

These public servants enlighten and educate Members, and sometimes testify before congressional committees. These men and women are steeped in their field of expertise, and though some come to be recognized for their published work and analysis, most labor in anonymity, satisfied by the pure reward of helping to inform and shape the public debate.

Dr. Relyea is, and has been, reliable, authoritative, and humble—a genuine example of the true public servant over the long years of his career. A native of Oneida, NY, Dr. Relyea earned his doctorate in government in 1971 from American University—my own alma mater. He joined the Congressional Research Service that same year, shortly after the enactment of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 that provided the charter for the modern Congressional Research Service. Dr. Relyea was promoted to head of the Executive Organization and Administration Section at CRS in 1976. Twenty years later, he became the head of the executive and judiciary section of the government and finance division. As a Specialist in American National Government, Dr. Relyea garnered national recognition for his research and writings on the Presidency, and executive branch powers and organization.

I came to know Dr. Relyea in 2002, as the Bush administration attempted to expand its use of emergency and wartime powers, and I increasingly sought to defend and assert the rights and privileges of the Congress as a co-equal branch of government under the U.S. Constitution. I recall sitting across the table from Dr. Relyea in the Appropriations Committee hearing room, where I had asked several CRS specialists to brief me on the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security. I remember being impressed by Dr. Relyea's depth of knowledge, and his timely and thorough responses to my requests for information. Dr. Relyea and others sacrificed their August recess that year, in order to help prepare for a long debate when the Senate returned in September.

I welcome this opportunity to thank Dr. Relyea, and to thank everyone at the Congressional Research Service for their hard work and dedication. As a source of necessary expertise for Members of Congress, CRS helps to provide a vital counterweight to a mighty and powerful Executive branch.

In a career that has spanned four decades and eight administrations, Dr. Harold C. Relyea has set a standard of superior service for the entire Congressional Research Service. It's clear that Dr. Relyea has earned the respect and appreciation of his colleagues. He is a patient and generous mentor and has assisted a full generation of CRS analysts in developing their skills. In 2008, his colleagues showered praise on Dr. Relyea as they nominated him for the prestigious Director's Award. I think their greatest tribute to him, however, would be to continue his outstanding legacy of scholarship.

I thank Dr. Relyea for his extraordinary dedication to the work and traditions of the U.S. Congress and to the country and the Constitution which we all revere.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

LOST PAY

Mr. LEVIN. Assume that on January 1, 2007, a new employee is hired and knows that she will be paid less because she is a woman. She also knows that she is receiving less pay than a male who was hired on the same day for the same job, but she needs the job and is afraid to file suit. Two years go by and on January 15, 2009, she decides to fight the discrimination and files a complaint. Under current law, can she recover the lost 2007–2008 pay?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Under current law, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, she is not able to recover any lost pay because a claimant has 180 days to file a claim from the time that the employer first decided to discriminate, i.e. she had to file by July 1, 2007.

Mr. LEVIN. Under S. 181, would she be able to recover the 2007–2008 lost wages?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Under S. 181 she would be able to recover lost wages for the previous 2 years from her January 15, 2009, paycheck. This is because every paycheck is considered an act of discrimination and a claimant has 180 days to file a claim for that act of discrimination, and go back 2 years in determining damages.

Mr. LEVIN. Who has the burden of proof in intentional discrimination cases as to whether and when an act of discrimination occurred?

Ms. MIKULSKI. The claimant has the burden of proof.

REMEMBERING KAY YOW

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Kay Yow, Head Coach of the North Carolina State University Women's Basketball Team.

I join North Carolina State University and the entire women's basketball community in mourning her passing.

My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Kay's family—her sisters, Susan and Deborah and her brother Ronnie—and to the North Carolina State University community that adored her.

Coach Yow had countless accomplishments on and off the basketball court that I can't even begin to do justice to as I stand here today.

After 38 years of coaching, she had amounted many achievements that everyone in the women's basketball family will admire for generations to come.

A native of Gibsonville, NC, Coach Yow started the North Carolina State University Women's basketball team in 1975 and was the school's only head coach in its women's basketball team's 34 year history.

Compiling over 700 victories during the course of her career with a record of 737 wins and only 344 losses over 38 years, she led her teams to 20 NCAA tournaments, 11 of which made it to the "Sweet 16," and in 1998 she led the Lady Wolfpack to "Final Four."

Coach Yow also captured 5 Atlantic Coast Conference, ACC, regular season championships and 4 ACC Tournament titles.

Off the court, Coach Yow was a friend, a mentor, and a leader. She was very active in the Kay Yow/Women's Basketball Coaches Association Cancer Fund, in partnership with the V Foundation, committed to finding cures for cancer.

She also was heavily involved in the creation of the "Hoops 4 Hope," a basketball game played to raise awareness and help find a cure for breast cancer.

The North Carolina State University student body embraced Coach Yow, and her colleagues recognized her instrumental contributions to the sport in which she became and remains an icon.

Coach Yow will be deeply missed, but the inspiration and the memories that she created will live forever.

Again, I send my sincerest condolences to Coach Yow's family, her athletes, her fans, and her friends.

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:

Hi Mr. CRAPO,

Thanks for inviting me to drop you a line on the gasoline farce.

In 2005 I was forced from my job with Alaska Airlines at age 60 with no explanation other than "we can do what we want without explaining to you why." That stopped my income—cold. Since then Donna and I have moved in with Donna's aging and widowed mother and have been able to care for her, while at the same time not having to make a house payment. Nobody but Walmart will hire a guy my age with my particular qualifications. So I still have no job. Fortunately

we have no bills. We were making it OK drawing my Social Security early and making ends meet . . . until this gas thing—that was then—this is now.

Just this Monday, I filled my tank with 81 octane rating and 16 gallons cost me \$65. The net result is that I now drink water instead of milk, I no longer can afford my vitamins, we cannot afford the better whole wheat bread but buy wonder bread because it's cheaper. (I quit eating bread so I guess that's not all bad.), cut back on eggs, buy 75 percent fat free hamburger rather than the 90 percent stuff at Winco. I had to cancel a Doctor's appointment for my blood pressure check because I have no insurance and ran out of money. Should I go on?

In short this gas thing is making life difficult. I cannot figure out why the Democrats are so obtuse. We cannot drill here because of some patch of slippery grass or there because we might melt the polar ice cap out from under some bear. Who cares about that stuff in this critical time anyhow? This is all really easy to figure out: Drill here, Drill now, and to blazes with the frog lickkers and tree huggers. It is because of them and their ilk that we have not built any new refineries or opened any new drilling fields in the past 30 plus years. Gee, I wonder how much we would be paying for our own gasoline drilled from our own wells and refined in our own refineries? I am not an educated man but I think I have got a handle on this. What is the matter with all your buddies in Congress?

Why is it that everybody else on God's Green Earth is drilling wherever they need (and want to) and we continue to buy oil from people who'd just as soon kill us as look at us. You know what? We have some of the largest oil reserves on Earth and we let some team of morons who think the bears and the slippery grass are more important than me, stop us from drilling in our own back yard?—I don't think so. I haven't slipped on any endangered grass or seen a polar bear face to face except in the zoo—and I do not expect I will in what remains in my life time. But I do have grandkids who don't live close by. What is more important than me seeing my grandkids down in Poky or Ogden? Bears or grass? No siree. I would sure like to be able to afford to go see my grandkids when they say "Gramp will you come and play with me?"—and I now cannot—because nobody with the horsepower will face down that bunch of friends of earth and the Audobon Society and stop this insanity.

I have a sweet little 3 year old granddaughter who cries because her Grandma tells her she cannot afford to come see her. Now that darn near tears my heart out.

CURTIS MAUGHAN.

We have owned and operated an electrical contracting business for 21 years and presently employ 18 people in the Treasure Valley. Like many, we feel our economy is in crisis, mostly fueled by the price of energy.

The prices of steel, copper, plastics and fuel all drive the cost of our end product up to the consumer. We believe we are reaching the tipping point where the consumer will simply have to make the choice between food/fuel or services such as we provide and that means the loss of jobs and income to families supported by businesses such as ours (for example—our employees, suppliers, other subcontractors, and other small businesses that support us). Two years ago our monthly fuel bill was \$1,200.00. Today our monthly fuel bill is over \$2,500.00. We can only absorb so many increases before we can no longer afford to do business.

Our society was built on free enterprise and the inaction of our government to ad-

dress the energy needs of the country crushes our ability to produce and contribute to the economy. The government has too long tried to appease special interests. For our government to shackle us to dependency on foreign energy when we have everything we need right here is a disservice to the people. We can pursue our own resources with negligible impact on our environment. We must go forward with the pursuit of energy independence, both green and fossil fuels. Free up Anwar, the Atlantic shelf, the Gulf and our natural gas. The government should aggressively subsidize solar, wind and other alternative energy options for the consumer.

The statement was made by Senator Obama that there is no immediate solution for high gas prices but when do we start? If we had started eight years ago we would be closer. We must begin now. If this does not change our lives in this country will be irreversibly damaged. As Americans we are being forced to sell pieces of our country to foreign interests in order to survive. This is not the American way. The actions of our government are giving our country away. If this continues, who will we be in ten years? What will be left of our distinct way of life? We Americans are unique in how we live. We choose to pursue happiness and independence and that pursuit has been good for the world, and yet the world criticizes us for having the freedom to do this and would like nothing more than to chain us to their ideals. If our quest for the American dream is smothered by the demands of the world then Democracy dies here and all the sacrifices of the generations before us are lost.

Please do all you can at the federal level to persuade the rest of Congress to secure our energy and our economy.

ALAN and CATHLEEN LUSK.

I wish I could just limit my story to just one. I could go on for days about the way the high energy prices are affecting me and my family here in Idaho. I will cite a few for your information.

Heating costs—Just last week, Jan. 14th, we had yet another snow storm—That makes 8 months of snow here in Idaho. But with that it means my home was being heated by Off-Road Diesel again. When I bought this house I was paying \$0.95 a gallon for fuel to heat my home for my wife, four kids, and police K-9. Through the last few years I have seen a very large increase in the cost to keep it very cold to just get by. I have had my home insulated and weatherized. I am the low income American. I worked hard to get off of state programs and CHIP. Now it seems that was done for no reason. I still make too much money for aid programs, but now I will have to give up these items I worked hard to get and get off of state programs. I got the American dream just to be priced back out of it. I now spend \$1400+ to fill my heating oil tank. As you know natural gas is not up here in Cascade. It is cheaper than oil, but we cannot get it. So I had to make a choice, health insurance or heating my home. I chose to keep my family warm. So now I pray no one gets sick or hurt. When I say warm I mean 64 degrees. I am not sure if you know what that feels like, but it is very cold during the winter. In the summer you would say that your AC was great.

Grocery Costs—Here is another area that has seen large price hikes to deal with the cost of transporting food. We live in Cascade and well it costs more to get food to us up here than in Boise. It is nothing new to spend a few more \$ on something that is cheaper in Boise. In the last two years milk has gone up over \$1.50 a gallon. Eggs almost a \$1.00 too. Everything that I consider a must-have item has gone up and up. Know

what? My pay has gone down in the same time frame. A slow economy means less hours of work and that means less money in my paycheck. I would not presume to complain to you over the cost of steak and lobster or stuff like that. I cannot remember what a steak taste like and what color is lobster again? I am talking about the things you cannot skimp on here: Milk for my four kids.

These higher energy costs are affecting everything that we buy. Because of that, we are having to make choices about what we spend our money on. You can use any inflation score you want, I believe they were set up to have numbers say whatever you want them to say. Like the four out of five doctors line. The proof is in the pudding. The inflation where the metal meets the meat is double digit. We are making choices that people who make six figures a year would never believe. We went from middle class to no class. Every penny at the pump means another tough choice at the dinner table. We have to drive to go to work to keep the lights on. There is no choice. We have no buses, no subway, and I don't own a horse. So I get up and get in my American Made truck and drive to a pump where a company who posts record profits but says they are not making any money, gouges me. They should just stand there with a gun and rob me, at least I would feel like I was treated like a man. They would be up front and in my face. No, instead they hide behind Congressmen and a president they have bought with campaign cash.

The more and more I think about this as I write it, the more and more I think the system is broke. We cry out to our elected people in Washington for help. There is a lot of good talk about how they are going to help us, but nothing ever happens. We spend too much money on nothing getting done. If we were running Washington DC like a business we would be bankrupt.

Mike, I am not attacking you, I support you. You won me over when you came to my town when Boise Cascade left. But I feel you are a working man in a land of people that believe we are here so they can serve in Congress. I believe you know you are there because we put you there. I hope and pray you can find a solution to this madness. The fix has to come now not next year. Smaller countries set the fuel price and they pick up the difference. This is how the economy in those countries is not failing. When Ma Bell got too big you all regulated them. When the cable company got too big you regulated them. When the electric company got too big you regulated them. Where is the regulation on the oil companies? They have shown time and time again that they cannot police their own activities. They will root around in your pockets while you are filling up your car just to take the last bit of cash you have. Americans have more debt now than ever. I know I was debt free three years ago. Now, I am strapped. On the edge of losing it all. I don't have a flat screen TV, no gold silverware. Nothing big and new. Just trying to get by. Putting milk on a credit card. What are we to do? People say we are going to pull out of this soon. I say we will only pull out of this when the energy prices go down. How can anyone but big oil make any more money to pay its employees more money? They cannot, so if I cannot get paid more, then the costs have to go down for me to have more.

Just my thoughts.

JASON SPEER, Cascade.

This may be late, however, I still think you should know my story. I am sure it is not much different from many others across our state or America.

I own a small cleanup business that services new construction job sites. I started the

business just over six years ago. I drive anywhere between 100 to 150 miles a day—most of which is miles driving to and from the Ada County landfill (2 to 3 trips a day). I am easily putting \$50+ a day of fuel into my truck. I drive a Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD pulling a dump bed trailer. Basically, I am going through a lot of fuel. The prices are up considerably from a year ago. With the continued rise of fuel, I am given two choices. 1) Ask my builders for more money to pay for the fuel, or 2) Quit my business. Both choices will have a chain reaction in how it affects my life (well-being). My builders will complain. Some will understand and be willing to pay more, others will not want my business because my prices are too high. If I quit my business, I will then have to find other means of income for my family. Six plus years of building a business is a hard thing to give up on. The housing industry in Idaho is not very good right now and with the low amount of work, it affects my income. I currently am making just enough to meet costs. With the addition of high fuel costs it hits me twice as hard.

I do not know what the right answer is to make things better. Off shore drilling for the United States will not have an effect for many years. The people of Idaho and elsewhere need help now. I do not know much about law or the principles of supply and demand—but it would sure be nice if the government could somehow make a drastic cut in fuel prices. I too would like to take vacations around the state or to Utah to see family. This past weekend it cost \$110.00 for my family to make a round trip to Salt Lake City from Nampa. We have a Honda Accord. It will most likely be the only trip we take for the rest of the year.

Sorry for all the mistakes in my writing. I have so much on my mind when it comes to my family's well-being, my business, and fuel prices.

I'd be happy to share more information.

JONATHAN PLUMMER, *Nampa*.

Hello Mike, if you want the answer, here it is. I have traveled this nation throughout my life. I know that from Alaska to California there are thousands of oil wells that sit idle, not pumping at all, at current use over a 150 years of oil in the ground, already drilled no exploration needed, no problems with environmentalists, that is not to mention the millions of gallons of oil that is pumped from the Alaska pipeline directly on to tankers only to leave our country (USA) to be sold to BP or some other company. The Alaska pipeline in the 70's was promised to the American people (one-third of the oil pumped out of the ground in Alaska is pumped back into the ground because the line can't handle it). Now to talk about refineries, the American people have been told we do not have any refineries, we have them in Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, California . . . four of the major oil companies in the USA are held by one holding company, the last I heard, what they are doing is called price fixing (which is against the law, remember the breakup of Microsoft?). Our government chooses to buy our oil from terrorists, only to support further war, help to build indoor ski resorts (in the desert) and manmade islands some of the largest construction projects ever attempted, at the expense of the American people and our economy. When will we stand up for ourselves? "Even China has." We need to use our own oil (reserves) say no more to the oil companies (break them up like in the 1900s) take control for our country and not let big business run it. "Regardless of greed" this is our country and our economy. If the economy fails, what good is money (we are on reserve note not gold standard)? Is not our govern-

ment supposed to be by the people for the people? I can show a direct correlation between the down turn in the economy and fuel prices. Our soldiers are in the Middle East fighting a war we cannot win, and the Terrorists are winning the 911 war by destroying our core (economy) by controlling the cost of our energy (fuel) and we just sit idle. Our government says, in part, it is because we need to go green, but autos are less than 10 percent of the problem.

Here it is:

Use our reserves (oil in our ground).

Give the Alaska pipe line back to the people.

Take our pocket book out of it (political investors).

Tell OPEC what we will pay (not what they will have us pay).

Break up the oil companies (price fixing is against the law).

Let the Middle East take care of themselves. The only value they have is the value the world puts on them. If they are worth nothing then they are nothing.

Brazil is 100 percent self sufficient and fuel is less than \$1.50 a gallon.

We need to stand up and say no, we will use our own oil, you would be amazed how fast the prices would drop, but we would still need to say no, so we can control it and keep control of it (in our country anyway).

Of the people by the people we are the U.S.A.

RICHARD STEPHENS, *Caldwell*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION HOMEFRONT

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish today to honor in the RECORD of the Senate an organization that is doing phenomenal work on behalf of military families across Georgia.

Operation Homefront Georgia is located in Marietta, GA, and is a charter member of the Operation Homefront national organization that was founded after the horrific attacks on 9/11. The organization provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, to the families they leave behind and to wounded warriors when they return home. For example, if a military veteran is unable to pay his or her mortgage due to injury or stress from war, Operation Homefront Georgia finds the money needed for the mortgage. If a soldier needs a wheelchair lift in his or her home, Operation Homefront Georgia finds a company that will install it for free. The individuals who are a part of this organization are truly miracle workers.

Operation Homefront Georgia is made up mostly of women, some men, but mostly ladies that leave work every day knowing that they made a difference in somebody's life. My office knows that when Operation Homefront Georgia calls, there is a dire situation on the line and we do all we can to help. They don't take no for an answer, and their insistence pays off.

Our men and women who are going off to fight should be able to know their loved ones at home are safe and sound. With Operation Homefront Georgia, they don't have to worry. This

fine organization makes sure our soldiers return with dignity to a well taken care of family.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank them for all they do.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PHILLIP LEE ROBERTS

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to join with my colleague Senator CHAMBLISS to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Dr. Phillip Lee Roberts, oncologist and medical director of the Phoebe Cancer Center at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, GA.

For decades, Dr. Roberts has diagnosed and treated patients in southwest Georgia with a record of care and devotion that is above and beyond the call of duty in his profession. In recognition of his remarkable work in the field of cancer treatment, Phoebe Putney Health System is dedicating its new cancer pavilion as the Phillip L. Roberts, M.D. Cancer Pavilion.

When Dr. Roberts began his practice in Albany in 1980, there were few oncologists south of Macon, GA. At that time, a diagnosis of cancer was often a death sentence. Dr. Roberts has seen the progression of cancer treatment from the earliest drugs and radiation treatment to the modern methods now used to fight the disease. Today, the progression of medicine and technology allows this remarkable doctor to deliver a message of hope rather than despair to his patients.

Through the years, as technology and cancer treatments have advanced, his steadfast dedication to his patients and his profession has remained strong. Well into his golden years, Dr. Roberts is still at the helm of one of the busiest cancer centers in the southeastern United States. He has yet to slow his pace or his professional battle against the disease he fights daily on behalf of his patients. Not only does he continue a full schedule with patients at Phoebe, he travels weekly to treat patients at clinics in outlying rural areas, where access to health care is still limited and unattainable for many due to economic and social roadblocks.

I am pleased to join Senator CHAMBLISS in acknowledging the great work that is done each day at the Phoebe Cancer Center and the efforts of Dr. Roberts over the past 36 years to provide high quality cancer care. Dr. Roberts certainly deserves this recognition, and we offer our sincerest congratulations on the dedication of the Phillip L. Roberts, M.D. Cancer Pavilion.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages