

in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. As a conferee and strong advocate for that law, I have pushed the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission to quickly implement the protections and rules to help curb these abuses.

At the same time, we must ensure that local and regional markets remain competitive and that oil companies do not engage in anticompetitive practices. While prices have eased somewhat nationally this summer, there have been concerns raised about price disparities in the cost of gasoline in Vermont. Vermont prices remain higher than the national average and residents of northern Vermont are paying even more than their neighbors just one or two towns to the south. I support the efforts by the State of Vermont, Senator SANDERS and Federal regulators to look into whether these differences can be explained by market conditions, and to take action if they cannot. Such serious allegations should be properly investigated by the Oil and Gas Price Fraud Working Group at the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission.

The largest oil companies raked in \$137 billion in profits last year alone, while also taking in billions in taxpayer subsidies. Repeated efforts to repeal these ridiculous subsidies by myself and a majority of the Senate have been filibustered by friends of the big oil industry. It is these large oil companies and those working at the wholesale level that are reaping tremendous profits, while many of our independent and locally owned stations are struggling to make ends meet. Regrettably, many of these same local stations are forced to shutter their doors when the large oil chains undercut their business.

The real cost of high gas prices is more than just the bill at the pump. These prices force families to choose between filling their gas tanks and putting food on the table. And they mean rising food prices due to increased shipping costs. These are costs that working families, particularly in these difficult economic times, often cannot absorb. I will continue to push for creative, long-term solutions to relieve the pain at the pump.

CONGRATULATING MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Massachusetts General Hospital, located in my home State of Massachusetts. Mass General has recently been named the number one hospital in America by U.S. News & World Report for their dedication and excellence in providing care to thousands of patients every year. I also want to acknowledge Brigham and Women's Hospital for being named among the top hospitals in the country.

Mass General cares for more than 47,000 inpatients each year, and serves

as the largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. It is also the oldest and largest hospital in New England. Located right in Boston, Mass General's 907 bed facility has a tradition of excellence. They also have four additional health centers in Charlestown, Chelsea, Revere and the North End. Together, these locations handle over one million outpatient visits, as well as over 80,000 emergency visits, each year. It is no surprise that Mass General is the top hospital in the Nation, with its impressive research program, innovative primary care, and distinguished staff.

Massachusetts is home to a number of remarkable research programs, many of which are housed within Mass General's network, which is the largest hospital-based research program in the United States. This network includes over 20 clinical departments and centers, investing \$550 million per year to work towards discoveries that transform treatments and patient care.

For example, the Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children is one of only 7 locations in the country funded by the NIH to study the rates of morbidity and mortality in women and children in developing countries. These discoveries have not only led to better treatments for children, but have also led to policy changes at the World Health Organization—WHO—to better address international health for women and children.

Mass General has also made important strides in primary care, especially for our State's seniors. The Mass General Geriatric Medicine Unit is rated one of the top departments in the nation for geriatric care, due to their diverse staff of specialists, including those in geriatric medicine, geriatric psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric nursing, and social work, who focus on both the patient's physical and mental wellbeing.

Mass General is changing the way that we look at patient primary care. You may be familiar with Patient Centered Medical Homes, which focus on patient care and health in a very personalized and coordinated way. Mass General Senior Health is a recognized Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home, which is setting the standard for the industry. I recently visited Mass General, and I am continually impressed by their coordination to bring together multiple doctors and services to ensure the highest quality of care for Massachusetts residents.

I would also like to recognize the Mass General nursing staff, as the hospital is a designated Magnet hospital. This is the highest honor in nursing excellence that is awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and recognizes Mass General's excellence and innovations in their nursing practice.

Finally, Mass General's Home Base Program has partnered with the Bos-

ton Red Sox Foundation to raise awareness about post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries among our returning veterans. I am encouraged by their work to develop new treatments for these injuries, as well as their efforts to educate our community. Roughly 50,000 veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan are affected by these injuries, and the Home Base Program is making great strides in supporting these wounded warriors.

In closing, I congratulate Mass General Hospital for achieving the number one hospital ranking in the country. I know that the people of Massachusetts are extremely proud of this accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER WILLIAM MOELLER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the tremendous lifetime of service by one of our Nation's most courageous heroes, CDR William Moeller. Commander Moeller has served for 22 years in the Coast Guard in four location assignments, dedicating his time, energy, and even risking his life for his fellow servicemen and women, the U.S. Coast Guard, and his country. On September 1, 2012, he will retire from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

Upon graduation from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1990 with a B.S. in government, Commander Moeller began his career and his sea tour as a deck watch officer aboard the USCGC *Tamara*. He soon rose to first lieutenant and in this capacity led the rescue of four members of the Air National Guard in October 1991. This rescue among monstrous waves, churned by the worst storm off the Eastern seaboard in 100 years, captured the Nation's imagination in the book and later the film adaptation of "The Perfect Storm."

Following his commission as group captain, he transferred to reserve status at the Port Long Island Sound in New Haven. Promoted to lieutenant commander in the Marine Safety Office located in Portland, ME, he served in the Coast Guard Reserve until recalled to active duty during 9/11. Returning to reserve status and to the Sector Long Island Sound, he was promoted to commander in 2006. After a few years at Activities New York, he returned to New Haven in 2010 for the last time as reserve logistics section chief. Commander Moeller's dedicated protection of the Nation, most of which took place at the Long Island Sound—waters significant to Connecticut and the Eastern seaboard—is appreciated by millions.

In addition to receiving extensive military recognition—including the Coast Guard Medal for Extraordinary Heroism, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal—Commander Moeller has been awarded the Coast Guard Medal by President George W. Bush. In

April 2012, he was inducted as a member of the Coast Guard Academy's Wall of Gallantry.

Commander Moeller has further contributed to our Nation's safety and security as a business executive with Pratt & Whitney. In this capacity, he has furthered the development of the aerospace industry, committed to our national defense by both air and sea.

I invite my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Commander Moeller on his retirement and remarkable allegiance to the Coast Guard and his country. We wish him great success and thank him for his tremendous service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD EARDLEY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Dick Eardley, who will be remembered as a man who cared deeply about his loved ones and community and worked hard to make a difference on their behalf.

As mayor for more than a decade, he was the longest serving mayor of Boise and was successful in enriching the city. During his time as mayor, he focused on revitalizing the city and worked extensively with business and community leaders to draw more commerce into downtown Boise. Those efforts led later to both a vibrant downtown core and to the development of the Boise Towne Square Mall, preservation of Boise's historic North End, creation of the Boise Arts Commission and bringing the World Center for Birds of Prey to Boise. He was also involved in many other local advancements, including the Greenbelt, the Senior Citizens Center, the parks, and Warm Springs Golf Course.

In addition to his public service, Dick had a career as a newsman. In his hometown of Baker City, OR, Dick worked in radio before moving to Idaho, where he went to work as a reporter covering sports and news for the Idaho Statesman. He then went on to work for KBOI-Channel 2 and KBOI-670. He announced high school sports and worked as a sportscaster and news executive. His reporting and work as city councilman and mayor earned many honors and recognitions.

Dick was an extraordinary individual who moved forward from a modest, Depression-era beginning in pursuit of his dreams. He had an exceptional way of connecting with people, which is likely why he had so many friends and acquaintances who admired and respected him. He had a deep love and devotion for his wife, Pat, of 57 years, who passed away 5 years ago, and he was a caring, giving and supportive father. Dick was also a natural athlete, who played semi-pro baseball and was known for his fondness and knack for golf.

I extend my condolences to Dick's loved ones, including his three sons,

Randy, Rick and Ron; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Dick's example of respectful sincere, humble, benevolent service and hard work will endure.●

GARDEN CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Garden City, SD. The town of Garden City will commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Clark County, Garden City was first settled in 1882. However, it was not until 1887 that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad line was built and sparked the official establishment of the town. By the end of 1887, Garden City had a post office, a railroad depot, and a grocery and hardware business. In the years that followed, Garden City became an agricultural center for the area, especially for potatoes. The first potato crop in the Garden City area was planted in the early 1900s. By the 1940s, half a million bushels of potatoes were being harvested from the area each year.

South Dakotans living in the Garden City area have a proud tradition of hard work and remain committed to their strong heritage and traditions. Though many things have changed in the last 125 years, the quality of character of Garden City residents has remained something of which the town should be very proud.

Garden City has been a tight-knit community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and hospitality. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Garden City on this landmark occasion and wish them prosperity in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13581 ON JULY 24, 2011—PM 57

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within the 90-day period prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond July 24, 2012.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations have reached such scope and gravity that they threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Such organizations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the United States; they are increasingly entrenched in the operations of foreign governments and the international financial system, thereby weakening democratic institutions, degrading the rule of law, and undermining economic markets. These organizations facilitate and aggravate violent civil conflicts and increasingly facilitate the activities of other dangerous persons.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 18, 2012.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:56 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6018. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2009. An act to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

S. 2165. An act to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: