

rural area of Salmon. Public transportation is not an option. Most home sites are within a 10-mile radius of town; however, public trails and non-motorized travel is not an option either. Our family is suffering from the increase in energy costs to the degree that we have had to alter an already modest lifestyle. We live in an area where pickups and SUVs are a way of life. We use our truck to mend fences, irrigate, transport lumber and haul equipment. We have reduced the insurance on this vehicle to liability and only drive it now when we have to. We have purchased a small 1989 "beater" car that gets 25 mpg to travel to town. We would purchase a more economical vehicle if we could, in particular, one that utilizes hybrid technology. However, our family cannot afford a \$30,000 vehicle; this is a "luxury" afforded to the wealthier classes.

On visiting Sun Valley recently, we saw a beautiful trail system, a bus system and pedestrians/bikes everywhere. Their community is unique in Idaho. They have the economic foundation to provide alternatives to their citizens that lessen the burden. It is not safe to travel on bike or scooter along US Hwy 93 and 28 into the town of Salmon. Our populous is too small to support a bus system. We would like to see more support for the development of alternative transportation, in particular, non-motorized travel such as a beltway that would connect the rural outskirts to the center of town. As Salmon grows, we are also seeing more children traveling along these narrow and inadequate strips of highway. We would also be providing a safe means for them to access community services such as the library and swimming pool.

Many of us are already car pooling and we have limited our trips to town as much as possible. Please help us find other means to lessen the burden of living in rural Idaho.

MICHELLE, *Salmon*.

I have been riding a bike to work this is great; however, I am financially strapped to the point where I will not spend any money for anything other than food, gas. We are not traveling; our kids are not entering into sports. We are staying close to home. I am only buying gold and silver for retirement because I suspect Congress and the Senate will never fix the problem of inflation. If the situation worsens, I will become another bankruptcy casualty.

1. Remove the Federal reserve or get us on a two tiered gold standard and a path back to financial responsibility.

2. Bring our troops home no foreign spending on anything but American-A nationalistic view.

3. Incentives for companies to return to America.

4. Drill, drill, drill, blue collar workers state we are being lied to about the amount of oil off of Alaska.

STEVEN, *Nampa*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING CURT MENARD

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special resident of my home State of Alaska, Curt Menard.

Mayor Curt Menard passed away March 3, 2009, after a long battle with myeloma.

Mayor Menard was the embodiment of a true Alaskan. Honorably serving in our Nation's Air Force took him to our State where he left his mark. Curt and

his wife Linda purchased one of the original homesteads in the Matanuska-Susitna—Mat-Su—valley and Curt became one of the first dentists in the area. He devoted his life to the people of the Mat-Su, and for that we are all grateful to this remarkable man.

On behalf of his family and his many friends, I ask today we honor Curt Menard's memory. I ask that his obituary, published March 5, 2009, in the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman, be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman, Mar. 3, 2009]

Curtis Delbert Menard, 64, died March 3 at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, from complications of multiple myeloma.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Wasilla High School with Pastor Larry Kroon of Wasilla Bible Church officiating. The following are pallbearers: Curtis C. Menard, Larry, Sgt. Maj. Ret. Ritchie, Nancy, Jim, Gabrielle, Tanner, Harrison, Sullivan, Brock, Grant, Jack, Alexandra, Jane and Charles Menard, and Lewis Bradley. Burial will take place later in the spring at the Menard homestead.

Dr. Menard was born June 16, 1944, in Detroit. He graduated from L'Anse High School in 1962, received his undergraduate degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., and graduated from Marquette University School of Dentistry Class of 1968.

He had served with Habitat for Humanity, The Alaska Railroad Board, American Legion, Salvation Army Board, and as chairman of the Multi-Use Sports Complex, and was a member of Wasilla Bible Church. He was an honorary member of the Wasilla Rotary Club, was the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and the Frontiersman Mat-Su Dentist of the year. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, flying, marathons, farming, coaching, politics, and well wishing.

His family wrote, "Curt Menard was raised in L'Anse, Mich., born to June and Curtis Menard. At 15 years old he met the love of his life, Linda. Linda and Curt moved to Milwaukee, to pursue his life-long dream of becoming a dentist. In 1968 he graduated as class president from Marquette University School of Dentistry. He joined the United States Air Force and was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. He worked exclusively with Vietnam soldiers in preparation for the war. During that time he learned to fly and there his love affair with planes commenced. He flew a 206, Supercub, Citabria and a PA 14. In 1972 he purchased one of the original homesteads in the Mat-Su Valley and built the first professional building and dental office in Wasilla. He especially loved his dental contract in the village of Togiak. Three years later Curt lost his dominant right arm in an electrical accident. With unsurpassed determination, Curt learned to practice dentistry with his left hand. Sen. Curt Menard's public service began as a school board member. Encouraged by his experience, he ran for office and became a state legislator. By this time, he had two thriving dental offices, Palmer and Wasilla Dental Center, 33 employees, five children, and was a respected community leader and politician. He had a love for farming and not only baled 55 acres of hay every summer, but enjoyed cows, chickens, turkeys, homing pigeons, pigs, horses, a cat and many dogs. In 2001, tragedy again struck the family. Curt's son, Dr. Curtis C. Menard II passed away in a plane crash.

"Curt was diagnosed in 2003 with multiple myeloma, an aggressive and painful cancer

of the bone. In 2006, in true Curt fashion, he took on the task of running and being elected Mat-Su Borough Mayor. In 2007 he went through a stem cell transplant at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. In a selfless manner he put his community before himself and carried out his mayoral responsibilities until the very end. And if you met 'Doc' today, his hook would not be the first thing you would notice. You'd see the twinkle in his eye, feel his zest for life and compassion for his fellow man, share his love of his countryside and then, maybe, you'd notice the hook. But by then you'd be so hooked on the man, it wouldn't matter."

Survivors are his wife Linda of Wasilla; sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Gretchen Menard of Milwaukee, Steven Menard of Wasilla, Dr. Dirk and Alicia Menard of Fairbanks; daughter and son-in-law, McKenzy and Jared Boyd of Milwaukee; daughter-in-law, Dr. Carole Menard of Wasilla; grandchildren, Brock, Grant, Jack, Alexandra, Gabrielle, Tanner, Harrison, Sullivan, Jane, and Charles; father, Curtis C. Menard of L'Anse, Mich.; brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry and Virgie Menard of L'Anse, Sgt. Maj. Ret. Ritchie and Maj. Ret. Joyce Menard of L'Anse, and Jim Menard of Nome; and sister, Nancy Menard of Germantown, Wis. He was preceded in death by his mother, June Menard; and son, Curtis C. Menard II.●

REMEMBERING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the life of a great American, John Hope Franklin, who died last week at the age of 94. Dr. Franklin was a witness, participant and documentarian of the struggle of African Americans for civil rights and the fight to have this country fulfill its promise to become a more perfect union for all of its citizens.

Dr. Franklin once said, "I want to be out there on the firing line, helping, directing or doing something to try to make this a better world, a better place to live." In his life, Dr. Franklin did just that through his work with W. E. B. Du Bois, his efforts on Brown v Board of Education with Thurgood Marshall and by marching from Selma to Montgomery with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. How wonderful that this great fighter for civil rights was able to witness the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States.

As a historian and a teacher, Dr. Franklin enriched this Nation by educating us all about race issues. He began his teaching career in 1936 at Fisk and continued teaching over the next six decades, at schools such as Howard University, the University of Chicago, Cambridge University in England, Harvard, Cornell, the University of California Berkeley, Duke, and other institutions. He had a passion for teaching, and I was fortunate enough to sit in on Dr. Franklin's classes at Brooklyn College in the 1960s. Having him there was like having a real star in our midst, and students who were lucky enough to get into his class bragged about him from morning until night.

Dr. Franklin was the author of nearly 20 books, beginning with "The Free

Negro in North Carolina, 1790-1860," which explored slaveholders' hatred and fear of the quarter-million free blacks in the antebellum South. His 1947 "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans," remains a classic and one of the most definitive explorations of the American Black experience. Dr. Franklin once said, "One might argue that the historian is the conscience of the nation, if honesty and consistency are factors that nurture the conscience." While many of these studies may have been of the past, they inevitably shed light on the struggles we continue to face as a nation.

Dr. Franklin led a life of firsts, and President Clinton awarded him the Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, in 1995 for his life's work. Today, I honor his life and ask that all Americans join me in remembering this truly great visionary who never stopped working for change.●

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ARKANSAS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, tomorrow, April 1, 2009, four Arkansas universities—Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello—will celebrate 100 years of commitment to higher education. On their centennial anniversary, I want to recognize the enormous contributions these institutions have made to Arkansas and our Nation.

In 1909, during the 37th session of the Arkansas General Assembly, Representative J.J. Bellamy of Lawrence County introduced Act 100, a bill to create four agricultural schools in Arkansas, one for each quadrant. The locations of the schools were to be chosen based upon "the nature of the soil, healthfulness of location, general desirability, and other material inducements offered, such as the donation of buildings, land or money." The legislation was signed on April 1, 1909, by Governor George Donaghey.

The four agriculture schools were to teach agriculture, horticulture, and textile making. Although they were secondary schools in their early days, these schools added additional curriculum to better serve their communities and soon were offering junior college classes. In 1925, the state legislature changed the names of the schools to better reflect their new role and the unique status of each school.

The former First District Agricultural School is known today as Arkansas State University. A farm just east of Jonesboro was selected as the location for the school. With enrollment down due to World War I, the school obtained a Student Army Training Corps—SATC—on its campus. Since only junior colleges could participate in the SATC program, the school added faculty and improved its curriculum. It

soon became known as the First District Agriculture and Mechanical College; the school received accreditation as a 2-year junior college and conditional status as a 4-year institution in 1925.

In 1931, the A&M College awarded its first baccalaureate degree, and in 1933, the legislature once again changed the name to Arkansas State College—ASC. In fact, Arkansas's first female U.S. Senator, Hattie Caraway, was awarded the school's first honorary doctorate in recognition of her support. The university continued to grow over the decades, and on January 17, 1967, Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller signed legislation that gave the school its present-day name, Arkansas State University—ASU.

Today, the ASU system serves approximately 18,900 students and includes campuses at Beebe, Mountain Home, and Newport. It also includes degree centers in Heber Springs and Searcy as part of ASU-Beebe; a technical center in Marked Tree; and instructional sites in Paragould and at Little Rock Air Force Base.

On the occasion of the centennial, ASU Chancellor, Robert L. Potts, offered the following thoughts:

From our origins as an agricultural school serving the First District, we have matured into a comprehensive university offering 42 degrees through the doctoral level in 170 fields of study and ten colleges. Since 1909, we have prepared our students to meet the challenges of their lives by Powering Minds—providing a university experience that educates, enhances, and enriches. We look forward to this Centennial Celebration as a time to focus on our heritage and build upon our successes.

The former Second District Agricultural School is presently called Arkansas Tech University. The location of Russellville was chosen because the town agreed to pledge a minimum of \$40,000 and a site of not less than 200 acres. In addition, it offered free electricity and water for three years. In 1925, the state legislature changed the school's name to Arkansas Polytechnic College to accurately reflect its move away from an agriculture curriculum to teacher training and the liberal fine arts.

The school was officially accredited as a junior college in 1929 and remained a 2-year college until 1951. The school continued to grow and in 1976, it officially became Arkansas Tech University. It awarded its first graduate degrees 1 year later. Today, Arkansas Tech includes approximately 7,480 students at its Russellville and Ozark campuses.

After 100 years, Arkansas Tech Chancellor, Robert C. Brown, noted:

For the last one hundred years, Arkansas Tech University has educated students and prepared them for a successful future. Today, we are uniquely positioned to continue preparing our students for what lies ahead. Because of our commitment to educational excellence and our emphasis on teaching and learning, we are producing what the state and region need the most—college students ready to shape the future for the next one hundred years.

The Third District Agricultural School is now known as Southern Arkansas University. Local farmers in Columbia County ensured that Magnolia was chosen as the site for the school. It became officially known as Magnolia A&M in 1925 and was fully accredited in 1929 with an emphasis on agriculture and home economics.

In 1950, it became a 4-year institution and was renamed Southern State College—SSC—the following year. For 25 years, the school's enrollment and size increased, and in 1976 it was approved for university status. Renamed Southern Arkansas University, it is now a multicampus system with more than 5,000 students and locations in El Dorado and Camden.

For the 100-year celebration, Southern Arkansas University Chancellor F. David Rankin had this to say:

As the former Third District Agricultural School, Magnolia A&M, and Southern State College, Southern Arkansas University has served its region with a Tradition of Success since 1909. Although our name has changed, our commitment to higher education has not. SAU has roots that run deep in agriculture, but it has grown into a regional, comprehensive, four-year institution with a broad curriculum and a quickly expanding graduate school. As we begin our second century of service, we invite you to be a part of history as we pay tribute to our own.

The final school created by Act 100 was the Fourth District Agricultural School. Monticello was chosen as the site thanks to the donation of land by the William Turner Wells estate. A former plantation, it included 900 fruit trees, a house, and a pond. In 1923, junior college classes were added. It formally changed its name, as the other schools did, in 1925 and became known as the Fourth District Agricultural and Mechanical College. By 1928, it was fully accredited and became a 4-year institution in 1933.

In 1935, the school began unofficially calling itself Arkansas Agricultural & Mechanical College. It remained Arkansas A&M until 1971 when Governor Dale Bumpers signed legislation merging the school with the University of Arkansas. On July 19, 1971, the University of Arkansas at Monticello—UAM was established. Although it is the smallest school in the University of Arkansas system at nearly 3,000 students, the Monticello campus owns the most land of any UA school with 1,036 acres devoted to forestry research and instruction and 300 acres for agricultural teaching and research. In 2003, UAM added campuses and now includes the College of Technology at McGehee and the College of Technology at Crossett.

University of Arkansas at Monticello Chancellor, H. Jack Lassiter, said the following for the centennial celebration:

As we approach our 100th Anniversary, we are constantly reminded that we have always represented opportunity to generations of people seeking a higher education and a better life. That message resonates as clearly today as it did in 1909. Many of our students are the first in their families to attend college. Others are non-traditional students