

made our life a lot easier about 1 year and a half ago. This house is a lot bigger than the one we had. I needed a house that could fit all of us. So I went from a 1,146 square foot home to a 2,000 square foot home, a lot better. But ever since the prices of gas started going up, it has put us in a bind. Right now I am now about 2 months behind on my mortgage and really do not have any way of making it up. So we have the house on the market for a short sale. Since the gas prices are rising, people are not shopping like they used to, so my wife's work is affected hence her hours are cut. I work all the way in Boise and live in Nampa. I have been at my job for 9 years now, and it seems like I am just working to get back and forth.

I really think that we should start drilling other places now. The economy is going or is already taking a big hit on everything. Since the price of gas basically controls the price of everything like food and since I have four kids, my grocery bill has [gone] up, also. Another option maybe is to have the oil companies cut the Americans a stimulus check at the end of every fiscal year. They are making a huge profit. That tells me that the price can go down a lot and they can still make a little money. Instead they want to help hurt the economy. In my eyes, they are no better than terrorists.

Thanks for taking the time to read my email and hopefully since we the people actually put you guys into these positions to help the economy and keep our country, state, city safe and running like a well-oiled machine, I really hope that something can come of this. I really believe that if gas prices run around \$2.50 a gallon they can still make a profit and keep things going in our country with no problem.

JASON.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING THE WARREN COUNTY PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I congratulate the members of the Warren County Prevention Partnership, an antidrug group that represented the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the 2009 inaugural parade. I was pleased to learn that such an outstanding organization represented Kentucky on the national stage.

The Warren County Prevention Partnership holds the distinct honor of representing Kentucky in three consecutive Presidential inaugurations: 2001, 2005, and 2009. The Warren County Prevention Partnership works for a drug-free America and its "Reach for Your Dreams" antidrug and antiviolence program is motivated to help America achieve that goal.

I am proud that such a superior association represented Kentucky on such a historical day in our Nation's history, and I support the organization, as well as others that strive for a drug- and violence-free country. I hope that this recognition assists the Warren County Prevention Partnership in getting its message heard by all Americans.

Again, I congratulate the members of the Warren County Prevention Partnership on their remarkable feat of representing Kentucky in the past

three inaugurations. I hope that its accomplishments inspire others to work for a drug-free America. •

TRIBUTE TO MARLENE ELLIOTT BROWN

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I honor Marlene Elliott Brown, who was appointed in 2001 by former President George W. Bush as the Delaware/Maryland Director for USDA Rural Development where she oversaw housing, business, water and waste loan programs, community facilities and grant programs for my State of Delaware and neighboring Maryland.

My staff and I have had the great privilege of working with her on rural development projects including economic development, housing and the provision of critical public utilities throughout rural Delaware.

She started her remarkable career in politics in 1982 when she served as State director for my predecessor, Senator Bill Roth. While Senator Roth was known for his many accomplishments on the national level, in Delaware, he was best known for providing outstanding constituent services. No one was more responsible for building and sustaining this high level of service than Marlene. Striving to meet this standard has been one of my highest priorities as a U.S. Senator and a great challenge for my staff because Marlene set the bar so high. She truly represents the highest level of excellence in public service. More importantly, Marlene has the heart of a public servant which is a rare quality but one that is sorely needed in the world today.

First and foremost, Marlene was a proud southern Delawarean. She grew up on a family farm near Laurel, DE, graduated as valedictorian of her class at Laurel High School, and subsequently graduated from Delaware Technical and Community College and Salisbury University with a major in business administration. In addition to her public service, she has been, and remains, very active in her church and community, having served as past president of the Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary Club, former vice chairman of the Republican State Committee, a past Honorary Wing Commander at the Dover Air Force Base, a member of the Laurel Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Delmarva Christian High School, and a member of the Delaware Tech Educational Foundation Council.

She has also received numerous awards, including Outstanding Young Women of America in 1982, Delaware Young Careerist for Delaware Business and Professional Women in 1985, and the first recipient of the William Roth Outstanding Achievement Award in 2004, just to name a few.

I have had the great pleasure of working with Marlene Elliott Brown for many years and joined her frequently to announce USDA funding for projects throughout southern Dela-

ware. Her hard work and dedication to the betterment of rural communities has helped enrich the lives of many Delawareans. Marlene's vibrant spirit is unwavering and her fervent commitment to public service reflects the desire of an individual devoted to making a difference. She is truly a generous and caring friend who has provided inspiration to many. While representing the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Delaware and Maryland, Marlene somehow found time to help train not one but two people who have served as my county directors in Sussex County. For that, I will always be grateful.

Marlene and her husband still live on a family farm near Laurel where she grew up, and I know that her family, community and our state are very proud of her accomplishments. I want to personally thank Marlene's family for their willingness to share her with all of us. Marlene is quite simply a very good person with a great heart, and I wish her well on the next stage of her noteworthy career. •

REMEMBERING AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, Orangeburg, SC, has lost one of its finest citizens with the passing of 94-year-old Austin Cunningham. Mr. Cunningham led a most distinguished life and his contributions to the people and community will be greatly missed.

During his life, Mr. Cunningham was a soldier, businessman, community leader, writer, lawyer and citizen of the year. His hometown newspaper, the Orangeburg Times and Democrat, summed up his life—Mr. Cunningham was, "the definition of a Renaissance man."

If there was a business or civic endeavor that would improve the life of his town and community, Mr. Cunningham was involved. From putting in new street lights to tackling the war on drugs on the streets of Orangeburg, Mr. Cunningham was proof that one person could make a difference.

Mr. Cunningham played an instrumental role in helping young, underprivileged, at-risk teenagers find employment and learn the value of hard work. In 1984, he was invited to the White House to meet with President Reagan who thanked him for participating in this program.

He was also a patron of the arts who supported and encouraged the choir at South Carolina State University, one of our Nation's foremost historically Black universities. The university awarded him its Distinguished Service Award in 1995.

Orangeburg, SC, has lost a fine citizen, friend, and community leader with the passing of Austin Cunningham. His life work deserves recognition on the contributions he made to his fellow citizens.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and citizens of Orangeburg,

SC, on the passing of Austin Cunningham.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMIL SABA

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Jamil Saba, who served as the sheriff of Dougherty County, GA, for more than two decades until he retired in December 2008.

Sheriff Saba was born and raised in Albany, GA, which is located in Dougherty County. He remained there, serving his community proudly. Jamil served his country in the U.S. Army from 1960 through 1962 and began his career in law enforcement in April of 1970 as a deputy Sheriff with the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office. He was later promoted to chief investigator in 1972, the job he held for more than a decade until he won election and became sheriff in 1985.

As a true leader, Sheriff Saba has served as president of the Georgia Sheriff's Association and president of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, as well as on the Georgia Sheriffs' Retirement Board of Directors. He was a board member of the Georgia Public Safety Committee, the Dougherty County Child Abuse Protocol Committee, the Child Death Investigations Protocol Committee, Sexual Assault Protocol Committee, and many others.

His service efforts and accomplishments at the local level are plentiful as well. Jamil was the chairman of the advisory board for the Albany-Dougherty Drug Unit and is a charter member of the Albany Sports Hall of Fame.

Jamil worked tirelessly for Daugherty County as sheriff and plans to continue serving a cause that touched him the most deeply, the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Foundation Board. I want to recognize and thank his wife Donna Jaye Adams and their son, Jim, and daughter, Lauren, for making the sheriff's job easier and sharing him with the community. I hope you all find joy in the coming years together during Jamil's retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY L. LANCASTER

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Jerry L. Lancaster, who served as the sheriff of Pulaski County, GA, for 28 years and retired on December 31, 2008.

Jerry was born and raised in Hawkinsville, GA, which is located in Pulaski County. He remained there in order to serve his community proudly for many years. Jerry worked with the Georgia State Patrol for nearly 10 years before being elected sheriff in 1980. As sheriff, he strived to live out the values he was taught as a child—hard work, fairness, honesty, respect, and discipline. His gifts to the community have been immeasurable. The level of respect the community has for him is evidenced in the fact that he is

the longest serving sheriff in the history of the county and was never defeated in an election.

Jerry not only worked tirelessly for Pulaski County as sheriff, but he also gave of his time through his service on the Board of the Georgia Sheriff's Boys' Ranch. He gives credit to his wife Nell Goss Lancaster for her unfailing support, and I honor and thank her, their two children and three grandchildren for making Jerry's job easier and sharing him with the community. I hope you all find joy in the coming years together during Jerry's retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO GARY L. LEMONDS

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate SSG Gary Lemonds, a lifelong citizen of Walton County, real estate broker, and decorated Vietnam veteran who passed away on January 8, 2009.

Gary Lemonds served with Company F, 75th Ranger Regiment in Cu Chi, Vietnam, and was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on August 25, 1994, at a ceremony in Fort Benning, GA. His induction was based on his involvement in a conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Lemonds served as a team leader during an ambush patrol maneuver on April 9 and April 10, 1969. When an enemy force launched a massive attack, Sergeant Lemonds led his men in an assault on the enemy emplacements. He single-handedly charged a bunker and destroyed it with grenades, then, sighting another fortification, he crawled through fierce enemy fire and silenced it with his rifle. After eliminating the hostile entrenchment system, he continued his patrol mission. On April 10, 1969, his patrol was attacked a second time. From his patrol position in a bomb crater, he called in artillery and air support on the large enemy element. When withdrawing his troops to a nearby landing zone for evacuation, he came under sniper fire from two North Vietnamese soldiers, whom he quickly eliminated with a grenade. Intense enemy fire thwarted the extraction aircraft's first landing attempt, so he directed a gun ship on the enemy location and effected a successful extraction.

His extraordinary heroism earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts as well as numerous other awards and medals. He also continued to honor other service men and women well after his tour in Vietnam through his involvement with the Patriot Guard Riders.

Gary is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Kimberly Lemonds and Jennifer and Jason Needham; his mother Dorothy Lemonds; sister and brother-in-law Glenda and Tom Lewis; grandchildren Jessica Lemonds, John Cwiek, and Pressley Needham, and a niece and nephew. Along with Gary, I

would like to recognize his family today and thank them for sharing their beloved family member with our proud Nation.●

REMEMBERING JOHN A. BAKER

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to praise a citizen from my State who recently passed away. In December John A. Baker who was loved and respected by those who knew and worked with him lost his battle with pancreatic cancer.

John A. Baker is survived by his wife Judy of 42 years, son Jesse M. Baker Sr., daughter Leslie Cummings, grandchildren Maria Graham, April Blakemore, Jesse M. Baker Jr., great grandson Joseph, mother-in-law Lenora Moore, sister-in-law Susan Wooden, nephews Jim and Mark Wooden, great niece Marina Lenora Wooden, brother-in-law Charles Moore, nephews Richard, Ryan, Mathew, and Kyle Moore. John is also survived by sister Lena Susort, brother Cecil Baker, nieces Lavonne Ruggles, Mary Beth Dagit, Barbara Collins and nephew Frank Baker, and several great, great great nieces and nephews.

John A. Baker was like many Alaskans. He was born in Iowa in 1937 and graduated from Everett High School in Everett, Washington in 1949 before finding his way to our great State. I have to tell you, what was Washington and Iowa's loss, was Alaska's gain.

John found his way to Alaska after serving in the U.S. Army in Australia during the Korean conflict. Upon coming to Alaska he first worked in Ketchikan where he was employed by Ketchikan Soda Works. He also flew part time for Weber Air and worked at Ellis Airlines as a mechanic in the landing gear section where he met and later partnered with Chuck Traylor.

He and Chuck Traylor formed a floatplane operation, Stikine Air Service, out of Wrangell in 1962. John held both an airframe and power plant mechanic license and was one of our Alaskan bush pilots. After selling his interest in the Stikine Air Service he moved to Juneau to work for Channel Flying Service.

John met Judy Moore Churchill in 1964, they were married on March 11, 1966, and moved to Juneau. After 3 years John and Judy returned to Wrangell where John worked at Wrangell's first television station. In conjunction with John's position at the TV station Judy opened Forget-Me-Not Florist, which provided many, many flower arrangements that went to the grand opening of the brand new saw mill office and other businesses in town.

Always the entrepreneurs and getting tired of never being able to purchase milk at the end of the week, John and Judy rented a small building from C.V. Hendersen and began a home milk delivery and small "cash and carry" market. As things changed John, along with wife, Judy entered