takes the responsibility of cleaning up and protecting our environment before worrying about the cost of gasoline, Mother Earth will certainly become uninhabitable about the time of Armageddon, which some people say is supposed to happen in this century.

We need real leadership from servants like you.

The environment is the number one issue. Consider:

Carbon fuels:

The use of carbon fuels must be drastically reduced. This cannot be done by:

Increasing exploration for and production of fossil fuels.

Allowing excess profits for the oil industries.

Manufacturing ethanol, and other hair-brained boondoggles.

Failing to set high mileage standards for motor vehicles.

Allowing patent protections to become barriers to energy efficiency.

A ho-hum attitude toward developing renewable alternative energy sources.

A similar attitude about developing alternate forms of transportation (mass transit).

Allowing more urban sprawl.

Making war. Manufacturing and fueling war machines uses huge amounts of energy.

Recreational toys—dirt bikes, auto racing, off-road vehicles, speed boating, etc.

Nuclear Energy:

Absolutely not, unless and until the problem of the disposal of nuclear garbage is fully resolved so that our descendants for many generations to come will not have to contend with our stupidity.

These are sticky questions. Are you going to lead?

JOSEPH, *Sandpoint.*

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion about the high energy prices. The high gas prices have caused our family to plan our trips better, combine trips, and limit use of one of our vehicles which gets very poor gas mileage. While these are not necessarily bad things, the amount of our income which is spent on fuel continues to rise. I am also a small business owner here in Twin Falls. My business requires my employees and me to travel to various cities in the southern Idaho area to perform computer and network maintenance and support. Our business expenditures for fuel will probably force us to have to raise our service rates.

One of the biggest gripes that I have with our Congress is the lack of will to do anything constructive about this energy problem. Legislation is preventing the United States from drilling for oil in our country. Many members of Congress talk a lot about purchasing more fuel efficient cars or using public transportation. While I would love to be driving a fuel efficient hybrid auto, as the father of a family of six, I cannot afford to purchase such a vehicle. I also do not have the financial resources at my company to purchase new autos, either. As you are aware, public transportation in Idaho would not be a profitable enterprise. Our cities are, for the most part, not densely populated enough to justify mass transportation. Besides, I need a vehicle for my job, so taking a bus or train to work would not really be something I could do anyway.

I am sure that you will receive many e-mails similar to mine. I hope that you are

able to make a difference in solving this problem.

Thanks,

SCOTT, *Twin Falls.*

You have fought hard for us here in Idaho and hope you can do something about the escalating costs of energy. We do not live in a state with subways, rail service and we have limited bus service only in major cities. What is Congress thinking? Please have them change their ways and let us tap into our own reserves. Stop exporting to other countries and help other fellow Americans.

The average person in Idaho only makes \$7 to \$8 an hour and has to travel over 45 minutes to get to work. Adding the extra burden of gasoline, more and more will not be able to go to work. [They will lose] their jobs and then sign up for assistance. Does that make sense?

Do something positive for this country.

PAMELA, *Riggins.*

Thanks for this opportunity to give feedback. All of us do not like paying \$4 per gallon. The important thing is that all Americans would be willing to make the sacrifice, just as we did in WWII. We can car pool, change our habits, etc. The difference is that in those days, Congress actually represented the people. Americans would be willing to help out with the energy problems if there was real leadership.

When Americans see Congress refusing to give tax credits to those of us who would love to install alternate energy or use solar (as has been done big time in Germany) it leads to massive frustration and then Americans get whiney and complain. But if we had real leadership that said, "Look, times are tough, but we'll get through it together, and what our country is going to invest in is... And we are going to do it like this..." Americans would willingly pay more at the pump. But right now it all seems so futile. The public pays out big bucks, and Congress will not act to fix the problem.

Idaho doesn't even give tax credits for those of us who would very willingly go solar. Or how about tax breaks for citizens who promise to car pool to work or buy cars with high fuel mileage?

There is no real leadership, and I do not even expect this note to help, to be honest. But, I guess hope blooms eternally!

FOSTER.

My husband and I are both 78 years old... I am retired, but my husband works part-time to help make ends meet. The cost of electricity has gone up, the cost of water has gone up, the cost of natural gas to heat our home has gone up, the price of food has gone up, and the price of gasoline at the pump is ridiculous.

Why is China allowed to pump crude oil off our shores when American cannot? It seems that there are too many times that Congress has forgotten who they represent—the people, not the lobbyists. What roles are the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank playing in our price of gasoline? We have all the natural resources we need right here in the U.S. but Congress will not let us touch them. Why? It is time to look out for America—that is what you are there to do.

Will Rogers once said "We could slow down the aging process a great deal if it had to make its way through Congress."

Stop bickering and get something done!!! Both parties!!!

DICK and BETTY, *Boise.*

I live in an RV. I use space heaters in the winter because electricity is cheaper than propane; that is changing. I do not run either of my rooftop A/C units; I run a fan. I live in

Nampa and work variable hours in Boise; [public transportation] will not work for me. When gasoline was \$3.57 a gallon, it cost me \$75 to \$80 a week to drive my 1987 Dodge conversion van [which I dearly loved]. I could not afford this. I was forced to buy a 1991 Chevy Astro from my neighbor; he is carrying the contract [the only way I could manage it]. I do not like this vehicle. It has body damage, is impossible to camp in, and is quite unattractive. Last week, with fuel at \$4.07 a gallon, it cost me \$47 for one week. It is quite an improvement, but quite a sacrifice. I have long heard stories of highly fuel-efficient engines, rights of which were bought up by The Big Three and the oil conglomerates and put on the shelf, never to see production. What is up with that? When I left Boeing and went into the Navy in 1968, I had a 1961 Olds F-85 that got 26 miles per gallon when fuel was cheap and plentiful. What happened? I have no objection to properly safe-guarded nuclear power sources. I fully believe in sustainable [solar, wind-farm, etc.] resources. I do not care at all for the axe that the Mid-East nations hold at our neck for energy sources. I do not care at all for the oil conglomerates posting record profits while I pay through the nose. We sure need to do something.

EDWARD, *Nampa.*

You asked about my energy costs; well, this is my situation. Back in 1990, I suffered a major heart attack. I was 49 years old. The hospital bills wiped out any savings I had, but all were paid off in full! I received my first Social Security check in December 1990. In 1991, on a Social Security check of \$460 monthly, I was making space rent on my trailer, as well as payment on a trailer, and had money left over to get all my other bills paid off, plus put a small amount (\$10 or \$15) in savings. Now, with a Social Security check of \$872 monthly, after paying space rent, I am left with \$650 monthly. I allow myself only \$60.00 a month for gas. That does not even fill the tank and because of the inflation rate, when you gross out that figure, that is not enough income for banks to even talk to you about a loan to purchase a fuel-efficient vehicle. Sorry to complain, but things were a lot better in the early nineties than they are today. And this ethanol is a joke! What are people going to do later this year when there is a shortage of corn and soy beans? Will the oil companies, who seem to have no regard for us humans, outbid the food processors so they can make more? And my 23-year-old car, it won't run on it anyway. Nor will anybody else's that I know. When I hear of these CEOs "earning" 12 million dollars a year, I just want to be sick. Here is an idea. It will not work, I can hear the CEOs screaming bloody murder already. But here goes: 1) Nationalize the oil companies, 2) Set a nationwide price of no more than \$1.50. Eliminate all state sales and road taxes off the price. Set a federal sales and road tax of no more than \$.75 cents per gallon. Since diesel fuel is a by-product of gasoline, set a price of no more than \$.75 cents per gallon, and allow no oil company CEO to earn more than \$2 million a year. Like I said, it will never get past Congress (I believe there are too many with their hands out), but would it be nice to be able to bring prices back down, help the little farmer and trucker and all of us old folks. Thanks for your time,

Your friend,

STEVE.