

Sakai and Ervin Romans, and injuring a third, before he was shot and killed.

In the days and weeks ahead, we will have important debates about the problems with our justice system that allowed a violent offender to be on the streets in clear violation of his parole. And we will debate the issue of powerful weapons in the hands of dangerous criminals.

As these debates move forward, I will work to give our law enforcement officers more support and more resources to adequately protect our communities and protect themselves.

Now I want to pay tribute to these four fallen officers.

Sergeant Mark Dunakin, age 40, was an 18-year veteran of Oakland PD. He was no stranger to violent crime, having worked homicide cases in the criminal investigation division. But he later transferred to the motorcycle traffic division where his days focused on patrolling our streets on his beloved Harley Davidson, cracking down on drunk drivers and trying to always enforce our State's seatbelt laws. Sergeant Dunakin is survived by his wife Angela Schwab and their three children.

Officer John Hege, age 41, had been with the Oakland PD for 10 years and had only recently started his dream assignment of becoming part of the motorcycle traffic division. Respected by his colleagues and well liked by his neighbors, Officer Hege was often known to lend a helping hand, and even found time to umpire high school baseball in his free time. After being gunned down this weekend, Officer Hege was declared brain dead. And true to the heroism he exhibited in his life, his organs are being donated to help save other lives. Officer Hege is survived by his father and his beloved dog.

Sergeant Ervin Romans, age 43, had been with the Oakland PD since 1996. As a member of the elite SWAT team, Romans was in charge of entering the most dangerous situations to confront and arrest barricaded suspects. Known as just "Erv" to his friends and colleagues, he was among a group of officers awarded the department's prestigious Medal of Valor in 1999 for helping to evacuate residents during a fire. His captain, Ed Tracey said he "had an exterior image of being the tough, rugged guy, but everyone knows he has a soft heart." Sergeant Romans is survived by his three children.

Sergeant Daniel Sakai, age 35, had recently been named a leader of the entry SWAT team, and was known to all as a rising star. Before joining the SWAT team, Sergeant Sakai worked in the K-9 division, responding to calls with his dog, Doc. He studied forestry at UC Berkeley, where he was a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. He also worked as a community service officer at Berkeley, escorting students around campus at night. He is survived by his wife Jennifer, a UC Berkeley police officer, and their daughter.

My thoughts and prayers are with the families, friends, and colleagues of these fallen officers in this tragic time.

We must come together to support those suffering, and in the coming days we must come together, firmly resolved to end the violence that has for too long eaten away at the fabric of our communities.●

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 well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose 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:

I certainly feel the impact of huge and unpredictable increases in all the necessities: gas/fuel, household energy costs, food, clothing, travel, etc. All of these have risen rather dramatically, sort of like dominoes. I am spending a lot more for a lot less. As I am deciding not to go do something or go buy something, I think of all the merchants and businesses that will, if they are not already, suffer from this (all of us not going places, and buying so much less). I have almost totally quit eating out. Movies are out of the question. I have greatly cut down on my driving. I will just not visit places that I do not absolutely have to (and, truth be told, there are not really that many places one absolutely has to go). I go to the closest grocery store, as they are all expensive. I go to the closest gas station. There is no public transportation between my place of work and my home, which is a real hardship. In fact, our bus service is not bad in Boise, but it is cumbersome and limited. I find this to be a problem. I will not be doing the traveling and vacationing this year that I usually do. I will not be able to visit family members that do not live in Boise. This is not good for business, or morale and attitude (mine). Because I have much less disposable income now, my charitable donations will be, and already are, less. It is so expensive to drive to any of the organizations where I like to help out ("volunteering") that it has had to be cut out. Driving to attend the civic and fun groups that I am a member of and the activities that I like to participate in is now too costly to continue attending. Shopping? Out of the question, with the exceptions listed above. By the way, did you know that the average fuel usage in Ford's (last, I believe)

cars—in his day—was 25 mpg. Do you know what it is in this country today? 21 mpg. We all know that this is ridiculous. Clearly, the only entity that benefits from this is fuel companies, and automakers that have not had to retool their factories for decades. And even with that "savings", they're hurting, too, now.

My suggestions, wishes, and hopes?

More public transportation, more types of public transportation, more coverage, more frequent times that public transport goes by, at a minimal cost to riders. And we could use the money that we would save on highways to fund it! Trains are wonderful, both for passengers and goods.

Laws that insist that all parts of the automobile industry quickly get cars ready for market that are lighter, safer, and much more fuel efficient; that include speedily implementing the roll-out of vehicles (all vehicles, including commercial and military) that some of them are already developing, that are outstanding in design and are environmentally responsible. I should say, that are already in development, although perhaps not by the mainstream auto makers. The use of fossil fuels should be seriously lessened. Oil and gas companies should pay their rightful taxes, and should not be subsidized. New "green" fuel sources should be subsidized at the rate that oil and gas companies currently are, and should get breaks on their taxes for the early years. These should include, but be not limited to: wind, solar, geothermal; and research into new, unknown possible energy sources (with low environmental impact) should also be encouraged with subsidies and whatever helps, within limits. And the whole "alternate fuel" scenario should have some honesty, reality, and integrity infused into it. Specifically: ethanol is in no way environmentally responsible or viable. It is just a give-away for the corporate farm industry. Nuclear fission energy should be banned. There is no way to ensure safe use now, or of the spent fuel in the future, and it misuses precious water resources. I am okay with working towards trying to make nuclear fusion work.

No new drilling—anywhere! Americans can come up with better ideas—let us go back to that "good old American ingenuity and know-how." We used to be on the cutting edge for creativity, inventiveness, and new ideas—and the development of them. Let us "Be The Best We Can Be."

And, lastly, and strongly related to the energy problems we are experiencing: land and soil should be nourished and protected. It should be used in an honest and responsible way. That means, for example, that corn should actually have nutritional value, should have lowered sugar levels, not continue to be genetically and artificially altered so as to be useless for actually providing nutrition for people, because it is nothing but sugar that makes the creation of corn syrup, which is destroying the health of our kids, among other unhealthy products, easy and cheap to produce for greedy and/or corporate "farmers." The land should be cherished, not over-used, misused, and abused. It should be mindfully used to produce food for people—good, nourishing, healthy food to nourish healthy children, mothers, and all of us.

The health, safety, and financial benefits of changing our practices and policies are so extensive that it would take too much space to enumerate here. We could be at the world leaders of industry, development, inventiveness, and productivity if we, as a country, were willing to look at things in a fresh way, rather than stubbornly clutching at "doing things the same old way."

We are supposed to be conservatives—let us actually practice conserving.

SUSAN.

Our family of 5 spends more than \$500 a month now on gasoline (for 3 vehicles—our 3 kids can all drive now), not to mention the higher food prices that are a result of higher fuel costs to truckers and the foolish ethanol policy of the government. We are needing to work additional jobs just to try to make basic ends meet and avoid going deep into debt. If prices go up further, we will still be going into debt just to cover the basics of food, clothing, transportation and shelter.

We are an average family (financially we make about 60,000 a year from 3 jobs between all of us, with 2 now in college—1 just starting, but living at home), but face above average costs when compared to the averages mentioned in the media and by politicians. For example, Barack Obama makes light of a temporary lifting of the gas tax, saying it would be 30 cents a day. We would be at least twice that much, and many truckers would save even more if diesel tax was lifted. And we are an average family, so I do not believe his numbers for a minute.

We cannot afford to buy an expensive high gas mileage small car to offset the higher gas prices. We must continue to nurse along our two more than 10-year old vehicles that get 19 miles per gallon. Most poor and lower-middle class are in the same situation as us. The upper middle-class and wealthy may be able to handle it to some better degree, although I am not a participant in class envy and they should be considered too. But it is interesting how the [liberals] claim to care about the poor and middle class, yet their do-nothing policy on energy contradicts their claims.

If they think taxing oil companies and redistributing the tax to poor and middle class with rebate checks will solve the problem, they are wrong. The tax will be passed on in ever-higher gas prices and/or the oil companies could limit production to stay just below the windfall tax threshold, thus causing shortages and even higher prices. It did not work when Jimmy Carter tried it, and tweaking it a little to allow oil companies to trade the tax for alternative energy production would likely not help much, in my opinion. We need to get the price down, not give each person a small piece of the large wealth redistribution that helps them for only a few months.

The government needs to remove the restrictions and regulations that hinder progress in tapping our domestic energy sources of all types. Many claim that tapping into our domestic oil and natural gas resources would not do any good for many years. They are wrong. And even if they were right, do you avoid planting a tree just because you will not get a full crop of fruit or sufficient shade for several years? This "tree" of increased domestic oil supply should have been planted over 10 years ago.

But here is why they are wrong: if speculators are part of the cause of increased oil prices whenever there is something in the Mideast that brings concern about possible reduced supply, then they would logically be part of the cause of reduced oil prices if they received good news that our government was finally serious about allowing increased domestic supply. There would be an almost immediate drop in oil prices which would soon show lower prices at the pump. On top of that, the foreign nations that have control over us now would not want to see us quit buying from them in the future, so they would likely increase production to try to get us to not increase our production. Increasing their production would cause an additional price decrease within a short amount of time.

Increasing our domestic drilling and exploration would create additional jobs, as oil companies would hire people to do the addi-

tional exploration and drilling. And additional revenues would be created for the states that participated, by leasing land, taxes paid through the additional employment, etc. This would help our national economy as well, as it became a positive ripple effect.

Increasing other types of energy sources, such as wind, solar, coal, shale, nuclear, natural gas, etc. are all good. Even ethanol is good where it can be produced regionally and help regionally without being forced on us at a certain level by the government, causing a shortage of corn and higher food prices.

A final thought: we need fewer lawsuits by environmentalists, which bog things down way too long. We need to reform the laws to keep them from preventing us from solving this problem. If the government okays further drilling, etc, but allows the radical environmentalists to bring up lawsuit after lawsuit, we'll still be in trouble. Allow a basic environmental process to ensure we are doing this in a reasonable manner, and then have them get out of the way so we can start making use of our resources.

Thanks for allowing me to give my input.
DAVID, Boise.

I am a 15-year Idaho resident, and I commute about 55 miles a day to work. The cost of gasoline/diesel is having a profound effect on the local economy—not to mention my own finances. Idaho, and most other inland states, are feeling the effects directly in higher prices across the board. I know several small business owners, in different markets, who have related to me the disastrous impact this is having on them. I cannot stress enough that we need to increase the supply side of this equation. But, of course, everyone in Washington knows this and the situation is being exploited by those on the left to increase dependence on government.

It is obvious to me that the liberals in Congress see high fuel prices as vehicle to provide them greater control over the lives of the citizens of the United States. The more low income people have to spend on fuel, the more likely they are to require government support in other areas of their lives. This is intended to cement the liberal base as permanent government serfs with no choice in for whom they vote. Ultimately, this is an attack on our liberty from within that, if left unchecked, will result in less freedom, and more and bigger government.

There are a number of facets to this problem: environmental regulation, government regulation, and political demagoguery that is unparalleled in our history. The oil companies are not the problem. Most people I know realize this and are fed up with environmental bullshit reasons for not exploring for more oil. The notion that there is a shortage of oil or, that we are running out of oil, is simply not born out by the facts. But facts do not matter when there is an agenda. As Goebels said, the bigger the lie, the easier it is to sell.

I would love to discuss this at length with you, but I am losing faith in the process. However, I appreciate that you are fighting the good fight. Please keep it up.

MIKE.

I am not sure if I have any faith in our Congress changing anything but I feel some satisfaction with at least voicing my thoughts and if I may say so my feelings about these soaring energy costs.

Yes, the soaring energy costs have had a huge impact on me. I am a single woman working as a Physical Therapist Assistant. I live 30 miles from my place of employment. I own horses so I own a pick-up truck. Up until recently I only drove my truck. It was not great on fuel economy, but as a person

with only one income, a house payment, a vehicle payment, plus other bills. It was not feasible to buy another vehicle. As a single woman that is not mechanically inclined (nor do I have the time), I need vehicles that are safe and reliable. Well, now, I have a small vehicle. So now I have two vehicle payments, plus full coverage insurance on two vehicles, plus a house payment, plus fuel, plus all the other costs to get buy! Fuel for my truck, just to go back and forth to work for one week was costing me between \$80 & 100 reg. gas, the "cheap" stuff! That is not counting doing anything on the weekends, or any "extra" driving. That is simply working 4-5 days a week. I usually work (4) 10s and sometimes a few extra hours on day 5. So yes, now my grocery bill has been reduced, my credit cards are being used more, and it scares the hell out of me!

My home energy bill also nearly doubled. I have not doubled my use. I am away from home most of the time. I rarely watch television, except to turn the news on from 4:30 A.M. to 6 A.M. when I am getting ready for work. I turn my computer on for a few minutes several days a week. I go to bed early so my lights are not even on much, yet my power bill doubled! No, I do not use much air conditioning either! I have a small house less than 1100 square feet. I have had it for sale for over a year and I have not been able to sell it. I replaced the roof last summer. The windows could stand to be replaced, yet I cannot afford to replace those old aluminum windows with vinyl.

Oh, I know most people would say to give up my animals and move to town, but then what is all of this about? What pray tell am I working for? My animals bring me joy and peace from a crazy world. I have raised/owned Arabian horses since 1985, and I have owned horses in general most of my 50 years. So the thought of going to work just to pay taxes, lay on a couch and watch TV after work and on weekends does not sound like much of a life to me. So if we cannot have a few things that bring us joy and comfort why are we working?

Yes, the out-of-control energy costs is slowly wiping all of "working" people out. If everything is taken away and all that is left is work, who wants to live that life? Think about it! Better yet, maybe those [who enjoy privileges and expensive lifestyles] should come live with us that really have to work and live on a budget. Let us take away those expense accounts and all the other freebies! Do you know how many people think like me? There are a lot.

Thank you for giving me the time to get this off my chest.

JUDY, Wendell.

I do not wish to join the whining masses about how energy prices have affected us all. Instead, I wish that Congress would act to pass a national energy policy that would encompass all areas of energy development. We did not win World War II by building only ships or tanks or airplanes, etc. We conquered the global threat at that time by building all assets necessary to win and developed new technologies for the future. The liberals' bumper sticker mantra that we cannot drill our way out of this mess refuses to acknowledge that the way out of this "mess" is to get out of our "boxes" and look at the wider picture. Back in the 1970s, I learned that C-ration California peanut butter burned right out of the can whereas Georgia stuff would not. Why limit our research to corn, chicken parts, et.al. as potential fuels? We should not keep subsidizing our farmers to not plant if corn and other foods/fuels are now in such demand. We obviously need greater oil production and refining capacity as a significant part of overcoming those

forces in OPEC that continue to enslave us to their output. We should work on developing Hydrogen fuel cell technology and put real delivery ability on the ground because who is going to buy a car he cannot refuel? We absolutely must develop nuclear reactor improvements and capacity which is being developed right now in Idaho. Limit individual financial incentives for energy savings because their cost savings should be incentive enough and any rewards beyond that are too open to fraudulent claims and wasting taxpayer money. Congress is too good at wasting our money already. Buying "conservation credits" like Al Gore does for his estate is a sham for the wealthy. It is akin to buying indulgences centuries ago that was the final "straw" that began Martin Luther's Reformation. The [conservatives] in Congress lazily missed an opportunity to make a worthwhile energy policy that "thinks outside the box" in the last several years and, I fear, that if the [liberals] win control of either house in November that we are doomed to suffer the consequences laid out over a thousand years ago by a Greek philosopher that all democracies are doomed to failure that as the people vote more liberties and indulgences to themselves their governments will be more unable to pay for them and they will lapse into anarchy. I believe we are in the third of his four stages right now.

I hope this has not been too boring or offensive. We, as a nation, must act to avoid an energy demand catastrophe, and our Congress is that body that our forefathers have ordained as the ones to do that task. I appreciate your time if you have really read this, BILL, Idaho Falls.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jane Brannen and Adam Horn from Woodford County High School, Versailles, KY, for receiving the Achievement Award in writing. This year only 525 students around the country were recipients of this award.

The Achievement Award in writing is given to students who show excellence in English and writing. To be eligible for the award, students must submit a previously written paper and then be invited to participate in a timed essay.

Jane Brannen and Adam Horn both have shown great analytical and writing skills in their submitted papers. I am impressed by the excellence these two students have displayed, and I am confident that they will have success in greater challenges in the future.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Jane Brannen and Adam Horn for their contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO KYLE DARPEL

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kyle Darpel from Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills, KY, for receiving the Achievement Award in writing. This year only 525 students around the country were recipients of this award.

The Achievement Award in writing is given to students who show excellence in English and writing. To be eligible for the award, students must submit a previously written paper and then be invited to participate in a timed essay.

Kyle Darpel has shown great analytical and writing skills in his submitted paper. I am impressed by the excellence Kyle has displayed, and I am confident that he will have success in greater challenges in the future.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Kyle Darpel for his contribution to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and wish him the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO J. MARI LYNN THOMPSON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating J. Mari Lynn Thompson from Sacred Heart Academy, Louisville, KY, for receiving the Achievement Award in writing. This year only 525 students around the country were recipients of this award.

The Achievement Award in writing is given to students who show excellence in English and writing. To be eligible for the award, students must submit a previously written paper and then be invited to participate in a timed essay.

J. Mari Lynn Thompson has shown great analytical and writing skills in her submitted paper. I am impressed by the excellence she has displayed, and I am confident that she will have success in greater challenges in the future.

Mr. President, I would like to thank J. Mari Lynn Thompson for her contribution to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER G. CAINE

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Christopher G. Caine, who will be leaving International Business Machines, IBM, Corporation after 25 years.

For the past 13 years, Chris has served as IBM's vice president for governmental programs. At this position, Chris has had responsibility for all global public policy issues that impact the IBM Corporation. He represented IBM at a number of policy and economic forums that addressed critical issues in the emerging global economy, including the 2004 National Intelligence Council Conference convened by the Center for Strategic and International Studies; the 2003 World Knowledge Forum in Seoul, Korea; the 2003 World Economic Forum; and events put on by the Shanghai International Forum and the Congressional Black Caucus.

Before taking his current position, Chris served as IBM's director of Human Resources and Environmental Policy, where he worked on a variety of domestic policy issues including health-care reform, labor, personnel,

health and safety, environment, and energy. Prior to that, he worked in a variety of government relations capacities for IBM as well as Coca Cola, the Eaton Corporation, and the Electronic Industries Association.

In addition to his professional success, Chris has taken the time to use his skills and expertise for public service. He currently serves on the State Department's Advisory Committees on International Economic Policy and International Communication and Information Policy, where he shares his expertise on global economic issues with our country's top foreign policymakers. He was appointed by then-Governor MARK WARNER to the Virginia Information Technology Investment Board, which works to provide the Commonwealth's government with information technology that will improve efficiency, safeguard important information, and enable the government to better serve the public. He also serves on the advisory boards of the Global Strategy Institute, Ford's Theatre, the Constitution Project, and Brainfood.

Last year, Chris established the Caine's Scholar Award for Global Leadership, Business and Policy at Lafayette College, where he earned his bachelor's degree. This award provides recipients, who are enrolled in Lafayette's policy studies program, a stipend for a summer internship experience. Chris has stated that he created this award with the hope that it will help develop a new generation of leaders that have an appreciation for public policy and business in a global environment.

Looking forward, Chris plans to start his own professional service firm, which will help its clients engage and succeed in our increasingly global economy. If Chris can provide his new clients with the same level of service he gave to IBM and his previous employers, I am confident that his new venture will be a resounding success.

I offer my congratulations and sincere best wishes to Christopher Caine, his wife Betsy, and their two children as he prepares for this exciting new phase in his life.●

REMEMBERING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT PAUL WESLEY AIREY

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, on March 11, 2009, our Nation lost a true American hero, the Air Force's first chief master sergeant, Paul Wesley Airey.

During his 27 years of service, Chief Airey served during both World War II and Korea and earned numerous awards and decorations: the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the POW medal, and the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster.

During World War II, Chief Airey served as an aerial gunner on B-24 bombers and became a prisoner of war from July 1944 to May 1945.