

\$200 to \$250 per month for fuel. We have family that live 600 miles + away and we can hardly afford to go see them. A trip to Reno costs over \$300 so we have to limit our trips to visit because it is too expensive. Our recreation has been limited, too. We have a cabin that is in the mountains east of where we live about 40 miles away but, because of fuel costs, we do not go there as often. Fuel costs are also driving the cost of everything we buy. Where is it all going to stop?

I think that we need to become less dependent on oil from overseas and do more work on developing our own resources. We need to work on alternative methods for powering the automobile. Charge higher fuel prices in the areas they have mass transportation available. Do not hammer the work force with all the high costs.

ORIN.

High energy prices are affecting my ability to provide resources for living for my family. I am a disabled veteran and on a fixed income, which prevents me from offsetting the costs of oil. We have had to make significant changes in the way we buy food, travel to the store and how much gas we use for cooking and heating, often times being stuck with a \$500 gas bill for a few gallons. The American people are smart. They know that Congress is scrambling to hide the real issue. That issue being, that they are no longer looking out for the best interests of the American people.

Though I am grateful that you and others in Idaho are finally trying to change things, this should have never been a problem in the first place. We have one of the world's largest resources of coal. We have very significant amount of oil on the coasts and within the continental United States. Still, you all bend to the wishes of eco-terrorists like Al Gore and that fraud agency EPA.

Drill now! Here! Kick China and other countries off of our coast lines. What were you thinking!! Letting other countries drill on our soil and coasts while forbidding and banning our own companies from doing it. That is obviously an attack on our sovereignty.

Please sir, get Congress back on track, and let them know we are on to them. For Idaho, For the United States of America! Please allow refineries. Allow drilling. Allow coal. Allow more nuke plants! Now please, stop wasting your time with email and written answers. Action is worth a thousand words!

ADAM.

[We] converted [our] pick-up truck to all electric. Why does not Congress give tax breaks to people who drive alternative vehicles?

In our home, we are conserving energy by making our house more energy-efficient. Why is not Congress enacting legislation to reward homeowners for replacing windows, furnaces, appliances with more energy efficient ones?

Rather than expand domestic oil supplies (off shore and in Alaska), why does not Congress raise the CAFE and heavily tax people who drive gas guzzlers for pleasure (not business)? Congress should be enacting meaningful legislation to curb consumption before jumping to open up off shore resources and ANWR.

I think Congress should be embarrassed for talking about opening up domestic oil resources when they just defeated a windfall profit tax on oil companies. Higher prices at the pumps, record profits, a Congress who cannot do the right things to curb consumption and encourage conservation/alternative resources, a Congress who caters to the oil companies at the expense of the environment and the non-rich.

Come on, Senator Crapo—please vote, sponsor, support a government “of, by, and for the people”.

MICHAEL.

We still pay less than European countries. What I think is a total same is the fact that the Treasure Valley still does not have a decent bus system. When I was in Olympia, Washington (pop of 20,000) during the 1960s that had a better bus system that included other cities than we have now. Think of the energy savings possible if the bus system was easy and accessible for all of the residents.

MICHAEL.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EMMA JEAN GUYN MILLER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to memorialize one of Kentucky's most cherished citizens, Mrs. Emma Jean Guyn Miller. Unfortunately, Mrs. Miller passed away at the age of 107. However, her life story should serve as an inspiration for people in central Kentucky and around the entire United States.

Mrs. Miller was born in Woodford County on September 29, 1901, and moved with her family to Nicholasville in 1902. Since she was young Mrs. Miller knew that she wanted to gain an education and better her community. However, since Kentucky schools were still segregated during this time period, Mrs. Miller could only attend the Nicholasville Colored School, that only served students through the eighth grade. This situation did not stop Mrs. Miller. Her mother, making only \$4.50 a week, and her local church saved enough money to send Mrs. Miller to Russell High School in Lexington where she graduated in 1920.

After graduating from high school she attended Turner Normal School in Shelbyville, TN, and earned her teaching certificate. She then returned to Nicholasville and began a teaching career that lasted over 40 years. Mrs. Miller began her career teaching in a one room schoolhouse and did not retire until segregated schools were ended in Nicholasville. Her students remembered Mrs. Miller as a kind but strict teacher who always had their best interest at heart.

In 1940 she married William Miller, and although they did not have any children, the Millers opened their home to numerous young people in the community who needed a place to stay. She also continued to be active in Bethel AME Church, now Bethel Methodist Church, and was a member for over 80 years. This church was the same congregation that helped pay for her education at Russell High School.

Mrs. Miller's life story should serve as an inspiration to every American. Her uniquely American story should give us hope that we can make a difference in our local communities and change the world one person at a time. •

HONORING DANCEBLUE

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of Kentucky's DanceBlue student organization and 24-hour dance marathon. This organization operates through the support and leadership of UK students, faculty, and staff as well as the Lexington community. The organization improves the lives of children and families suffering from childhood cancer through the Golden Matrix Fund, and helps serve the Bluegrass by assisting those treated at the University of Kentucky Pediatric Oncology Clinic. In just 4 years of operation, the DanceBlue organization has raised over \$1 million towards research in childhood cancer. I would like to take this time to recognize the student leadership behind DanceBlue: Erin Priddy, Caitlin Mullen, Betsy Cooper, Joshua Rupp, Carson Massler, Townsend Miller, Colin Wheeler, and Tyler Bolin.

Erin Priddy is a senior from Louisville, KY, and is the DanceBlue overall chair for this year. She is the fourth individual to preside over DanceBlue operations. Erin has spent many of her days and nights planning this year-long fundraising process which builds up the actual dance marathon, as well as being a full time student. The success of this organization would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of Erin.

Caitlin Mullen is the vice chair for the DanceBlue organization and is also in her senior year at the University of Kentucky. Caitlin's hard work this entire year on the budget for the organization, as well as maintaining the organization's committees and keeping them together are a value to the entire university.

Betsy Cooper is a senior from Paducah, KY, and is the dance marathon programming chair. Betsy's role with DanceBlue involves planning, organizing, and orchestrating the entire 24-hour period of which the Dance Marathon consists including overseeing 650 student dancers that will dance for 24-hours.

Joshua Rupp is a senior from Louisville, KY, and is involved with many organizations on campus. His role with DanceBlue is the rules, regulations and operations chair. He is in charge of the logistics for the dance marathon which took place this past weekend. Josh's influence and presence on the University of Kentucky is a benefit to the school and the community.

Carson Massler is a senior from Louisville, KY, and graduate of Sacred Heart Academy. Her role with DanceBlue is the family relations chair. Her position is vital to the organization since she serves as a liaison between the UK Pediatric Oncology Clinic and Golden Matrix Fund families and DanceBlue. The partnerships she has created serve as a sign of hope that this organization will continue to flourish for many more years.

Townsend Miller is a senior from Lexington, KY, and is the corporate relations chair. Townsend's role with DanceBlue this year involves maintaining relationships with corporate sponsors of DanceBlue, and he is the representative of DanceBlue to local and national businesses.

Colin Wheeler is from Bowling Green, KY, and serves as the marketing chair for DanceBlue. Colin's work on public relations, press releases, press kits and promotional materials is one of the main reasons why the organization and 24-hour dance marathon is such a big success.

Tyler Bolin is a senior from Owensboro, KY, and serves as the special events chair. Tyler has worked hard throughout the entire year planning events that help build up to the dance marathon. His hard work and motivation are truly an inspiration to all who meet him.

I am grateful that these students serve the people of the Commonwealth. I am confident that the children, families, and students whose lives they touch are all thankful for the opportunity to know them. The money that is raised through DanceBlue helps patients receive better care while improving the lives of children and their families suffering from childhood cancer. The funds are also going directly to pediatric cancer research initiatives that are helping to find a cure.

Mr. President, I would like to thank these individuals for their contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the University of Kentucky, and the Lexington community. I wish them well in all their future endeavors.●

HONORING NEW ENGLAND CASTINGS, LLC

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, the manufacturing sector of our Nation's economy is facing incredible hardships that are only amplified by the global economic downturn. In fact, Maine's manufacturing industry has shed an alarming 23,600 jobs in the past 10 years, which represents nearly 30 percent of the State's manufacturing employment. Despite these challenges, some manufacturers, like New England Castings, the company I rise today to recognize, have been able to adapt, expand, and succeed.

Founded in 1985, New England Castings is an investment casting foundry located in the western Maine town of Hiram. Considered the most ancient form of metal casting, investment casting allows the firm to specialize in producing specific castings that many conventional shops often find too difficult or intricate to fill. New England Castings prides itself on the timely creation of prototypes for customers to review, allowing it to produce customers' orders in a shorter timeframe. The firm was certified as a historically underutilized business zone, or HUBZone, business in 2002, allowing it access to a wide variety of Federal contracting op-

portunities. The HUBZone program, managed by the Small Business Administration, assists small firms in rural and disadvantaged areas in attracting contracts to benefit their businesses and grow their companies.

Castings, which are the solidified materials made after pouring a liquid into a mold, have a number of practical uses, and New England Castings' work is easily suited to supply a number of diverse industries. From medical and dental instruments to gas turbine components, New England Castings' products run the gamut from small to large, slim to heavy. For instance, New England Castings can provide sturdy turbine powered tank combustor cover assemblies for Abrams M1 tanks, or more delicate window latches or sconces for architects seeking to beautify their buildings. The company's more innovative pieces can be seen at Carnegie Hall in New York City and the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.

Although times are difficult for most small businesses, manufacturers have been hit particularly hard by a confluence of challenges, including foreign competition, finding skilled workers, and rising energy costs. But to remain competitive, New England Castings had to transform the way it operated, and followed through by improving its practices and becoming a leaner company with increased productivity.

Seeking to secure a major contract to supply components to a railroad hardware manufacturer, New England Castings' president and owner, Walter Butler, decided that his company needed to become more efficient to earn the contract. After working with the Maine manufacturing extension partnership, MEP, a public-private partnership that assists small and medium manufacturers, New England Castings was able to double its sales, maximize the productivity of its workspace, and add 13 new employees.

As cochair of the Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, it is heartening to see small manufacturers like New England Castings utilize the tremendous resources that the MEP has to offer, and I am certain that the company will continue to benefit for years to come from the training and advice it has received. I congratulate Walter Butler and everyone at New England Castings for their dedication to creating quality products, and extend my best wishes for a productive and successful year.●

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.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED ON MARCH 15, 1995, WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—PM 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2009.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from the actions and policies of the Government of Iran that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 11, 2009.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1105. An act making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

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

At 2:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the