

damages immune and reproductive systems. How about this one, formaldehyde. It sounds scary. It is scary. It is a carcinogen, and that means it causes cancer—no question about that. Acid gases sound scary? They are scary. They damage the heart, the lungs, and the nervous system. Imagine breathing in acid gases and what that does to our pulmonary system. Toxic soot pollution causes respiratory illness, including asthma attacks, chronic bronchitis, heart attacks, and premature death.

Tomorrow I will go into these in greater detail. It is just a rhetorical question, but why would anyone in their right mind stand in the way of cleaning up these poisons. They say it costs too much. No, it doesn't because the companies that already did it say it is working. For every \$1 we invest, we save \$3 to \$9. So it doesn't cost too much. Is it just about doing business as usual? That is fine if all we are doing is something that is benign. This is not benign.

My colleague Senator INHOFE attacked the President and said our President is stymieing domestic energy production when we have the opposite truth. We have seen a tremendous increase in domestic energy production under this President, more than we have seen for decades. So don't blame this President and say he is trying to stymie domestic energy production. He has embraced an all-of-the-above strategy.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a paper entitled "Develop and Secure America's Energy Supplies."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEVELOP AND SECURE AMERICA'S ENERGY SUPPLIES—EXPAND SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION

"All these actions can increase domestic oil production in the short and medium term. But let's be clear—it is not a long-term solution"—President Obama, March 11, 2010.

THE CHALLENGE

America's oil and natural gas supplies are critical components of our Nation's energy portfolio. Their development enhances our energy security and fuels our Nation's economy. Recognizing that America's oil supplies are limited, we must develop our domestic resources safely, responsibly, and efficiently, while taking steps that will ultimately lessen our reliance on oil and help us move towards a clean energy economy.

Over the last two years, domestic oil and natural gas production has increased. In 2010, American oil production reached its highest level since 2003, and total U.S. natural gas production reached its highest level in more than 30 years. Much of this increase has been the result of growing natural gas and oil production from shale formations as a result of recent technological advances. These resources, when developed with appropriate safeguards to protect public health, will play a critical role in domestic energy production in the coming decades.

America's public lands and Federal waters provide resources that are critical to the nation's energy security. To encourage robust

exploration and development of the nation's resources, the Administration has offered millions of acres of public land and Federal waters for oil and gas leasing over the last two years. Oil production from the Outer Continental Shelf increased more than a third—from 446 million barrels in 2008 to more than 600 million barrels of estimated production in 2010. Responsible oil production from onshore public lands also increased over the past year—from 109 million barrels in 2009 to 114 million barrels in 2010. These increases are occurring at the same time that oil imports are decreasing; for the first time in a decade, imports accounted for less than half of what we consumed.

Mrs. BOXER. It shows how U.S. crude oil production is way up under President Obama. It is way up. Over the last 2 years domestic oil and natural gas production has increased. In 2010, American oil production reached its highest level since 2003 and total U.S. natural gas production has reached its highest level in more than 30 years. How can my colleagues stand and say this President doesn't like the coal companies and is trying to push them out of business so we will have less energy production? Wrong. What he is trying to do and we are trying to do—those of us who are going to oppose the Inhofe resolution—is say we want to see coal continue, but we don't want it to spew forth—mercury, arsenic, selenium, other heavy metals, benzene, formaldehyde, acid gases, and toxic soot. It is pretty straightforward. Clean it up.

When I was a kid, my mother said: Clean your room. She said: You made a mess so clean it. I see some of the pages are smiling because their mothers say the same to them. What I found as I matured over the years is that we need to come back to some of those basics. Clean up your mess. They are making a mess. But it is not the benign mess that is in some of the bedrooms of our kids, with toys, papers, and clothes scattered around; it is dangerous toxins, and it has to be cleaned up.

Tomorrow is an important vote. I hope tonight people will think about this debate because a lot of the things we do here maybe don't have such a direct impact on people's lives. This has a direct impact. What we breathe and the fish we eat are all related to what is going to happen tomorrow. I hope we will vote no on the Inhofe resolution and allow the EPA to do its work which 75 percent of the American people support. They want clean air, they want clean water, and we want to make sure they get it without interference. Let's vote down the Inhofe resolution and move forward with clean air. I think we will all be proud tomorrow if we can defeat that resolution.

I note the absence of a quorum and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERAN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AWARENESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Heart Association for their work to raise awareness about the dangers of cardiovascular disease amongst our Nation's women veterans and service members.

VA's dedicated work on cardiovascular disease has successfully decreased the gaps between men and women veterans in heart disease prevention outcomes. However, as cardiovascular disease remains the No. 1 killer of women, I applaud VA and the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign for partnering under the First Lady's Joining Forces Initiative to raise awareness and promote prevention amongst our Nation's female veterans. I am pleased to see VA focus its efforts on educating women veterans through an online fitness and nutrition program and an online support network to connect women with other women who share similar experiences.

Today, women serve in every branch of the military. Women represent 15 percent of our Nation's Active-Duty military, and they are the fastest growing population within the veteran community. The number of women veterans is expected to increase to 2 million in 2020 and with this projected increase it is critical that VA remain responsive to the unique needs of women.

Nearly one in two women, 44.4 percent, will die of heart disease and stroke. We must ensure that women receive equal access to VA health care benefits and services. This partnership between VA and the American Heart Association is a great step toward ensuring that women are educated on the dangers of cardiovascular disease and provided with the resources necessary to prevent it.

Mr. President, I applaud the collaboration between VA and the American Heart Association to raise awareness and increase prevention efforts on an issue that affects so many of our Nation's women veterans and civilian women throughout our country.

OBSERVING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, Abraham Lincoln once spoke of our Nation as the last best hope on earth. On this World Refugee Day—the 11th of its kind and the 61st anniversary of the

United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees—it is fitting that we give careful pause to remember that the responsibility attached to Lincoln's words does not end at our shores.

Across the world, refugees need our assistance and our support. They look to America's voice and leadership to champion their plight—from the dusty plains of northern Kenya to the mountainous confines of Burma, Nepal and Southwest Asia.

As we look around the world, there are, sadly, numerous refugee crises. In many cases, refugees exchange one set of dangerous conditions for overcrowded, unsanitary and even violent camps. Instability in Somalia is swelling the ranks of the world's largest refugee complex in Dadaab, Kenya, home to nearly 500,000 people. In the Sahel, more than 150,000 Malians have fled the conflict to neighboring countries, joining host communities that are already suffering from drought and hunger. To them, daily survival is a gamble.

We also know that refugees and displaced populations can be the spark for large-scale violence, and today we face that very threat from the millions displaced from homes across the Middle East. Unspeakable violence in Syria has uprooted an estimated 500,000 people inside the country and driven tens of thousands more to Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq. Human security in Iraq continues to be a pressing concern, as our partners support hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries and over one million internally displaced persons.

Of course, there are glimmers of hope. As Burma slowly and steadily opens its political system, we will look to the government to provide space for humanitarian action to assist those displaced by years of conflict. Have a thought for the Burmese refugee in limbo along the border with Thailand or the young ethnic Rohingya who is denied even the basic identity papers that connote official personhood. They, too, deserve our attention, compassion and support.

In South Asia, more than 5.7 million Afghan refugees have returned home in the past decade, one of the UN's most successful voluntary repatriation operations. We must celebrate this achievement, even as we renew efforts to find durable solutions for the nearly 3 million Afghan refugees scattered across the region. In Colombia, where conflict has displaced an estimated 4 million people, our partners are helping the government to provide reparations and land restitution to affected individuals and families. We also continue to support the UN Relief and Works Agency in its efforts to provide assistance to millions of Palestinian refugees in the Palestinian territories and throughout the region.

Above all, we must remember that these aren't just statistics. The plight of the world's refugee and displaced populations is a challenge to the humanity of every single one of us. Chil-

dren who need proper nutrients and access to education, women who are at great risk of falling victim to gender-based violence, individuals with psycho-social needs after witnessing devastation—these realities prick our conscience from half a world away.

Mr. President: Lincoln used to say that he “tried to pluck a thistle and plant a flower wherever the flower would grow . . .” Despite our trying times, we should remember all those who have planted the seeds of hope and opportunity where thistles would otherwise grow, from the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration and its partners in the UN to international, faith-based and non-governmental organizations in the field. Let us also recognize the efforts of the organizations that provide guidance and services to give refugees resettled in the United States the opportunity to rebuild their lives here—and thank the communities across the country, including in my State of Massachusetts, who welcome them to their adoptive homes. Their legacy is ours, too. And the next chapter is waiting to be written.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOSEPH A. LESNIEWSKI

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to commemorate a great Pennsylvanian who passed away on May 23, 2012. Those who worked alongside this high-spirited citizen of Erie, PA knew him as a hard worker, those who served alongside him in World War II knew him as a selfless soldier, while others who worked with him at the United States Post Office knew him as a devoted civil servant; still, many more around the world knew this great Pennsylvanian as World War II veteran Private Lesniewski, of the 101st Airborne Division, immortalized in the book and HBO series “Band of Brothers.” Today I would like to commemorate and take stock of this remarkable life: Joseph A. Lesniewski, an influential and inspirational citizen of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Joseph A. Lesniewski passed away at a Veterans Affairs Medical Center at the age of 91; he was survived by his wife of 38 years, Phyllis Schindley Lesniewski; and his four daughters, two sons, two sisters, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. From Mr. Lesniewski's work with General Electric, to his service in World War II, to his 37 years serving our country at the Erie Post Office, Mr. Lesniewski embodied the American spirit of dedication to country and unyielding resolve during several of our country's most trying times.

After graduating from Erie Technical High School in 1940 and faced with a battered world economy, Mr. Lesniewski joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal Program

that helped weather the Great Depression and achieve the skills necessary for a position as a tool and die maker in General Electric's Erie, PA factory. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Lesniewski enlisted in the United States Army in 1942, where he served in the storied 101st Airborne Division during the momentous Battle of Normandy, Operation Market Garden, and the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Lesniewski and his comrades were later immortalized in historian Stephen E. Ambrose's book, *Band of Brothers*, which illustrated the common acts of heroism displayed in World War II by our soldiers. Ambrose wrote that Lesniewski took German-grenade shrapnel to his neck while alerting his fellow comrades to take cover after he discovered a machine gun nest and an entire company of SS soldiers just yards away. Lesniewski's selfless actions led to the capture of both the machine gun nest and the company of SS soldiers. In another incident, Private Lesniewski disregarded his own safety during a German artillery barrage and marked the spot where an unexploded German shell had burrowed itself into the ground. This action helped to ensure the safety of his fellow soldiers.

After helping to keep others alive on numerous occasions, and serving as a source of strength and inspiration to the soldiers around him, Mr. Lesniewski re-entered the civilian workforce in 1945 and served for 37 years at the United States Post Office in Erie, PA. A historian and close friend of Mr. Lesniewski once said:

Over the years I saw a thousand acts of random kindness come from him. He had a heart of gold. He never stopped giving, as he was proudly involved in numerous charitable causes in his community.

As a testament to his heroism, Senator JOHN KERRY invited Mr. Lesniewski to join him at the 2004 dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

As we commemorate the valiant life of Joseph Lesniewski, we should not forget that our country has survived seemingly insurmountable challenges in our history. We survived these dire times due to the dedication to country and unyielding resolve found uniquely in our citizenry, symbolized so clearly through the life of Joseph A. Lesniewski. Let us not forget the words of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, “It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.” So then, with reflection on the life of Mr. Lesniewski, who so nobly advanced our country in both military and civilian roles, let us continue our dedication to the unfinished work before us: the work of building a better country and ensuring that the lives of our children can and will be better than that of our own.●