

Organic agriculture and conventional agriculture can coexist. Both will be driven by demand, and both provide important choices for the U.S. consumer. Some consumers will shop for locally grown foods, others will shop for the cost effectiveness due to their tight household budgets.

It is time—it is time—for Time magazine and Mr. Walsh to start being honest with their readers. The next time the magazine wants to run a story that clearly reflects the author's personal views, it should identify that article as such. I expect the next article Time publishes on agriculture to be better researched and to present a more balanced view.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID C. PARRISH, JR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President. I would like to recognize a courageous Kentuckian, David C. Parrish, Jr., for his induction into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame on October 17, 2009. Sixty-five years ago this past August, Mr. Parrish undertook brave actions during his service as a fighter pilot during World War II. A native of Paris, KY, Mr. Parrish represented the very best in courage, gallantry, and self-sacrifice in defense of this Nation in the skies west of Paris, France. Like many of America's "greatest generation," Mr. Parrish was willing to disregard his own safety for the safety of his fellow airmen and the protection of his country.

Valor and sacrifice are words that describe the nature of Mr. Parrish, and patience would also describe his character. Although he was recommended for the Silver Star in August 1944, lost records and bureaucratic delays meant it would take 60 years for Mr. Parrish's heroism to be officially recognized. It was my deep privilege to work with Mr. Parrish in this effort and to personally present him with his Silver Star in his hometown in 2004. I believe Mr. Parrish's story is a timely reminder of the sacrifices that so many American men and women have made in the name of freedom.

Mr. President, I would like to share with you a retelling of Mr. Parrish's actions in defense of this Nation that earned him the Silver Star and his induction into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. On August 8, 1944, 1LT David C. Parrish, Jr., was flying in the area of Mortain, France. His flight was part of an eight-plane squadron that became separated from the lead flight while on patrol. Lieutenant Parrish and three others were on their way home when the controller reported 100 enemy fighters flying above him and toward American bombers. His wingman had to fly home because he was low on fuel. Lieutenant Parrish and the remaining two fighters climbed toward the enemy planes.

Lieutenant Parrish was also low on gas and would have normally returned

to base, being so outnumbered by enemy fighters. However, recognizing the danger to the friendly bombers, Lieutenant Parrish dove his three fighters into the heart of the enemy formation. The enemy fighters dispersed and Lieutenant Parrish and his fellow airmen gave chase. Lieutenant Parrish pursued one enemy fighter at 4,000 feet and destroyed it. He then turned toward another enemy fighter flying at tree top level and eventually was able to force the enemy pilot to bail out. These pursuits were extremely hazardous, and even more so because Lieutenant Parrish was perilously low on fuel.

It is my great pleasure to recognize Mr. Parrish for the sacrifices and risks he has made for this country, and I would like to congratulate him on his well-deserved induction in the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. He has made Kentucky very proud.

#### REMEMBERING SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I am saddened by the death of my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator Edward Kennedy.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Senator Kennedy dedicated his life to serving his country and the Commonwealth. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1951, beginning his long career of public service. Elected in 1962, Senator Kennedy is the third longest serving Senator in the history of the Senate. He served the people of Massachusetts well for 46 years, and I know his family and the people of Massachusetts are proud to call him one of their own.

Senator Kennedy had a long list of accomplishments to show for the people of Massachusetts and the Nation. He was a political icon who served with great distinction and passion for nearly a half century in the U.S. Senate, and whether I agreed with him or not, I always admired the way he fought for the issues he believed in. His leadership in the Senate will be missed and it has truly been an honor serving with him.

Mr. President, Senator Kennedy will be greatly missed. Mary and I give our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Vicki, and the entire Kennedy family.

#### COMMENDING SENATOR MELQUIADES RAFAEL "MEL" MARTINEZ

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my distinguished colleague from Florida, Mel Martinez, who retired from the Senate earlier this month.

I have worked with Senator Martinez since he was elected to serve the people of Florida in 2004. He has served his country proudly in several different roles. Senator Martinez also had the distinct honor to serve as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in President George W. Bush's Cabinet and as the chairman of the Republican National Committee. In both

roles, it was not personal ambition that drove Mel. Rather, it was his passion to make his country a better place to live for his family and for all Americans.

I have also had the privilege of serving on the Senate Banking Committee with Senator Martinez. As a member of this committee, Mel brought a greater understanding and perspective on housing issues facing the Nation than many Senators that have served on this committee. Floridians and all Americans have benefited from his vast experience in this area as well as his dedication to serve for the greater good. A person of this caliber will truly be missed in the United States.

I am honored to know him and to have worked with him. I would like to thank Senator Martinez for his contributions to the Senate and to the country we both love. I wish him and his family the best in all of their future endeavors.

#### DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, Senator CARPER successfully offered an amendment to this act that would authorize the EPA to conduct a study on black carbon emissions to "improve global and domestic public health" and "to mitigate the climate impacts of black carbon."

A similar bill, S. 849, was also introduced by Senator CARPER and approved recently by the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works.

While I did not object to the purpose of the bill, I did object to the bill because the cost of the study—\$2 million according to the Congressional Budget Office—was not offset.

As I wrote in a letter to Minority Leader McCONNELL and Senator CARPER outlining my objections to this bill, "At a time when our national debt is greater than \$11.6 trillion, we cannot afford to add to this debt that will be inherited by our children and grandchildren. Even our best intentions need to be paid for with offsets from lower priorities or wasteful spending."

I also requested the opportunity to modify this legislation if no offsets were made.

I intended to offer a second-degree amendment to offset the expected cost increase in spending as a result of the Carper amendment by capping the amount of funds EPA can spend on conference travel. According to EPA, \$17.296 million was spent on conference travel in 2006—the last year for which we have records. This amendment would have capped conference travel spending at \$15 million, thus assuring that the full cost of the study will be offset.

In the past couple of years, as Americans were tightening their belts and travelling less, EPA was growing its conference budget and travelling more. This is reflected in its annual costs for

conference participation and related expenses, which increased from \$10.781 million in fiscal year 2000 to \$17.296 million in fiscal year 2006.

Conference attendance for Federal employees in many, if not most, cases is discretionary, meaning that it is up to Federal agencies to determine to what conferences agency employees should go and how many employees should go. Some conferences provide valuable educational or agency-related information in a format unavailable in a normal office setting. Many conferences, by the sponsors' design, are held in locations chosen to attract attendees.

That being said, it is the responsibility of the U.S. Congress and the managers within Federal agencies to exercise due diligence in performing oversight over an area of Federal spending that has cost taxpayers over \$2 billion on conferences from 2000–2006. This spending has increased over 95 percent, from over \$200 million a year in fiscal year 2000 to almost \$400 million a year in fiscal year 2006. In addition to the financial cost of these trips, oversight hearings I held as the chair of the Federal Financial Management Subcommittee highlighted the lost productivity of government employees when they are out of the office on non-essential travel.

The EPA is just one among many Federal agencies that I believe has overspent on nonessential conferences and travel. In my research I found numerous instances where EPA showed questionable judgment in this regard.

In September 2006, EPA sent 23 employees to Paris, France, for the International Society of Exposure Analysis Meeting, at a cost of \$56,000. This conference featured a gala dinner cruise on the River Seine and a cast of presenters that consisted primarily of Americans.

The agency's employees attended an annual National Beaches Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. The 2006 conference was attended by at least seven EPA employees, at a cost to taxpayers of \$52,500.

One EPA employee attended a December 2006 GSA Small Business Conference in Palm Springs, CA, at a cost of \$4,100, with his or her travel costs alone listed at \$1,800.

A Cancun, Mexico, meeting attended by two EPA employees cost \$4,200, with travel costs listed at \$2,900.

A March 2007 Waste-to-Energy Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico cost taxpayers \$48,000 for nine EPA employees and two taxpayer-funded non-employees to attend.

A 2006 "Beyond Translation Forum" sponsored by the EPA in Texas to "engage the Hispanic community in becoming environmental stewards" costs \$52,100 for the attendance of 20 EPA employees and 85 taxpayer-funded non-employees.

Over 2 years, EPA also spent \$2.6 million in grants and contracts and over \$300,000 in travel and related expenses

for brownfields conferences in Oregon and Missouri.

EPA spent \$235,000 in grants and \$25,000 in travel costs for the National Tank Conference in Memphis. Costs included events at BB King's and seeing the Memphis Grizzlies basketball team play.

EPA spent \$355,000 in grants and contracts and \$167,000 in travel costs for the Community Involvement Conference in Milwaukee.

In February of 2007, EPA spent \$150,000 to sponsor the "Measuring Program Results" Conference, to which it sent one EPA employee and paid for the attendance of four nonemployees.

Instead of specifically capping the amount EPA could spend on conference travel, Senator CARPER has graciously modified his amendment to transfer \$2 million from the EPA's Environmental Programs and Management account to fund this study of black carbon emissions. This EPA account "provides personnel compensation, benefits, and travel and other administrative expenses for all agency programs."

It is my hope that this transfer in funds will help EPA better manage the funds it is entrusted with by Congress and limit questionable expenditures and unnecessary conference travel and related expenses.

I am pleased that the Senate has agreed to this offset and hope that Congress can begin to prioritize funds for its priorities with real offsets.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING JOSEPHINE PEREZ

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, on August 28, 2009, Colorado and the Nation lost a champion for justice and equality, Josephine Marie Varela-Perez. Josie, as she was known by all, surmounted the daunting challenges life brought her to become an exemplary voice for minority students in Denver. Her courage and conviction created a better future not only for Denver students but for countless kids across the country.

Josie's humble beginnings never held her back from achieving her dreams. When faced with adversity, she overcame.

School year after school year, Josie would show up on the first day to be counted among her classmates and then return to working in the beet fields, never attending class past the fourth grade. But Josie—a strong believer that education was the key to success and should be available to all children no matter their race or creed—taught herself English and Spanish and earned her GED.

Josie's commitment to education and minority rights thrust her into the center of the civil rights movement as a party to the landmark desegregation case, *Keyes, et al v. School District No. 1, Denver, Colorado*. She also marched with Cesar Chavez and the United

Farm Workers and was a voice for the less fortunate. Her strength and courage in standing up for the rights of minority students and the less fortunate is an inspiration to all.

Josie's strong spirit extended far beyond her activism. Josie worked tirelessly to support her six kids—Ricardo, Patricia, Lou, Carlos, Terry, and Sheila so that they could have the future they deserved.

I join Coloradans and Americans across the country in grieving the loss of this civil rights champion. Josie's legacy will continue to inspire Americans for generations to come.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family.●

#### RECOGNIZING FIFTY YEARS OF ICBMS

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish today as cochair of the Senate ICBM coalition along with my friend from Wyoming to recognize and pay tribute to 20th Air Force as the Air Force celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first nuclear-tipped ICBM on alert, and to honor the heritage and accomplishments of the ICBM mission and people—past and present—who acquire, develop, operate, maintain, and secure this combat capability for our Nation.

In July 1954, the Air Force established the Western Development Division in response to the growing Soviet missile threat. It developed the first-generation ICBMs—the Titan that is housed in underground silos as well as the above-ground Atlas.

In October 1959, the first alert of a nuclear warhead-equipped Atlas D occurred at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA. Immediately thereafter, the Air Force started working on a solid-fueled, second-generation ICBM called the Minuteman. Ten Minuteman I ICBMs were already on alert at Malmstrom Air Force Base, MT, by the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. Just three years later, the first-generation ICBMs were replaced with the larger and more accurate Minuteman II.

By January 1970, the Air Force had deployed the Minuteman III. Throughout the 1970s, in response to the Soviet Union's buildup of multiwarhead ICBMs, the Air Force started work on the Peacekeeper. In 1987, 50 Peacekeepers were deployed in existing Minuteman III silos at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, WY. At the height of the Cold War, the Air Force maintained an ICBM fleet of more than 1,200 missiles on alert as a counterforce to the approximately 1,400 Soviet ICBMs poised against the United States.

Currently, the Air Force maintains a fleet of 450 on-alert Minuteman III ICBMs, spanning the missile fields in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wyoming. In August 2009, the Air Force activated a new major command—Air Force Global Strike Command—committed solely to the nuclear deterrence mission. This December, 20th Air Force and the ICBM