

foremost in General Vaughn's mind. In recent years, the Army Guard has reversed a downward trend in filling its ranks and boosted enlistments tremendously. We have a more educated and a healthier force with more full-time personnel. In his last months on the job, General Vaughn has laid out a sensible plan to build readiness within the Army Guard, ending the harmful practice of counting untrained and transient soldiers against the end-strength of various units.

Working closely with Congress, General Vaughn has also ensured that the Guard has more modern equipment. The Army Guard has much better gear today than it did 4 years ago.

Lieutenant General Vaughn is a leader who forthrightly lays out his views, whether to Congress or his counterparts in the active Army. It is this deep honesty and intelligence that has made him an inspiration to his subordinates and a close adviser to his superiors. Lieutenant General Clyde Vaughn knows and loves the Army National Guard, having lived and breathed with this force of citizen-soldiers for more than three decades. The country owes General Vaughn, as well as his wife Carol and kids Chad and Kristi, our thanks and hearty congratulations on a job, very well done.

NOMINATION OF DEMETRIOS JAMES MARANTIS

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, today I would like to recognize one of the finest members of my staff to ever work for me, the State of Montana, and the U.S. Senate. Demetrios James Marantis has served in the Senate since 2005, and on Wednesday, the Senate approved his nomination to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

When Demetrios first joined my staff more than 4 years ago, he came with a chorus of support and an impressive set of skills and experience. This week, he leaves the Senate for his next challenge with an even larger group of supporters and another impressive list of accomplishments.

Demetrios was at the center of the largest expansion and reform of trade adjustment assistance since its creation four decades ago. He was critical to our granting permanent normal trade relations to Vietnam, and instrumental in keeping U.S.-China economic ties on track in challenging times. Demetrios helped me and the Senate extend trade preference programs to the world's poorest nations, and worked to lay the groundwork for the important pending trade agreements that I hope that the Senate will consider in the coming months.

He did all of this with an unwavering commitment to this country, and an unassailable reputation for fairness and openness to supporters and opponents alike. And as many of my colleagues and their staff will always remember, Demetrios never failed to bring a little bit of fun and a good sense of humor to even the hardest job.

But what I will remember most about Demetrios is his commitment to the people that our economic policies affect. In Montana, Demetrios made a point to know the ranchers in Molt, the seed potato farmers in Manhattan, and the wheat farmers in Three Forks. Demetrios's intelligence and experience helped guide me and the Senate through the letter of our trade laws. But his good character and heart reminded us what those trade laws are really about America's workers, farmers, ranchers, and families.

I congratulate Demetrios on his nomination, thank him for his good work, and wish him the best of luck as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I wish to speak a few words about Demetrios Marantis, who was confirmed last night by the Senate to be a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

Demetrios is well known to all of us on the Finance Committee. For 4 years, he has very ably served Chairman BAUCUS—most recently as the Democratic chief international trade counsel. So he has played a central role in all of the committee's efforts on trade policy during this time.

Not only is Demetrios a very sharp trade lawyer and policy adviser, he is also a skilled negotiator. That will serve him well in his new position. I am grateful for the genuine spirit of bipartisanship that Demetrios brought to the Finance Committee, and I am sorry to see him depart. His energy and good nature will certainly be missed.

At the same time, I am comforted by the fact that our Nation will continue to benefit from Demetrios' commitment to public service. He assumes a very important portfolio at the Office of the United States Trade Representative, as a trade Ambassador to Asia and Africa, and also with responsibility for the trade and development portfolio, as well as for labor and the environment.

I therefore look forward to engaging Demetrios in efforts to open up new market opportunities for U.S. exporters in the Asian region. I also look forward to working with him on a reform of our unilateral trade preference programs. We must address these key trade priorities in the 111th Congress, so I expect that we'll continue to see Demetrios on a regular basis for some time to come.

In closing, I commend Demetrios for his outstanding service to the Finance Committee, and I wish Ambassador Marantis every success in his new position.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam 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 heart-breaking 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 am sending you this email in regards to our gas prices. I feel that the taxes that Idaho has on the gas should be dropped in our state.

So many people are already unemployed. People are suffering enough trying to keep the jobs that they have. Many people travel from Caldwell and Nampa to jobs in Boise. They are only making \$9, maybe \$10, an hour. That is just two gallons of gas. Because of this, we will only be adding to our unemployment line. This only takes away the money coming into our state from the taxes from their paychecks.

My daughter is trying to find work herself. Do you have any idea the hardship of this? She cannot find a job because she cannot put the \$8 for two gallons of gas into her car to find a job. If you removed the gas tax, she would have at least a fighting chance!

My son lives in Boise and works in Nampa. He had to leave his car on the freeway because he ran out of gas and had just put in the last of his money he had in his pocket.

What about our elderly and all the others on fixed income? We have to get a hold of this situation now. Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

GERALD and TONIE, Nampa.

Thank you, Senator, for asking for input. Yes, we need to protect our planet from excess wrongful pollution; yes we need to have alternatives to the current fossil fuel dilemma. Yes, drilling here and drilling now needs to happen, although it will not give relief for many years to come and at what loss to business and individual Americans, prior to our becoming more energy independent?

It is time to steal a page from the Democrats play book of 2000 and dump oil from our strategic reserves, referenced http://schumer.senate.gov/SchumerWebsite/pressroom/press_releases/2004/PR02640.Gas051904.html, in the market place to lower prices at the pump.

This will have many-fold positive effect. It can boost the economy by helping business to maintain pricing at lower levels. It will cause a price lowering on the world market needed by many other nations, i.e., French truckers causing gridlock by blocking roadways. We replenish our reserves at a lower cost oil than today, and it ought have an adverse effect on those speculators that are driving the price of oil through the ceiling. How many of the speculators buying futures contracts for oil are foreign investors wanting to drive up the price of their oil? These positive reactions can only have positive impact.

For the future, alternative fuel sources other than our food, wheat, rice, corn ought

to be developed, i.e., hydrogen which is in use presently in the East under controlled situations, work towards federal funding for a research facility to develop an economical solution/use for the shale that surrounds Idaho in Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. Partner with them. Build the research facility in Idaho.

JAMES, *Nampa*.

Your video interview on KTVB [seemed to be lacking in understanding. Why would you want to give sob stories to Congress?] The problem is the way you are approaching the matter. [The current] approach is to focus on an issue that has been allowed to spiral out of control, so it is now labeled as a significant emotional event that affects a large contingency of or state. You want input from constituents on a possible solution to this crisis.

You are way too late, Mr. Crapo. You should have approached this problem at the root cause, when it first started years ago. Nothing was ever done to formulate a plan.

Just what are your thoughts? Is this a lame issue strategically planned based on the emotions of the people, centered on a principal of diffusionary tactics to point the crisis issue from your office to the bleeding heart consumers? Just what are we going to do?

In order to solve a problem, you need to lose the "ostrich mentality"; that is, bury your head in the sand until the danger passes by. As long as you do not see anything going on around you, then you assume all will be well once it passes; however, while your head is in the sand, your [backend] is hanging out in the air [in danger].

This problem should have been breached months ago when gasoline prices were at \$2.50 a gallon, and needed to focus on how to hold them at this price.

What you have condoned is the allowance of gasoline to skyrocket out of control, and somehow scheme a plan that involves Idahoans to offer a solution.

React when the crisis surfaces because that is the way everyone does it. Any official, manager, analyst, physics engineer knows that you start by dissecting and analyzing the root problem that drove the event. Two great books to read on this management technique are *Crucial Conversations* and *Crucial Conversation*. Try them; they are great.

As for the bleeding heart letters, I do not buy them one bit. After all, what do we have at our disposal to influence members of Congress?

Much could have been done by the American people if we, the consumers, could be in on the ground floor of these fire-side chats and actively work on the problem.

We need to be a preventative society, not a panic-reactive, flavor of the month club.

GEORGE, *Boise*.

I saw in the news this morning that you are asking for comments about the current gas prices. I believe, like many others, that we need to end our dependency on foreign oil. If the government would end the moratoriums against off shore drilling, allow the states who are begging to drill to do so. Allow new refineries be built, I know the prices would begin to go down, just from the threat of competition alone. If our government would get out of the way, let the good old American ingenuity and capitalism take control, things would turn around in no time at all.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

KIM, *Moose*.

I am very concern that my country's Congress has paralyzed our ability to become en-

ergy-independent. To get to the point, I want to be free of terrorist oil. I want our own country to provide for our energy needs. Open up the coastlines to drilling; allow drilling in Alaska, Montana and other states. Allow the mining and processing of oil shale. Develop a national energy strategy with all parties involved. This does not take ten years. Remember World War II; the home-front converted to the war effort—one example, victory ships, I want that attitude in my Congress, my nation. Please express my concerns. (I retire in two days) Get 'er done! Thank you, sir.

ALAN, *Emmett*.

Very simple, Mike—we want alternative energy choices—sun, nuclear, wind, hydro, that do not further rape the earth. Can you lead the way on this issue? If not, get out of the way and we will elect someone who will!

RON, *Wilder*.

A short while ago I responded to your inquiry regarding the impact that the energy crisis has had on me and my family. After sending the message, it occurred to me that I had omitted what may be the largest financial and psychological impact of all. Forty years ago, my wife and I bought a small cabin near a lake in the mountains just south of Salmon. My family and I have enjoyed many pleasant hours every summer up there. At the time we bought it, our big concern was how much time will it take to travel up there from Malad. Now the time element is the least of our concerns. Now the question is how much is it going to cost us to make the trip. So far, this year, the answer has been: Too much! We have not been able to work out a way to get there to even open it up for the season. We are seriously considering the possibility of selling it because transportation costs make it prohibitive to make the trip often enough to make it worthwhile keeping it! Having to sell it would be a blow to our entire family—as well as what would be an economic loss!

I really do not think Americans should be treated this way just because some political activists want to punish this country for being too successful. Please do not let them do it. The remedy is so obvious and attainable! Truly this is an economic crisis, not only for this nation, but for the world!

WESLEY, *Malad City*.

Being a resident of Idaho, I feel compelled to write to you regarding my perspective on energy cost and its effect on the economy. It may be felt, being single and a nurse in the State of Idaho, by many that my situation is secure and comfortable. I must stress, it is not. Gas/fuel prices (including electricity) is a huge concern to me and affects me in ways most may not recognize. I find, as others, filling at the tank is overwhelming at times, but what I find interesting is how it has affected so much more than just getting gas for a vehicle. It does make it more difficult to obtain the fuel for the vehicle that brings one to work, but the effect goes so much beyond that.

I find my grocery bill has increased from 10-30% on items I used to feel comfortable in purchasing previously. I find I am no longer looking at brands like I have before, and I find I am going without some items I would have thought to be necessary before.

We are a spoiled nation, there is no doubt; however, whenever I stop buying things and chipping away from those items I have enjoyed I think of those individuals who work for those companies that my meager dollar use to support no longer can, and in turn, causes an effect on their ability to continue their lifestyle endeavors.

I find an unusual event here in Idaho with regard to my career. I am an RN. I am told

there is a huge shortage of nurses, but I am forced off from being able to work because, "census is down" at the major hospital I work at in Boise. My thinking on this, though there is no study I am aware of to support it, is that people have become very afraid of the economic situation. "Elective surgery" (even though necessary) is being held off, even declined. Why? People have a hard time with insurance coverage now even as before the crunch. I believe they would rather chance their well being over an additional concern of a medical bill, because they cannot afford to go to work that may possibly have coverage for them, or more than likely, probably do not. So, health becomes a secondary choice to them. This, in turn, affects me. I get laid off and I cannot pay the bills. . . .

I am more fortunate, in that I do have options. Not necessarily pleasant ones, i.e., leave Idaho, but options all the same. Right now I am looking at supplemental work.

Basically what I am saying, the "gas issue" is obviously more than just filling the tank. It is food, it is housing, it is employment availability, it is health, and it is choices or lack of. Please, I plead that you approach those who can make a difference. Recognize, America should always be first, in their decision, not outside interests.

I am born and bred American. I am proud of what we are and what we can be, but I can see greed has taken over common sense. Please do what you can do to stop the undermining of our strength. Let us be self-sufficient first and with good conscience let us use our ability to drill, invent, and create a new direction that will allow new jobs and strength.

Advice I give patients: You cannot help those you care for unless you have taken care of yourself and maintain your own strength. Be conscious to care for yourself so you can help those you love. I say the same to my country: Care for yourself.

BONNIEDÉE, *Boise*.

Living in a rural area of southeastern Idaho we have been hit particularly hard. Gas in our community is always higher than surrounding areas. I drive 120 miles roundtrip to work and 30 miles roundtrip to the grocery store. Many of my neighbors are trying to farm but the cost of putting fuel in the tractor is so high that to plow and plant a field it almost is not worth the effort anymore. We realize that, as a nation, we need to be prudent in oil drilling practices but to ignore the Alaskan oil fields and the offshore potential of our coastal regions is sheer folly. If we fail to claim and drill what is rightfully ours, the Chinese and the Cubans will find a way to do it right under our very noses. I ask you, what other country in the world is crazy enough to sit on such a resource and just let it go to waste? Regardless of whom drills for the oil we will still have the same potential environmental issues but we could easily not be the ones in control. I would like to see what would happen to the price of gas if congress woke up to the situation and opened our significant undeveloped oil fields to responsible drilling. Congress cannot continue to make the oil companies the "scapegoat" in this situation. Congress and the President, past and current, need to accept responsibility for their major part in the entire mess.

CLARE, *Preston*.

A couple of week ago you were a guest speaker on our local radio program and asked us voters to write you about what trouble and hard times have fallen upon us regular working stiffs. Well, I started this letter five times, but did not finish because of the way I was brought up, i.e., "Do not be

a whiner, be a winner and a doer! Well, you asked, so here is my story.

I am a certificated flight instructor and had a very promising flight school in the Magic Valley (the only flight school in the valley) at the Jerome County Airport. Then 9/11. I learned two very good lessons after that: [there is little understanding of the real world among the bureaucrats who operate many agencies, and that too often the price for problems is paid by those who had nothing to do with the problem.]

While billions [were dumped] into the airline industry, [my business] went under. Just because I was grounded and held accountable for the actions of 9/11, my bills were not "grounded" and I ended up losing my airplanes, my business and every cent I had! Oh, well, no complaints, I was not in a rubble pile in D.C., or New York, New York, or dead at a crash site in Pennsylvania. My heart still hurts for those who lost their lives that day. Like I said, no complaints. I am a proud American that is used to pulling me up by the boot straps and, by the way, I was offered a low interest \$5,000 loan by the government; that would not have even covered my fuel bill! It has taken me years to pay off the losses, but I have. And I have been teaching flying lessons in student-owned planes. If they come to me without an airplane I have to turn them away. That means out of the Magic Valley because there had been no other flight schools open. Flying is not a privilege like driving, it is a right put down on paper by the Congress and the Senate!

Now to end this story—you ask for \$5.50 a gallon aviation fuel! It has put me completely out of the teaching game! Thanks a lot! (Not you.) I have been doing this teaching thing for the last 18 years. I do not know anything else! I am 52 years old, too old to start over and become an expert at anything else, I will not be on this planet long enough! Sure, I could go to Dubai, India, China or some other enemy country and teach their students how to fly and probably make a lot of money, but that is not what it is about. It is about molding good, safe and better American pilots! Not going to the Middle East and teaching the bucks. No, I will never do that! Never! I live in Idaho and that is where I will be put into the good potato-growing earth of Idaho!

I feel [let down by my elected officials.] Please keep up your effort to help us no-accounts here in Idaho! I do know that you are trying.

JIM, *Jerome.*

My husband is on permanent Social Security Disability. The high gas prices make it impossible for us to leave our area, and it is more expensive for me to drive to work. We just try to buy less groceries; no extras. I am really worried about purchasing propane next winter. The minimum you can now have delivered is \$300, and that does not even last a month. I hate to see what it will cost next winter. If gas prices do not go down, many living in Idaho will eat less and heat less!

BARBARA, *Idaho Falls.*

First I want to thank you for all the good work you are doing to represent your Idaho constituents. It is so refreshing to have an honest, wise thinking, conservative congressman. We have lived in liberal states in the past and it can be very discouraging.

About the fuel prices, I just want to share that I am a hospice nurse which requires that I drive all over Canyon and some of Ada counties. We do get paid mileage for our trips to and from our patients, but the \$.43 a mile is quickly being eaten up by the rising fuel prices. Also my husband and I are private pilots and love to fly over our beautiful state, but again the cost of fuel is making it

necessary to but back on those trips. What is so frustrating to us is knowing that we have plenty of oil in our own country, if our government would just allow production to increase. I also favor developing alternate energy. I especially think that nuclear energy can be developed safely and should be looked at very seriously.

LINDA and ALAN, *Nampa.*

It is very obvious that Russia is on an aggressive quest to control the global oil. The U.S. should have already been on top of this, but where are the leaders of the two Houses? They're on vacation (except for a few fighters) instead of attending to very important and critical issues. It is extremely important to deal with the energy issues as soon as possible. We have oil available in the Bakken Formation, Alaska and other areas, which contain the following estimates: 8 times as much oil as Saudi Arabia, 18 times as much oil as Iraq, 21 times as much oil as Kuwait, 22 times as much oil as Iran, 500 times as much oil as Yemen—all right here in the U.S.

The issues at hand are affecting the rapidly increasing day-to-day costs. Inflation is rising, not at .05%, rather more like 30%. For example, groceries are costing almost 50% more than in January. That is if one can afford the gasoline.

The COLA increase in the next budget for Social Security and the Military should be a minimum of 15%—just to stay even with rising costs.

This is not a time for partisan bickering. This is time for a conscience effort toward the business of American citizens.

GEORGE, *Craigmont.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER FONG

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am pleased to pay tribute to San Francisco Police Chief Heather Fong as she retires from the city and county of San Francisco's Police Department after 32 years of dedicated service.

A lifelong Californian, Chief Fong was born and raised in the city of San Francisco. She grew up in a small flat on Bannam Place, a tiny alley in North Beach just outside Chinatown, and attended St. Rose Academy in the western addition. It was there that Fong was first exposed to the idea that she could pursue a career in law enforcement, when a visiting officer was brought into the academy to speak with the students. Fong quickly joined the San Francisco Police Athletic League's cadet academy, where she served for 2 years, and attended classes one night a week at the Hall of Justice. Following her graduation from St. Rose Academy, Fong pursued her undergraduate education at the University of San Francisco, and later received a master's degree in social work from San Francisco State University.

Chief Fong formally entered the police service when she was sworn in as a San Francisco police officer in 1977. Just one month into the job, she played a crucial role in the investigation of the massacre in Chinatown's Golden Dragon restaurant; her work resulted in four convictions. Because of

her dedication and strong work ethic, Fong was given a beat along Clement Street with a veteran police officer, where she quickly learned the ropes. Two years later, in 1979, Fong transferred to the Police Academy, where she became the first female instructor, an honor not usually given to young officers.

Fong has served the San Francisco Police Department in various capacities over her 32 years of service, working her way through the ranks of inspector, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, commander, deputy chief, assistant chief, acting chief, and finally, chief.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed Fong acting chief of Police on January 22, 2004 and chief of police on April 14, 2004. Fong was the first woman to become chief of police for San Francisco and the Nation's first Asian American woman to lead a major city's police department. Chief Fong is deserving of a very relaxing retirement—in her 5 years as police chief, she never took one vacation.

I admire Chief Fong's 32 years of dedicated service to the people of San Francisco. Along with her friends and admirers throughout the San Francisco Bay area, I thank her for her tireless efforts and wish her the best as she embarks on the next phase of her life.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANDREW MOORE

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I recognize Dr. Andrew Moore of Lexington, KY, for being the recipient of the Fayette County Hero of the Year presented by the Bluegrass Area Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Hero of the Year award was presented to Dr. Moore on April 23, 2009. The Heroes campaign fosters community awareness and generates funds to support the mission and services of the American Red Cross.

Dr. Moore is the founder and president of the nonprofit organization Surgery on Sunday, which provides outpatient surgical services to income-eligible individuals and families who are without health insurance and are not eligible for Federal or State assistance. Patients are referred to the program by community organizations and receive medical procedures that range from general operations to dental work and reconstructive surgeries.

In its first year of operation, Surgery on Sunday provided services to more than 150 individuals without health insurance or the means to pay. By the end of its second year, the organization had performed more than 2,000 procedures. It is estimated that \$1.5 million worth of medical services has been donated by more than 600 volunteer surgeons, physicians, nurses, and other health professionals.

I would like to thank Dr. Moore and all of the volunteers for Surgery on Sunday for their contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Dr. Moore is truly an inspiration to all Kentuckians and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.●