

If she drives the same 135 miles in our '02 Pontiac Bonneville that gets 22 mpg, she will burn 6.1 gallons of regular unleaded at 4.099/gallon for \$25.01 (18.5 cents a mile.) So every time she fills the scooter, she saves \$14.14 in fuel cost at present prices. Savings numbers on my "bike" are slightly less, but comparable since it gets 46 mpg. My fill up for 135 miles is 2.9 gallons (same grade) for \$12.59, about half of what it costs to drive. And a little publicized fact is that motorcycles contribute a lot less to air pollution, besides being fun to ride, and easier to park.

Like a lot of other comments I have seen on the subject, I also think we should be drilling oil in ANWR as well as our own oil fields in Texas (where production numbers are managed by the Texas Railroad Commission), Oklahoma, California and off-shore to reduce our dependence on foreign oil from countries that do not have our best interests at heart.

We definitely need to build more nuclear power plants, more refineries to balance supply with demand, and proceed with coal conversion, wind energy, and solar power. I know that hydrogen powered cars only emit water, but hydrogen is so highly explosive, I think it will be a tough sell and will take decades to develop an infrastructure for those daring souls willing to participate. A scary thought is what effect the presence of such cars will have on the safety of other travelers.

Respectfully,

GENE HEIKKOLA, *Meridian*.

Today's energy prices and the rate of incline are far exceeding the rate of pay for many jobs in our area (Idaho Falls). As young adults just starting a family, it is depressing to think about the future and not know if I am going to be able to provide for my family.

If we are waiting for a rainy day to tap into our domestic oil sources, that time is now! With all of the advancement in technology hopefully our reliance on fossil fuel is going to diminish so why not use them now. Our economy needs it; if less money is spent on filling vehicles people could travel and spend money to boost the economy.

Thanks.

JARED.

Thank you for your concern and for taking action on our behalf on the high costs of energy and its effects on the average Idaho family. In your email you mention that the average Idaho family spends \$200 per month on gasoline. I feel that that is way too conservative of an estimate. My wife and I spend are now spending \$600 per month on just gasoline. I drive a Honda Accord and my wife drives a minivan, neither of which are horrible gas guzzling SUVs. This is putting a real strain on our budget and we are having to cut back in other areas to compensate for the high cost of fuel. We believe that as a nation we should become energy independent. We both support offshore drilling, drilling in the ANWR, processing oil shale in the Rocky Mountain states, nuclear energy, along with all other forms of energy production. We need to clear the way of lawsuits by declaring a national emergency, of which this is. We cannot continue to be the light of freedom to the world if we are dependent upon the countries that are trying to stomp that light out for our very existence. Thank you for concern in this matter.

FRED and KAMALA FREE, *Idaho Falls*.

The inability of our government to work together has reached a point it is killing our country. When one party tries to advance an idea the other kills it because it does not fit just right with their program. I have never seen the likes of it. I am a registered and a

dyed-in-the-wool Republican but have been having these crazy thoughts that I should vote for a Democrat for President so at least there would be a majority in Congress with a President to go along with it. Crazy thoughts but I am sick of the gridlock.

We are retired and have spent a lifetime getting ready so we could travel and see the country and enjoy these last years of our life. All of the sudden we cannot even hardly drive any longer and we find ourselves not being able to make ends meet at the end of the month. As prices keep going up we will find ourselves in trouble as our income is fixed.

We should be drilling for oil everywhere it is. Why we have blocked drilling all over the country and allowed ourselves to become hostages to OPEC, I will never be able to understand. We are a free society but oil is so critical to our well being there needs to be some oversight on this business to make sure they are refining to capacity and drilling everywhere. We should not be importing one barrel of oil. The way it is now, the oil companies hold down refining to keep the prices up.

Also we should be building nuclear power plants now for the future. Why we stopped building them I do not know....

Good luck. Please get with your Democrat partners and work something out....anything is better than nothing.

VAL MEIKLE.

Thank you for taking enough interest in the issue of high gas prices to ask Idahoans. Personally, though it is a hit on the budget and will change the amount of time our fifth wheel spends in storage rather than on the road, the high prices are more of a nuisance than a threat. For that my wife and I are blessed. The bigger issue for me and for the many other Idahoans that I talk to is that we, the little people, understand how to fix the problem and apparently our government does not or will not. We need to immediately start drilling where we know there are oil reserves (Alaska, North Dakota/Montana, off shore) and begin construction of new refineries as the drilling progresses. Also, begin the immediate construction of nuclear power plants to eliminate natural gas fired plants so that those resources can be diverted to other uses. We should begin work on oil shale research and development. Lastly, continue to encourage the development of economically feasible alternatives for our next generation of automobiles but let's not abandon what we already have. I had two ten-year-olds staying at our house last night and as we watched the 10:00 p.m. news they made comments that made it clear to me that they understood that government was the biggest obstacle to solving our current 'energy crisis' (so called). Congress needs to shed the bonds they voluntarily accepted from the environmental crowd and do what is right for our country.

DON and GAE BURTON, *Meridian*.

I own a small landscape design and build firm in Boise. The skyrocketing fuel costs are a big hit to my little company. At the prices today, I am spending nearly \$3,000 a month on fuel for four trucks and some small equipment. That is a cost to my company of \$150 per day. It is hard to pass on all the higher expenses and still be competitive in the marketplace so the net effect is a hardship to my bottom line. This year my fuel costs will be more than 50 percent of my salary.

What is our energy policy? Why do we allow other nations to drill off our coast lines only to ship the oil away from our shores and sell it back to us at high prices? When are we going to free ourselves from the

Middle East and other nations such as Venezuela whom have such a hatred of America? Showing the rest of the world that we are serious about our own energy independence will have an immediate impact on the current price we pay at the pump.

We need to develop a dual approach. We need to open up drilling in ANWR and other areas around our country. We need to work towards weaning ourselves off of foreign oil and gain American oil independence.

At the same time we need to work on alternative forms of energy and collectively, government and private industry will be able to solve this crisis.

How about a little focus on our own energy independence and let's start taking care of ourselves, stop all the back biting political posturing and come together as Americans for the good of the nation and our long term survival as the greatest nation on God's Green Earth.

Thanks for listening.

DAVE, *Boise*.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JOSHUA M. TILLERY

Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. President, I rise today to honor a brave Oregonian who tragically lost his life last Monday in Kirkuk, Iraq. CWO Joshua M. Tillery, was a pilot with the 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. Chief Warrant Officer Tillery was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq at the time of his death.

Joshua Tillery was a recipient of the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal for Combat Service, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, the Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Air Assault Badge, the Army Aviator Badge, the Combat Action Badge, and the Parachutist Badge for his courageous service to our country.

Chief Warrant Officer Tillery represents the most selfless and most honorable of men in our country. His friends and family recall how he was to serve his country and how he always wanted to do whatever he could to help people. Joshua loved to fly and was on his way to becoming a flight safety officer. Like so many Oregonians, he enjoyed outdoor activities, and particularly loved snowboarding and riding dirt bikes. He was 31 years old when he passed, a devoted husband, and father of three young boys with another baby on the way.

I offer my prayers and condolences to his family and friends. Oregon has lost one of its bravest and brightest young men, and I know I join all Oregonians in honoring the legacy of Joshua Tillery.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SYBIL MOSES

• Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Sybil Moses, a

judge and pioneer who for 21 years brought to New Jersey her commitment to the rule of law and passion for the administration of justice. Sybil passed away on January 23, 2009, and is survived by her husband of 48 years, her son, her daughter, and her five beautiful grandchildren. She will be sorely missed by her family and by my home State of New Jersey.

Sybil opened up new opportunities for women by virtue of her hard work, and she created a path that many will follow in the future. After proving herself as a prosecutor and a judge, Sybil was appointed the State's first female assignment judge in 1997. Sybil understood not only the law, but also the needs of residents who came in contact with the court. While serving at the courthouse, for example, she created a free day care center, so that anyone attending a court matter could bring their child with them, rather than having to make other arrangements. Sybil served as an assignment judge until her retirement in October. Even retirement, however, could not stop Sybil, who accepted two Supreme Court committee assignments so that she could continue her work improving New Jersey's judiciary system.

Sybil attended Rutgers Law School in the early 1970s after the birth of her two children. Women were a rarity on campus, and she became part of a group of women who called themselves "The Band of Mothers." Throughout her life, Sybil exhibited an unwavering strength and commitment to succeed, no matter the circumstances.

New Jersey was blessed to have such an enthusiastic, dedicated civil servant administering the rule of law for the past 21 years. Sybil blazed a path that made it easier for women everywhere to accomplish their goals. For that, she will be missed and will serve as a role model for future generations.●

HONORING GENEST CONCRETE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, our Nation witnessed history when Barack Obama was sworn in as President of the United States. I am proud to say that the Sanford High School marching band, from my home State of Maine, was able to participate in the remarkable parade following the inauguration. This would not have been possible without the generosity of many individuals and businesses across southern Maine. I rise today to recognize one of the companies that made a significant donation toward the band's trip, Genest Concrete.

A family-owned small business manufacturing architectural, landscaping and masonry products, Genest Concrete was founded over 70 years ago by Hermangilde Genest. The company started simple, producing hand-pressed concrete blocks with materials mined from Mr. Genest's gravel pit. Over the years, four generations of the Genest family have continually strived to make their company more innovative

and cutting edge, eventually becoming one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of masonry products in New England. Headquartered in Sanford, Genest also has locations in Biddeford and Windham, with authorized dealers throughout northern New England and Massachusetts.

Genest Concrete provides landscape contractors, homeowners, masons, architects and engineers with dozens of durable and superior concrete and masonry products. From stormwater brick to a variety of paving and wall stones, Genest has all the essential tools for producing unique driveways, patios, paths, and freestanding and retaining walls.

More than just a company, Genest is like a family. In fact, it recently launched an inventive effort designed to keep its staff and their families healthy. Performed in coordination with the Worksite Stars of York County program at Goodall Hospital, Genest brings nurses to the company to perform staff health risk assessments. These assessments allow the company to target physical activity and nutritional assistance to their employees. So far, an astounding 90 percent of employees have participated. And as part of the next phase, Genest plans to hold an on-site physical activity program this spring. All employees that complete the 12-week course will be given an additional vacation day. This is on top of the partial reimbursement the firm already offers toward gym memberships. Genest also hopes to make financial wellness and other classes available to its employees later this year.

In addition to helping sponsor the Sanford marching band's trip, Genest has made many other generous contributions to the community throughout the years. In 2001, Genest provided materials for David Hopkins to build a skate park in South Berwick as his Eagle Scout project. In 2006, the company donated concrete to Habitat for Humanity in York County for its Blitz Build, when the group constructed a new house in Shapleigh. Genest Concrete also actively sponsors the Sanford Mainers, part of the New England Collegiate Baseball League, as well as teams in the Sanford-Springvale Youth Athletic Association basketball league. And among many other efforts, Genest serves as part of the Maine Children's Alliance Business Advisory Group, as well as supports Day One, an initiative aimed at reducing substance abuse by Maine youth.

While rising to the top of its field, Genest has never forgotten the community that helped it get there. Its consistent and dedicated endeavors to serve the community have not gone unnoticed. Thank you to everyone at Genest Concrete for all of your philanthropic efforts, and best wishes for your continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:15 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 549. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office for Bombing Prevention, to address terrorist explosive threats, and for other purposes.

H.R. 553. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to prevent the over-classification of homeland security and other information and to promote the sharing of unclassified homeland security and other information, and for other purposes.

H.R. 559. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an appeal and redress process for individuals wrongly delayed or prohibited from boarding a flight, or denied a right, benefit, or privilege, and for other purposes.

H.R. 748. An act to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety.

The message also announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. HINCHEY of New York, Mr. HILL of Indiana, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland, Mr. SNYDER of Arkansas, Mr. PAUL of Texas, Mr. BURGESS of Texas, and Mr. CAMPBELL of California.

At 1:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2. An act to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 4:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 352. An act to postpone the DTV transition date.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 8002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Committee on Ways and Means designated the following Members of the House of Representatives to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation: Mr. RANGEL of New York, Mr. STARK of California, Mr.