

public transportation in smaller towns; tax incentives for oil companies that reinvest their windfall profits into more economical oil production and research and development.

On a personal note, I have been looking for a job, but because of higher gas prices, I have been forced to limit potential job interviews because of the cost of travel.

I would call that a catch 22!

VERA, *Hope*.

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: I absolutely agree that we are in serious trouble vis-à-vis our energy situation. Here is my story:

We have not been overly impacted by the high price of gas because we deliberately choose to live less than five miles from our office and we drive a Prius. Many days we do not even need to take our car out of the garage. However, we see many families in dire straits.

What needs to happen rather than increase our foolish belief in oil by doing things like encouraging more oil drilling in the U.S., is that we need to provide support and incentives for Idaho families and all U.S. families to make wise energy choices like we have. We need to provide even greater tax incentives to those who choose hybrid or electric vehicles. We need to institute tax credits for those who buy or rent homes within walking/biking distance of their workplaces. We need to demand of federal and local governments that public transportation be provided in urban areas and that areas like rural Idaho be connected to nearby areas by fuel efficient means—for example, the electric fast trains of Europe would work beautifully in a state like Idaho—one line running from Moscow to Boise, one from Boise to Pocatello or Salt Lake and one line running from Boise to Sun Valley would make it possible to access almost all the state now accessible by car by electric train.

We need to provide tax and other incentives for energy produced by wind and solar power. We need to provide tax and other incentives to our farmers to adopt less petroleum dependent farming methods. We need to provide encouragement to individuals to eat locally produced, non-petroleum based, sustainable foods.

The only way we are going to save our national and our personal economic well-being is to get off of oil. The only way we are going to resolve the war between ourselves and the Islamic fundamentalists is to reduce our military presence in their lives and the only way we can do that is to release ourselves from our dependence on the oil under the Middle East. Once we do not need that oil, we will finally be free and we will no longer be a target.

That is my story. Our family was lucky because we made wise energy choices some time ago. We do not commute, we buy only one 10-gallon tank of gas per month, and we get as much of our food as possible from local growers. While we are feeling the aware of the pinch of gas prices and mostly food prices for items that we can't grow ourselves or get from local growers, we are not suffering as so many Americans are. We need to address the long term-issues so that more people will be in the position we are in rather than simply putting out small fires by doing things like reducing gas taxes or drilling in Alaska. It is no good to put out small fires when your whole house is in flames.

DEBORAH.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GWINN, MICHIGAN

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, small towns are at the heart of our country's history and cultural heritage. These communities, and the institutions and groups that make up these towns, are an enduring aspect of our political, economic and social structure, offering their unique and special chapters to the American story. It is in this spirit that I recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Gwinn, MI. This town, which is flanked by the Escanaba River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is an important part of America's industrial history.

Situated in the Swanzy region, this area is rich in red iron ore, which attracted companies to the region as early as the 1870's for mining. As a result of these mining efforts, Gwinn was formally founded in 1908 by William Gwinn Mather, president of the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company as a "model town" for its company's employees. Gwinn is one of only three "model towns" built in the Lake Superior mining region. Mather named the town in honor of his mother, and hired Warren Manning, a prominent architect from Boston, to design the layout of the town. Intended to provide for the social, physical, and cultural well-being of its residents and inspired by European and northeastern design, this thoughtfully conceived town remains a fine and relatively pristine example of a model town of that era. On June 24, 2002, the town of Gwinn was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, an important federal recognition of its historical significance.

Like many small mining towns, Gwinn has weathered some major industrial shifts in the century following its founding. Mining operations in the region began to decline between the 1920s and 1940s and were all but eliminated after World War II. In the mid 1950s, KI Sawyer Air Force Base was established in Marquette County and quickly became a major, and much needed, source of employment for the region. After the closure of Sawyer in 1995 as a result of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission process, it was successfully transformed into a hub of private enterprise. Now home to many businesses and some residential housing, the former base is a testament to the collective efforts of this region to reinvent itself after experiencing yet another significant blow to its economic base.

Gwinn's 100th anniversary is a tribute to the strength and perseverance of its citizens and of America's working families. This milestone will be celebrated through festivities spanning from July 3 to July 12. I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in recognizing the residents of Gwinn as they celebrate their town's 100th anniversary. I wish them another 100 years achievement and success.●

TRIBUTE TO SARAH C. SNIDER

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize a few of the many accomplishments of Sarah Snider, an outstanding health administrator with 15 years of experience in broadening health care access throughout rural America.

As the administrator of the Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health at Union Hospital in Terre Haute, IN, Ms. Snider has worked in conjunction with the hospital's Family Medicine Residency Program to increase the number of primary care physicians who seek careers in rural medicine. She has also led the center's staff in the development of strategies that have greatly increased the exposure of needed rural health training programs. While serving in this role, Ms. Snider has accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments.

For example, in 1996, Ms. Snider worked in collaboration with her colleagues to obtain needed funds for the building of the Clay City, IN, Center for Family Medicine. This clinic serves as a model training site for family physicians and functions today as a vital primary care access point for the citizens of Clay and surrounding counties. More recently, Ms. Snider worked with community leaders in Clinton, IN, to establish the Vermillion-Parke Community Health Center. Similar to the Clay City facility, this community health center will serve as a teaching and learning site for primary care clinicians and address the considerable mental, physical, and dental health needs of surrounding communities.

Ms. Snider has also applied her talents towards the development of the Landsbaum Center for Health Education in Terre Haute, IN. Dedicated in 2003, the Landsbaum Center is a state-of-the-art building that combines the prestigious teaching facilities of Union Hospital with the educational assets of Indiana State University and the Indiana University School of Medicine.

It has been a tremendous pleasure for me to witness Sarah's efforts over the years. Her leadership, dedication, and counsel have benefited many individuals. While she will be dearly missed in Terre Haute, I wish Sarah and her family all the best as they pursue new and exciting endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO SCOTTY COLSON

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on Friday, June 20, 2008, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Oleh Shamshur, appointed Scotty Colson, assistant to the mayor of Birmingham, AL, as an Honorary Consul of the Government of Ukraine.

This designation acknowledges in gratitude the work that the city of Birmingham and its citizens, under the leadership of Scotty Colson, have done to assist the people of Ukraine, especially in the cities of Krasnodon and Vinnytsia since 1997, and in helping to

build the U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership at the grassroots level. This Birmingham-Ukraine relationship began in 1997 within the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's U.S.-Ukraine Community Partnerships Project, which was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, with the strong support of Congress.

It is almost impossible to comprehend the positive impact the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's Community Partnership Program has had all across Ukraine and the amazing collateral benefits it has brought to U.S.-Ukrainian relations. And, with Scotty Colson's leadership the Birmingham-Krasnodon partnership exemplifies the very best of what America has to offer—American volunteers, Americans giving of a helping hand, and Americans demonstrating their commitment to a better world.

Through the relationship fostered by the Community Partnership Project, Birmingham and Krasnodon worked together to enhance citywide development. Birmingham shared its health experience with Krasnodon enabling the city to make substantial improvement to its outdated medical system. Due to the installation of mini-boilers in city buildings, the city of Krasnodon significantly reduced costs during the 2000-2001 winter season. Coming from the top-down control model of the Communist system but learning from citizen participation in Birmingham, Krasnodon established public committees on health care and city beautification, public hearings on government performance and future plans and a roundtable discussion on housing and neighborhood communities. Transparent government with genuine citizen involvement flourishes. To help enable future growth Krasnodon established a one-stop office to register businesses.

Through Scotty Colson and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's relationship with Birmingham, other associations and contacts developed for the foundation in and out of Alabama for the purpose of developing U.S.-Ukraine related technical assistance projects. These associations have all assisted the foundation in its mission to aid Ukraine in the development of democratic institutions, economic development and human rights. It is my understanding that one of the favorite slogans within the U.S.-Ukraine Community Partnerships Project, which was officially funded from 1997 to 2007, came from Birmingham's neighborhoods: "You don't have to move to live in a better neighborhood."

Thirteen other cities across the United States partnered with Ukrainian communities to work on strategic planning, economic development, citizen participation, and communal services. There are many success stories. Hundreds of citizen diplomats from the U.S. communities, who volunteered their professional services at a value of over \$5 million to aid Ukraine, rep-

resented their own communities and offered the best of America through this program.

Four mayors from Birmingham, as well as many other community citizens, and officials, actively participated in this program during the period of 1997-2007. As I have said, these personal and voluntary efforts represented the best of America.

The people of Birmingham, AL, who continually develop their own community, are sharing their experience and giving confidence and hope to cities and towns in Ukraine, that they too can have a better future and that they don't have to move to live in a better neighborhood. I am proud to call the recognition Scotty has received from Ukraine to the attention of my Senate colleagues. This recognition of Scotty, really on behalf of the fabulous contributions of the volunteers from Birmingham, AL, has contributed greatly to the advancement of our country's foreign policy interests and specifically to our strategic interests with Ukraine.●

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it is rare these days to see one couple make it to 65 years of marriage. It is even more rare to see two couples, who are best friends, make it to that rather remarkable milestone at the same time. This weekend in Murdo, SD, Harold and Pat Thune and John and Virginia Parker will both celebrate 65 years of marriage.

When Harold Thune and John Parker graduated Murdo High School together in the spring of 1937, neither realized how entwined their lives would become over time. After high school graduation John moved to California. Harold went on to become a basketball star at the University of Minnesota and then a fighter pilot during World War II. Harold returned to Murdo with his young wife Patricia when the war ended to take over the family business at the request of his father who was in poor health.

It was the summer of 1951 when John returned to Murdo with his wife Virginia and reconnected with his high school classmate, who by this time had three young children. In the intervening years since high school, John had found real purpose in his life through his Christian faith. Anxious to share that faith with his high school friend, he began a small Bible study in that summer of 1951. Through that Bible study, first Pat, then Harold made a profession of faith that has served as their life's foundation to this day. They would be the first to tell you that it is hard to imagine them celebrating this blessed occasion absent that life-changing experience.

We honor both couples on this occasion of 65 years of marriage, for staying true to their God, to each other, and to their families. Their example of stead-

fast commitment and devotion is a powerful witness and inspiration to those who have come after about what a Christian marriage should be. Congratulations to the Parkers and the Thunes on this milestone 65th wedding anniversary.●

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 from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations to the Committee on Foreign Relations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment to the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5690) to remove the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization for certain acts or events, provide relief for certain members of the African National Congress regarding admissibility, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2245. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

H.R. 4264. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida, as the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center".

H.R. 4918. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the "Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

H.R. 6052. An act to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 163. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of further research and activities to increase public awareness, professional education, diagnosis, and treatment of Dandy-Walker syndrome and hydrocephalus.

H. Con. Res. 195. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that a National Dysphagia Awareness Month should be established.

H. Con. Res. 365. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Robert Mondavi.