

a modest retirement future. In retirement, one has to adjust your "wants" to what is really needed. When I retired, how could I have anticipated \$4.00+ a gallon for gas? Somehow, I felt my civic input over the years had placed the correct people in government to oversee the changing variables in life and make the proper adjustments needed to hold sure and steady on course!

Instead now we have intense partisanship, people voting for the good of the "party" instead of what is best for the country, self-interest and self aggrandizement with very little being accomplished—all upon the backs of the "people" who have put them in office. Gas is now a political football; drill here and now, against those who say whatever we can find here is not enough "a liberal party line," if all this is our future, I am sure glad I am 72 and have only a few years to see the further denigration of our political system and our way of life. My biggest regret is the mess my generation is leaving to our children and grandchildren.

LLOYD and CAROL.

You are asking Idahoans to write about gas prices? [Does that mean that you] do not know? I think [questions like that indicate that those in Congress may be out of touch with reality.]

[One of] your colleagues [suggested that] Americans to use alternative routes of transportation and that it is a good thing that gas prices force people to take the bus, ride Bikes, or walk to their destination because it helps reduce global warming. [But that suggestion fails to recognize reality]. I am a driver for a living. I deliver products right here in Boise. I have to drive I have no choice. I am also a salesman, and a night supervisor. I do not have the option of riding the bus! I cannot walk my deliveries or ride my bike with my products. I find it absolutely insulting [to have this lack of comprehension of real life displayed by our political leaders].

I have three jobs! Three jobs, and I am still having problems fueling up! I have had to open credit card accounts for the first time in my life! And my debt is still going up.

You would think with three jobs and three paychecks for one person, I would be doing well? I am not married, no kids! I would be starving with fuel prices if I had a family! I am just barely paying my bills on time as they are, to about \$1500 a month, not including gas prices!

Starting in 2005 till 2007 I did very well financially; I was saving up and putting money away in my savings account. I loved myself for putting money away. This month in June I had to take one-fourth of my life savings out of the bank to pay bills, including gas because the price skyrocketed from \$3 to \$4 a gallon in one month!

This is outrageous! I am [extremely angry at the political leaders who have failed to address this problem. And Congress carries most of the blame.] Congress has done this because [environmentalists have protected caribou in ANWR where we have lots of oil. I am dismayed that Congress displays more concern for the] caribou than they do for the economy! My jobs? My gas prices? My bills? My lifestyle? [Congress should be concerned more about the people it represents, not the animals.]

You will not allow drilling off shore? Well, did you know that China is drilling for oil off the coast of Florida? But we cannot? Why? This is outrageous!

Do not listen to those radical environmentalists. They were wrong about the second Ice Age in the 70s. When I was kid in school in the 1980s, my teachers told me by the year 1999 New York would be underwater and Los Angeles would be a bunch of Islands.

It has not happened. Of course, the Earth's temperature changes and jumps over time. The Earth's climate changes all the time; it has been since the Earth cooled and formed. The Earth's temperature does not stay the same all the time. There are so many scientists and people who disagree with [climate change theories].

UNSIGNED.

The area of Terreton, Mud Lake, Montevieu, and Hamer has no grocery store in any of the areas. We live approximately 45 miles from Idaho Falls, or Rexburg, whichever way we go. Either of these towns contains our nearest grocery store. Therefore, we have to drive 90 miles to get to a grocery store and home. Some people live as far as 19 miles farther north in Montevieu, so for them it is over a 125-mile trip to a grocery store and home. I am sure that none of our Senators or Congressmen can even fathom something like this. We do have an implement dealer and a great hardware store in our area but still, for some of the people it is a 20 mile drive to and from this store from the outskirts of Montevieu and Hamer.

We try to make our trips count when we grocery shop, but milk and fresh produce does not last as long as other items. So sometimes it becomes a 125 mile trip for just a few groceries. This makes groceries extra expensive when the trip itself costs \$20 plus just in gas costs. They have to realize, not everyone is in walking distance of all products and services.

Doctors, hospitals, clothing stores, entertainment, etc., are all the same distance. We either stay home or we drive 125 miles for about anything we need. The answer for us is not "just drive less". We have no choice, and this involves a lot of people.

KENT and SHELMA, *Terreton*.

I want to first of all thank you for all of your efforts to help us achieve energy independence. For the one priority of Congress to act upon for our country's energy policy, we need domestic oil, both drilling and more refining. This would stabilize both out economy, and national security, because it would make it so that we are not beholden to the whims of foreign governments, but you already know that, I just wish that some other members of Congress could understand that also.

As far as current fuel cost having an impact on my situation, let me share a few details with you. I own a small window cleaning business, that currently services from Idaho Falls up to Ashton and the Driggs area. We have been planning to expand our service area to include down to Pocatello and up to Island Park this year. But, because of fuel cost, we have had to put off expanding up to Island Park for now. This delay has not only affected me, but I have one other person working for me, and it has also affected him because he gets paid a percentage of any work done. We have been able to do some expanding into the Pocatello area, but it has not gone as fast as we had planned because of the fuel cost.

SCOT, *Teton*.

I just heard on the news that a couple of states are charging a surcharge to speeding tickets. This extra fee penalizes those who are speeding and using more fuel, endangering the lives of their fellow citizens. The money is used to augment the police departments who must pay more for fuel because of higher prices. These higher prices are causing problems with the budgets of the police departments. It is only fair that those who speed should pay to augment the police departments gasoline bill. Please use your influence to encourage the states to add this

surcharge to their speeding tickets and designate the money to the police departments gasoline bills.

We must do something about the high cost of gasoline. It will ruin our country and put millions out of work, as it has done already. The answer is not more supply the answer is to stop the greed of the American oil companies. Its just that simple. It is not right, it is criminal for the oil companies to make billions in profits while bankrupting the citizens of the USA.

Your web site says the average American will spend more than \$50 per month on gasoline than last year. [But] we are spending more then \$50 more per tankful than we did last year! I bought a Subaru that gets 30 MPH on the highway, and it cost over \$50 to fill the tank! The same amount I spend on my 350 V8 Chevrolet pick-up a year ago and it holds 30 gallons. I do not even drive my truck anymore.

CYNTHIA.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO STAN JONES

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I wish to honor Stan Jones, a man who has dedicated his professional life to improving the quality of education for countless students across Indiana.

Stan is Indiana's longtime commissioner of higher education and will unfortunately retire from our State's highest education post this month. Stan has led the Commission for Higher Education since 1995 and during his remarkable tenure was charged with planning and coordinating Indiana's State-supported postsecondary education system and giving students the ability to secure their personal futures.

Stan's commitment to education began in 1974, when, at the age of 24, he was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. As a member of both the House Education and State Budget Committees, he developed an expertise in higher education and higher education finance that would be enormously beneficial in the years ahead.

Between 1990 and 1995, Stan was one of my closest advisers when I had the privilege of serving as Indiana's Governor. He deserves credit as a primary architect of several landmark education-policy initiatives, including the 21st Century Scholars Program. This program promises at-risk middle school students full tuition scholarships to Indiana colleges and universities in return for being drug, alcohol and crime free and maintaining good grades. I am proud to say that this groundbreaking program was the first of its kind in the Nation to successfully graduate students and has increased the number of low-income students completing postsecondary education.

In his current role, Stan has led several initiatives to increase adult participation in higher education, including the development of the Community College of Indiana. He has also worked relentlessly to increase the number of students pursuing higher learning and

to improve their preparation through a focus on raising Indiana's K-12 academic standards. More recently, Stan has led a comprehensive campaign to significantly increase college graduation rates in Indiana.

On a personal note, I have known Stan Jones for nearly 25 years. I am personally grateful to have had the benefit of Stan's wisdom for all these years.

Throughout his public career, Stan has been a tireless advocate for moving educational policy issues to the forefront of Indiana's political agenda. On behalf of all Hoosiers, we thank Stan for a job well done, for his passion and commitment to education, and above all, for his service to the people of Indiana.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS L. CARTER

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding military leader, public servant, true patriot, and citizen of Charleston, SC: MG Thomas L. Carter.

General Carter is currently the Mobilization Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, and on May 1, after nearly 35 years of distinguished and honorable service, General Carter will retire from the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

General Carter began his active duty service in 1975 after graduating from the ROTC program at Memphis State University. As an Air Force C-141 pilot he flew over 4,000 hours performing missions in support of the U.S. Special Forces. He also had the distinction of serving as the Air Force Aide to President Ronald Reagan from 1984 to 1986, where he spent countless hours with the President "carrying the football" at the height of the Cold War. Following his active duty career, he served 23 years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

General Carter's public service also extends to the Senate. From 1986 to 1989 he served as Assistant to the Republican Leader for National Security Affairs in the Office of Senator Robert Dole. His keen understanding of the Senate made him the leader's chief adviser on defense, foreign policy and veterans' affairs matters, and also resulted in his selection as a key member of Senator Dole's 1996 Presidential campaign.

General Carter's legislative prowess was so respected, that he left the Senate to assume the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Senate Affairs in 1989. In that capacity, he counseled the Department of Defense leadership and individual service executives on issues before Congress.

For 13 years, General Carter also served in the Secretary of Air Force's Office of Legislative Liaison, advising numerous Secretaries on government affairs matters. He also trained countless Air Force officers in the ways of Washington, DC. His trademark was his commitment to providing each new assignee to the office with his "Hill

101" where military officers, and many times new congressional staff, would be given the secrets to success for navigating the legislative branch. Many of those he mentored have gone on to tremendous success in the public and private sector, due in large part to General Carter's tutelage.

In 2003, General Carter was named Assistant to the Chairman for Government Affairs during the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. He also served as a civilian in the Department of Defense as a member of the Senior Executive Service while Senior Counselor to the Coalition Provisional Authority—CPA—from 2003-2004. In that capacity, he led numerous congressional delegations through areas of ongoing combat operations including visits to Baghdad, Mosul, Tikrit and Fallujah.

The Nation will miss General Carter's congressional expertise, tireless advocacy for the Air Force, and unwavering commitment to public service. However, I know he will continue to serve his Nation wherever he goes. Tom is the proud father of Kathryn, 28, Will, 26, and Mary-Lee, 15. I am proud to speak on behalf of a grateful Nation in saying thank you to General Carter for his years of service and sacrifice.

I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing him well in all his future endeavors and hope that those who follow in his footsteps will continue his legacy of selfless dedication to our great Nation. Good luck and Godspeed.●

135TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I honor the School Sisters of St. Francis which will be celebrating 135 years of service in Milwaukee on April 24, 2009. I want to share with my colleagues a bit of background on the Sisters and call attention to the pivotal role they play in Milwaukee's faith community.

The School Sisters of St. Francis was founded in 1874 in Wisconsin by three courageous women Emma Franziska, Mother Alexia; Paulina Schmid, Mother Alfons; and Helena Seiter, Sister Clara. A year prior, these women left Germany and came to the United States to fulfill their dream of founding a Franciscan religious order.

Their central mission was to help their fellow immigrants and address the need for service within the Church. Their dedication to helping others has culminated in a network of Sisters who always strive to respond to the times they are in, and to the needs of the people whose lives are affected by their inspiring work.

Today that spirit lives on with Sisters, associates, staff, and volunteers in India, Europe, Latin America and the United States. The Sisters continually demonstrate their compassion for others and have often been recognized for their pioneering spirit and innovation in education, health care, pastoral

ministry, and the arts. Their outstanding work promotes human dignity, justice, and outreach to the poor. It is with great pride that the people of Wisconsin wish the School Sisters of St. Francis a happy 135th anniversary and continued success as they carry out their mission in Wisconsin and across the globe.●

TRIBUTE TO VICKIE VANZANDT AND STEVE HICKOK

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Vickie VanZandt and Steve Hickok for their exemplary record of public service to the Bonneville Power Administration, the people of Washington State, and the Pacific Northwest.

Vickie VanZandt retired on March 28, 2009 after 35 years with the Bonneville Power Administration. She most recently served as Bonneville's transmission business line senior vice president. As the senior executive, Vickie assured the transmission grid operated safely and reliably in order to provide power to over 12 million customers. Her work involved coordinating and setting policy for transmissions system planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance—clearly, no small feat.

Vickie graduated magna cum laude from the University of Washington's School of Engineering, is a registered engineer, and is a member of Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society. She has been a board member of the Western Regional Transmission Association, past president of the Northwest Regional Transmission Association, and has chaired the arbitration committees of both of these organizations. At the request of the Department of Energy, she also chaired the Operations Team investigating the East Coast Blackout of August 13, 2003.

Steve Hickok, Bonneville Power Administration's deputy administrator, retired on April 4, 2009, after 27 years of faithful service. Previous to his time with Bonneville, Steve served on the staff of my former colleague, Senator Mark Hatfield, as well as with the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Appropriations. His experience here in the Senate served him well, and at Bonneville, Steve has served as the assistant administrator for conservation and renewable resources development, the chief operating officer, and the group vice president for sales and customer service. He was appointed as the deputy administrator, the organization's second highest-ranking position, in 2001.

Steve graduated with honors from Pomona College in Claremont, CA, and is also a graduate of the Stanford Executive Program. He has received many awards during his time at Bonneville, including the Secretary of Energy's Meritorious Service Award and the prestigious Presidential Rank Award, which he earned in both 1992 and 2000.