

my budget to do something that I love to do—volunteer. I have volunteered with Family Services Alliance of Southeast Idaho for a year, but as the price of gas got over 3\$ a gallon, I had to stop. One part of the job is to be able to drive to homes of victims of domestic violence when the police ask for an advocate. The best way to help a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence is to empower them by showing them that they are not just victims, they are survivors. But to do this, you need to go where they are and intervene immediately. It requires taking a car. While it pains me to have to cut this out of my activities, I have already cut back in other ways and it was a hard decision to make.

DIANA, Pocatello.

I have been a small business owner, (one that pays taxes and one of the thousands of small businesses that support this country) for over thirty-five years. I am amazed and deeply troubled by the political chaos in our country and the energy crisis that is bankrupting this country. Our raw materials have raised three or four fold over the last few years and the energy situation is driving many small businesses out of business. I see the effects trickling down to food and other essentials. Many families are in deep trouble and I see it becoming drastic if something is not done in a short period of time. I do not mean in a few years. If Congress does not take steps immediately to put a stop to this runaway disaster, America will never recover and we will never have a quality of life again in America.

I hate to seem gloomy but I see business and families everyday that are panicked. When we let OPEC and other foreign governments support the so-called "Greenies" and other environmental groups in America to the extent that we cannot take care of our own needs here at home, then we of all people are to be pitied. America is rich with raw materials and coal and oil. It is completely insane to let governments that hate us hold us hostage. My fourteen-year-old grandson has more sense than that. Oil companies are getting filthy rich while the American People are suffering. If there is going to be anything left for our children and grandchildren, then we better quit worrying about the owl or the snail and start worrying about our children and grandchildren. I do not know one American that I associate with that does not care about the environment and wildlife etc. But it is ridiculous for us to govern ourselves into non-existence.

I urge you to take a stand against this corruption and turn us back to common sense. I am very concerned and I vote.

DANNY.

I am a 63-year-old woman who is disabled. I am on SSI when I get a cost of living raise, my rent goes up and eats it up. So for me this is really rough; I run out of money before the month is out. The cost of food has doubled mostly and it goes on and on. thank you.

JUDITH.

High gasoline prices are really putting a damper on our monthly budget. My wife and I are in our 50's and we do not have a high income. I am partially disabled and working for low wages. We do not feel that we are going to be able to drive much longer. We have parked one of our cars. In my driving of over 30 years, we have seen the 1973 oil embargo and so called shortage and many other price hikes. But this is beyond comprehension. I am not one for government control but in this case I feel that the government must take over the oil. Otherwise it is going to put a huge damper on the economy. We

have only seen the beginning. OPEC has held America hostage with these prices.

LARRY.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DEBRA BROWN STEINBERG

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I commend Debra Brown Steinberg, an extraordinary woman who I have had the honor of working with for the last few years.

Debra has been a tireless fighter for the families of 9/11 victims. While continuing to work fulltime as a partner at the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, Debra spearheaded her firm's pro bono efforts to assist the families left behind.

The cases she handled were complicated, involving myriad issues. Many families faced social service, financial and immigration complications. Rather than addressing simply the legal aspects of each case, Debra worked to connect organizations, agencies, and policies to tackle cases in their entirety.

In May of 2002, New York State passed the September 11 Victims and Families Relief Act, large portions of which Debra helped draft. She also contributed to the Federal September 11th Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, which was introduced by Senator LAUTENBERG in the 110th Congress.

Debra's outstanding work has already been recognized by numerous current and former Members of Congress, Presidential candidates, authors, activists, religious leaders, the New York State Bar Association, and many distinguished publications. She has received the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom and commendations from the New York City Fire Department and Chief of Police. No one, however, can better speak to Debra's service than the families themselves. In a thank-you note, a sister of one of the victims wrote:

[Debra] held us, offered her shoulder, and made us feel that it is still worthwhile to continue this passage. Thank God for this Angel.

For the last 7 years, Debra Steinberg has fought for justice for a group of people forgotten in the shadows of this terrible tragedy. She has given selflessly of her time and expertise to help those in need and is an example to others and a credit to our country. I am proud to call her my friend. •

TRIBUTE TO STELLA MAY BROWN WEACO

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, all of us in Massachusetts who knew her or knew of her were saddened to learn of the death of Stella May Brown Weaco at Massachusetts General Hospital on New Year's Eve.

Stella was born in Mississippi, but she called Boston her home for the last

26 years of her life and she became a legend in our city. She lived on the streets, but her plight never deterred her gentle spirit. She found a home and a family in the volunteers and the fellow guests at the Women's Lunch Place, the famed daytime shelter in the city for poor and homeless women. She went there every day after the shelter opened in 1982, and she became a familiar face and beloved friend to many other members of the community.

Stella had an amazingly positive impact on every person she met. She is very fondly remembered as very grateful, very amicable, and very kind. Year after year, the Women's Lunch Place tried to persuade her to accept housing, but her indomitable spirit led her to decline such assistance. Finally, when the pressures of daily living on the streets became unbearable even for Stella, she graciously accepted the help of those around her and spent the last 2 years on her life in the Pine Street Inn.

Even then, Stella unfailingly came back to the Women's Lunch Place as often as she could, to seek out the familiar faces and friendships she cherished so much there. Sadly, Stella passed away on New Year's Eve, in the company of those who loved her for the joy she had given to their lives. In many ways, Stella exemplified the power and the spirit of giving and the extraordinary importance of human kindness. She'll be deeply missed, but the impact she had on all who knew her is immeasurable, and the lessons she taught will never be forgotten.

Mr. President, I ask that the obituary of Stella written by Women's Lunch Place Executive Director Sharon Reilly and an eloquent column about Stella by Rachel Cohen in the Boston Herald may be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

STELLA TAUGHT US ALL ABOUT GRACE, DIGNITY

(By Rachel Cohen, Jan. 5, 2009)

We lost Stella on New Year's Eve.

Even as the city prepared to usher out this year that nearly everyone agrees they couldn't wait to see end, this woman who had little and complained little died in the company of those who cared about her and for her.

For at least a quarter of a century Stella lived on the streets. And we only know that much because she was there when the Women's Lunch Place, a daytime shelter for poor and homeless women, first opened its doors 26 years ago.

For all those years she'd come for breakfast, a shower, to do her laundry, maybe take a nap and stay through lunch. For all those Thanksgivings and Christmases she had found a warm, accepting place.

She was there when I reported for my first stint as a volunteer, by then Stella was an undemanding kind of queen bee—occupying her favorite spot against the wall in the dining room. She was engaging and gracious, accepting a pancake with butter and syrup as if it were a special gift.

Stella became the ultimate challenge for Lunch Place staff over the years. The confusion that reigned in her head—which often

made her insist she was descended from royalty or needed to return to her real home in Jerusalem—also made her refuse any kind of housing.

For more than two decades this tugging and pulling continued. As one former staffer put it, “she broke your heart” when she left the shelter at its 2:30 p.m. closing time, heading out into bruising heat in the summer, into the cold and the snow on wintry days. Housing—temporary or permanent—wasn’t for her, nor was the medication that might have allowed her to see the world differently.

But her decades on the streets began to take their toll on Stella. And, frankly she was no match for the Lunch Place staffers who were tireless in their devotion and relentless in their efforts to make whatever time remained for Stella safe and comfortable.

So for the last two years of her life Stella had a roof over her head and a place to call home.

And at the end of her days she had what so many others with so much more in material wealth would envy. She had at her bedside people who loved her. They loved her—we all loved her—for the simplest of reasons. She returned our affection and our kindness tenfold. She taught us that grace and dignity aren’t a function of wealth or power. And at the beginning of a new year she reminded us—even in death—that being poor or homeless or mentally ill doesn’t rob you of that grace or that dignity. That comes from within. Stella taught us that.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:38 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 35. An act to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records.

H.R. 36. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 35. An act to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as

the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 36. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 22. A bill to designate certain land components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 181. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and to modify the operation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice that is unlawful under such Acts occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes.

S. 182. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-251. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Farm Program Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility for 2009 and Subsequent Crop, Program, or Fiscal Years” (RIN0560-AH85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-252. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Proliferation Security Initiative; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-253. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department’s competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-254. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report and Recommendations Pursuant to Section 133 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008: Study on Mark-To-Market Accounting”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-255. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-256. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-257. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Matching Requirement in McKinney-Vento Act Programs” (RIN2506-AC24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-258. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Financial Education Programs That Include the Provision of Bank Products and Services” (RIN3064-AD28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-259. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Deposit Insurance Requirements After Certain Conversions; Definition of ‘Corporate Reorganization’; Optional Conversions (‘Oakar Transactions’); Additional Grounds for Disapproval of Changes in Control; and Disclosure of Certain Supervisory Information” (RIN3064-AD25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-260. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Assessment Dividends” (RIN3064-AD27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-261. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Actions Taken on Office of Inspector General Recommendations”; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-262. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of Restricted Areas 4806W, 4807A&B, and 4809; Nevada” ((Docket No. FAA-2008-1252)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AWP-12)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-263. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of Class E Airspace; Ketchikan, AK” ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0998)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-29)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-264. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule