

retired to Kamiah in 1991. We really liked the small community and being close to outdoor activities. Since then, our property taxes have tripled. The town is now considered a retirement community (according to our insurance company), so car insurance has gone up. Every time our Social Security gets a cost of living raise, then Medicare takes most of it.

If we need to buy some reasonably priced clothing or other items, we have to drive 70 miles (one way) to Lewiston. So, it is costing us \$20 plus to go shopping for necessities. Yes, there are towns approximately 30 miles, but on a fixed income the price of clothing and other essentials prevents us from shopping in these towns. The gas stations in this town have finally settled down to the national average, but they were charging 10 cents higher than the national average.

We can no longer afford to go to Lewiston for a nice dinner to celebrate a birthday or special occasion. I do hope you can do something. If nothing else, make sure that Social Security gives us a cost of living raise at the start of next year that includes the high price of gas and groceries, and that Medicare does not take it away.

MARILYN.

The high cost of energy has made me realize that the problems will not be solved by the government. This national crisis has been identified as coming for 30 years with little or nothing to fix it, and most of the time laws are passed that aggravate the energy problem.

Homeowner associations prevent modifications to homes in developments to add solar or wind energy generation appliances to "preserve property values". New housing development companies disregard plot alignment that prompt use of solar energy. Every few developers build homes this smart home technology installed that has been available for 20 years. The added cost of smart home technology would be a tiny fraction of an added cost at construction time and a major cost to retrofit but would pay back in 5 years or less in energy savings when utilized. "Passive Annual Heat Storage" is a technology that would have a major impact on energy savings but will never see any support because it leaves the money saved in the pocket of the homeowner and does not go to some alternate energy conglomerate.

I have personally drawn a circle on the map around my house and anything within one mile I walk to. Anything within three miles I bicycle to and if I have to drive I plan at least three stops or I wait until I have three stops. Any family member that do have to drive are hunting for jobs closer to home and we phone relay to have any one going by a store pick up thing needed so a trip home from work can pick up for a number of family member.

PERRY.

I am writing you this e-mail because of the gas prices. I am a single mom of three boys, and I work a full time job. These three or four years I have not had to get help from the state and was able to make it on my own without the help from the state. But now that the gas prices keep going up I might have to get that help again, just to be able to feed my boys. Life right now is getting too hard when I have to my choice of making sure that I can provide the food for my boys or put gas in my car. So that I can get to work every day and it has been hard. Plus I think that these gas prices are wrong for the amount we are having to pay, but if we do not pay that amount then we do not have a job and no money to buy food and etc. Something needs to be done and stop the gas

prices from going up any more so we as Americans can make it. So please help us.

FELICIA.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS—HAWAII

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I congratulate the Kamehameha Schools—Hawaii Athletic Department and coaching staff for winning the Positive Coaching Alliance's, PCA, coveted Honoring the Game Award of 2009. The mission of the PCA is to foster a "positive, character-building youth sports environment." The award goes to schools or organizations serving athletes of high school age or younger that embody PCA principles in using sports to teach life lessons. Honoring the Game Award winners will be recognized at the Eighth Annual National Youth Sports Awards Ceremony at Stanford University's Maples Pavilion on April 24, 2009. This year Kamehameha was one of three schools selected to receive this award and the only school noted for multiple sports programs.

I wish to acknowledge Kamehameha Schools—Hawaii's vision, commitment, and diligent efforts to create and uphold a positive athletic environment for its students, coaches, and fans. Kamehameha is the first PCA-partnered school in the State of Hawaii, and it requires all leaders, coaches, parents, and students who want to participate in the school's athletics programs to attend PCA workshops to be eligible. Additionally, it has integrated the school principle of *pu'uhonua*—sanctuary—into the 22-sport athletics program, ensuring appropriate behavior toward referees and other visitors. I wish to acknowledge all members of the Kamehameha Schools—Hawaii Athletic Department on their noteworthy accomplishment. I wish to give special recognition to athletic director Bob Wagner, headmaster Stan Fortuna, and school principal Ninia Aldrich.

However, this sort of large scale effort cannot be done without the cooperation and support of all of the student-athletes and their families. I commend the entire Kamehameha Schools—Hawaii community for their initiative and understanding in establishing the high level of sportsmanship and respect that has earned this award.

I encourage these coaches and students to continue their dedication to teamwork, character-building and positivity that helps the young athletes of today become the model citizens of tomorrow. I wish nothing but the best for the students, their families, and their coaches and wish them and the athletic program continued success in future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO TESSA SHUMWAY

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Tessa Shumway of

Terry, MT—this year's winner of the National Disaster Response Preparedness Award from the American Red Cross. Tessa is from Terry, a small town in eastern Montana.

In Montana, we are proud of our open spaces, of our outdoor heritage and our rural landscape. We didn't get the title "Big Sky Country" by filling our land with skyscrapers or high rises or byways. We are hard working, quiet people with the grit to build our lives on some of the most beautiful and rugged land on Earth. We are Montanans.

Of course, living in Montana's rural communities can create some challenges. For folks in places like Ismay or Brockaway, when disaster strikes, the nearest help may be miles away. And that is where Tessa Shumway comes in. Tessa is the face of the Red Cross across 10 counties in eastern Montana. Her territory is larger than the entire State of Indiana.

She is on call 24 hours a day, every day of the week. She is the local disaster chair, disaster instructor, preparedness trainer, volunteer recruiter and statewide disaster committee co-chair. In addition to all this, Tessa holds a regular day job as a bartender at the American Legion in Terry.

Tessa received the Disaster Response Preparedness Award not only for her years spent helping the folks of eastern Montana, but also for the new volunteers and Red Cross workers she has trained. It is impossible to know how many lives she has touched, how many people she has helped, simply by passing her knowledge on to others.

I would like to congratulate Tessa, her husband Zane and two children, Josh and Katrina—as well as the folks of Terry, who have a true hero in their community.

March of 2009 was a difficult month for Montanans. Several tragedies shook our State, from a deadly explosion in Bozeman to the tragic plane crash in Butte. Montana's Red Cross stepped up to help folks recover and rebuild. Tessa herself was on hand to help victims of the fire in Miles City and find shelter for folks displaced by dangerous winter storms.

I believe service is one of the most honorable things a person can do. Whether it is service to one's community, State or country—service is the most noble of all human endeavors. That is why I would like to recognize Tessa Shumway as a Montana hero—a woman who has given so much of herself to her neighbors and to the people of our State. We are lucky to have her under the Big Sky and I am proud to call her a fellow Montanan.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK J. FINNERAN JR.

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to honor a fine Missourian, Patrick J. Finneran, Jr., for his distinguished career as well as his record of community activism.

In 1967, Pat graduated from the University of Notre Dame, where he was