

In 2005, the CEOs of the five largest oil companies testified in the Senate about these subsidies. When asked directly about these oil and gas tax breaks, all five executives said they did not ask for them.

They agreed with President Bush—that with the price of oil over \$55 per barrel, they didn't need tax incentives. And today, oil is \$109 per barrel.

The CEO of Chevron told the committee that ending these breaks “will have a minimal impact on our company, minimal.”

Let me be as clear as those executives were then: This bill has nothing to do with Chevron's or Conoco's or Exxon's ability to operate refineries or put folks to work here at home.

It has everything to do with holding their top-level executives accountable to all American taxpayers as they rake in billions of dollars in profits every year. Right now Big Oil executives are writing off the royalties they pay to foreign countries as taxes, and until we fix it, all of us are paying for it.

That means you and I are footing the bill every time one of these big companies writes a check to the government of Saudi Arabia or Nigeria. And they are telling us they don't want it or need it. We should do the fiscally responsible thing and close these loopholes.

Instead, we should use that \$8.5 billion to pay down our deficit. And that is what this bill does.

Special tax breaks are supposed to make companies more competitive and get new technologies into the market. But for major oil companies we have written a privileged tax code just for them.

Some of these provisions have been on the books since 1913. I don't know what companies after 98 years still need a subsidy, but if it does, either it isn't very effective or the system is being abused.

As you will hear again and again this week—because it is just an astonishing number—as gas surpasses \$4 per gallon, oil companies are getting \$4 billion annually in tax breaks.

The big five oil companies have made nearly \$1 trillion in profits in the last decade. Nearly \$32 billion of that came in the first 3 months of this year alone.

But what is happening to gas prices?

Rather than bringing down prices at the pump, these giveaways merely line the executives' pockets and run up the deficit. All the while, gas prices have gone up.

For example, Exxon, the biggest of the oil companies in the U.S. made more than \$9 billion dollars in profit last year—just their U.S. operations. And how much did they pay in taxes? Just \$39 million.

That is 0.4 percent.

But this is more fair than in 2009, when Exxon received a \$156 million tax refund from the IRS.

That means we as taxpayers are paying them. The Tax Code is broken and this bill will help fix it.

Right now, we are making tough choices about how to get a handle on our Nation's debt. We have tough debates ahead about heating homes in rural America, and investing in crumbling highways, and strengthening the future of Medicare.

All the while, we are still literally writing checks to our biggest oil companies who don't need them.

After causing the largest offshore oil spill in American history, BP still managed to rake in more than \$7 billion in profits, up 17 percent from the year before.

But most of these big companies are not developing their onshore resources here at home.

How do I look the oil worker in Montana's Bakken Field in the face and say: We are giving the largest oil companies a billion dollars a year to go drill overseas, taking your opportunities offshore.

Dual Capacity, the most egregious of these tax provisions, subsidizes \$1 billion each year in royalty payments to foreign governments that don't like us very much. We don't let companies producing in America credit royalty payments to their taxes, so why would we do that for companies that produce outside of the U.S.?

And does this make us safer? Does it bring stability to the market? Absolutely not.

As we have all watched in the last few months, turmoil in the Middle East has driven up speculation and driven up prices.

Oil prices fell about 10 percent last week—though not enough to relieve hardworking Montanans with any changes in prices at the pump.

Prices didn't fall because of the discovery of a new oil field or a new technology. It happened because some folks on Wall Street moved some numbers around on paper.

There is no accountability in that. And that is why we're trying to change it.

But unlike on Wall Street, there are places where folks are doing the hard work of oil discovery and developing the technology to lower the cost of oil.

A lot of that has to do with the “small guys” in the oil business. And they are successful. In fact, domestic production is going strong—at its highest level in almost a decade.

They are making risks and getting new technology into the field, like in eastern Montana.

My State is home to likely the most productive domestic onshore oilfield in the United States. And small oil companies are doing good, responsible in securing America's energy future.

The Bakken Field is estimated to hold nearly 4 billion barrels of oil. They are leading the way in developing new technology for oil field development.

Where is Exxon? They aren't reinvesting the last quarter's \$11 billion back in U.S. exploration.

In fact, in 2009, they paid their shareholders 90 percent of the profits to

shareholders, leaving just 10 percent to invest in their workforce, research and development, exploration, safety and the expanding energy frontier.

Contrary to what some of my colleagues are saying, eliminating these wasteful subsidies won't raise gas prices. I want to repeat that:

Eliminating wasteful subsidies will not raise gas prices.

Many of these handouts have been on the books for decades as prices have continued to rise.

It is time to close these loopholes for big oil in order to strengthen our national security—and our energy future. It is time to end the taxpayer handouts to Big Oil.

This bill returns us to a responsible path toward energy development that benefits taxpayers and consumers. And it starts addressing the debt and deficit. It is the right thing to do.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, AAIDD, in recognizing the recipients of the Illinois Direct Support Professional Award 2011. These individuals are being honored for their outstanding efforts to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

These recipients have displayed a strong sense of humanity and professionalism in their work with persons with disabilities. Their efforts have inspired the lives of those for whom they care, and they are an inspiration to me as well. They have set a fine example of community service for all Americans to follow.

These honorees spend more than 50 percent of their time at work in direct, personal involvement with their clients. They are not primarily managers or supervisors. They are direct service workers at the forefront of America's effort to care for people with special needs. They do their work every day with little public recognition, providing valued care and assistance that is unknown except to those with whom they work.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Illinois recipients of AAIDD's Illinois Direct Support Professional Award 2011: Brenda Walker, Sandy DeArmond, Rosie Pippens, Crystal Alvey, Patience Blair, Diana Christofalos, Nick White, and Erica Carter.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating the winners of the Illinois Direct Support Professional Award 2011. I applaud their dedication and thank them for their service.

REMEMBERING VERNARD WEBB

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a Kentuckian who for much of his life was

content to remain an unsung hero. But let there be no doubt now that Mr. Vernard Hughes Webb, who passed away last year, leaves behind a legacy of great accomplishment and service to his Nation. You see, for many years, Mr. Webb was a pioneer in secret reconnaissance and satellite technology that was crucial to America's efforts in the Cold War. He was one of the developers on the top secret CORONA project, a spy satellite effort, and was awarded a medal of achievement for his life's work by the Vice President of the United States.

Mr. Webb was born and raised in Letcher County, KY, and became the first in his family to go to college, graduating from Berea College in 1940. The day after the Pearl Harbor attack, he joined the Army Air Corps. Becoming a bombardier on a B-17, he flew 30 combat missions over Europe during World War II.

Later in the war, Mr. Webb developed the crucial idea that would change the course of not only his career, but perhaps his country as well. Assigned to a combat mapping squadron that was tasked with taking reconnaissance pictures over the Philippines, he came up with an idea to greatly increase the accuracy and efficiency of the cameras.

Mr. Webb ran his idea past his Air Force superiors, and in their infinite wisdom, they said no. So Mr. Webb did it anyway. He spent his own money to create a new camera. And when Vernard's superiors finally realized the worth of his invention, they asked him to implement it across the Air Force.

Vernard Webb eventually rose to the rank of major and became one of this country's leading developers of cameras and aircraft for surveillance purposes. He and his colleagues were in a race with the Soviets. By the 1950s, Vernard realized that his technology could be used not just in airplanes, but in satellites.

In 1958, Mr. Webb was assigned to the CORONA project, America's first efforts to develop a spy satellite. In 1960 the project accomplished its first success, gaining valuable intelligence on the Soviet Union and China. But for all those years Mr. Webb could only tell his friends and even his wife that he was an unimportant bureaucrat or engineer.

In 1995 the CIA declassified many documents pertaining to the CORONA project, and only then were Mr. Webb's accomplishments made clear. Around that same time, Vice President Al Gore declared that "the CORONA project represents a crucial development in aiding the national security efforts of the United States."

Vernard Webb passed away last Veterans Day. I extend my greatest condolences to his wife Katie Louis Webb, their children and grandchildren, other members of the Webb family and friends for their loss.

It is only fitting that after a lifetime of service to his country, most of it under a cloak of secrecy that pre-

venting him from receiving the gratitude that he so richly deserved, that Mr. Vernard Webb will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery later this month with full military honors.

And I know my colleagues will join me in extending to the Webb family this Senate's thanks and appreciation for Vernard Webb's sacrifice and service.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article illustrating Mr. Webb's heroic life and career be printed in today's RECORD.

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

[From the Berea College Magazine, Summer 1996]

THE SECRET'S OUT: WEBB WAS A SPACE PIONEER

A year ago, Vernard Webb could have gone to prison for telling you about his coffee table.

The piece of furniture, which resembles a kettle drum with a glass top, is made of gold-plated titanium.

Thirty years ago, during the height of the Cold War, the table was the shell for a spy satellite used by the Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to peek behind the Iron Curtain. It is one of four such satellite "buckets" still in existence. The other three are in the Smithsonian institution.

For decades, Webb, a member of Berea's Class of 1940, could only pass himself off as a pencil-pusher for the Air Force, or an engineer with the Environmental Protection Agency. But by no means was Webb telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Webb's wife, Katie Lou Chambers Webb, class of 1942, had her suspicions. After three decades of relocation from one Air Force Base to another and her husband's extended official trips to places he wouldn't identify, she was certain that whatever the government had him working on was very important.

Then, in late 1995, the CIA declassified tens of thousands of documents and it was evident. Webb was a major player in the top secret CORONA project, America's first spy satellite program, from 1957 until 1972. Webb, in fact, is a pioneer in reconnaissance and satellite technology.

Before the CIA's declassification of CORONA documents in August 1995, Webb and other members of the CORONA team were called to the Pentagon for a medal presentation ceremony which itself was classified. He was awarded a medal of achievement by Vice President Al Gore and CIA officials. However, no citation accompanies the medal, since the mission for which he was being honored was still top secret at the time.

"We were not allowed to even speak with our spouses about the classified projects," Webb said. "It was for their own protection, if anything else."

Joining the Army the day after Pearl Harbor (Dec. 8, 1941), Webb went into what was then the Army Air Corps. Because he had been a photographer for the Berea College student newspaper and listed "photography" as one of his skills on a military questionnaire, it was assumed that Webb would be capable with any sort of optical instrument, such as bomb sights and some navigational equipment. He was assigned as a bombardier on a B-17 and flew 30 combat missions over Europe, bombing Axis petroleum sites, mostly in Germany, and dropping supplies to the French Resistance.

Late in the war, Webb was assigned to a combat mapping squadron flying reconnaissance missions from the Philippines. While stationed there, he came up with an innovation that would help shape the remainder of his career.

"We used large cameras mounted in planes that were once used as bombers," he said. "On a typical mission, somewhere between 30 and 40 percent of the film that was used on these cameras would be useless, because we had failed to photograph the target correctly."

"It occurred to me that if one of our cameras were mounted to a Norden bomb sight, it would greatly increase the accuracy of the camera and the efficiency of the equipment. There was a great similarity between the bomb sight and the control of aerial cameras. They both operated on the same principles. The variable on the operation of both was the ratio between the velocity of the airplane and its height above the ground. I thought it would be convenient to combine the two."

Webb's proposal was found unorthodox by Air Force officials and permission to make the camera-bomb sight combination was denied. Still, Webb was convinced it was a good idea.

"I circumvented the red tape by buying a Norden bombsight with my own money," he said. "The U.S. government had given the Philippine government some Norden sights, and I was able to purchase one of them from the Philippine Air Force. I then mounted the camera on the sight, and we started flying missions with this device. The combination proved to be a 'natural.'"

While the average reconnaissance mission had an accuracy of photographing a specific site "on target" only 60 to 70 percent at that time, an inspector general took notice of the consistent 100 percent success rate of the flights using Webb's camera-bomb sight combination.

"The Air Force officials were always looking at air crew effectiveness," he recalled. "When they saw that we had no rejected aerial photography for a period of months, they began to look into the reasons why. I showed them how we had used the camera and they earmarked me to introduce that technology to the rest of the Air Force."

"I was then transferred to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where a team of engineers had been working for almost a year to come up with something like the camera-bomb sight combination I had put together. They ended up scrapping their entire project as a result."

The official testing of Webb's invention was conducted at Rainey Air Force Base near Wichita, Kan. The Air Force's top test pilot, Chuck Yeager, was assigned to try out the camera system in an RB-50 observation plane and the results were, according to Webb, outstanding. And the die was cast for his career.

"For the next 40 years or so of my career, I would be associated with the reconnaissance efforts of the U.S. Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency," he said.

The following years saw Webb on various projects surrounding the development of cameras and aircraft for surveillance purposes. The RB-36, U-2 and SR-171 spy planes used by the Air Force were fitted with cameras designed by Webb and his team, who were headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base until the late 1950s.

"The U.S. Air Force continued to develop faster, higher-flying aircraft, which was in response to the development of faster and more accurate anti-aircraft weapons and fighter aircraft developed by the Soviets. It was in the early 1950s that we began to consider certain theories on using orbiting satellites as a platform for reconnaissance work," Webb said.

"But we had some big hurdles to jump before we got that far."

"There were four Air Force officers, Lt. Col. Charles Hoy, Capt. Bernard Quinn, Capt. Louis E. Watson and I [Webb was a major], stationed at Wright-Patterson, who met to analyze what would be the future of our efforts. I had been flying the high-altitude tests on the RB-36, up to 55,000 feet, and we knew that we would have to fly higher and higher altitudes due to the increased capability of Soviet lighter aircraft.

"We knew the answer to our problem would be the altitude of the aircraft or source of observation. We analyzed what problems would result if we could attain an observation point above the atmosphere. These, we narrowed down to three key areas.

"First, we knew that we needed to build better cameras. Our ground resolution couldn't be accurate if we took the cameras we were using then to a much higher altitude. Next, we needed better film with a much higher resolution. Third, we needed a better means to process the film. The administration at Wright-Pat in those days was dominated by civilian engineers, who didn't take kindly to such suggestions from Air Force officers."

In a historic move, Webb and the three officers maneuvered themselves toward reassignment at the Air Force's Air Research Development Command in Baltimore. The office was administered by Gen. Marvin Dent, who supervised contracted development of reconnaissance systems for the Air Force and was a much more sympathetic listener to Webb and his associates.

"We were able to write the specifications for photographic systems the Air Force required of the industrial contractors then managing the projects at Wright-Pat," Webb recalled. "A meeting was called by the Air Force to speak with industry representatives in Cincinnati regarding the Air Force's needs. Gen. Dent gave the keynote speech. He basically told industry representatives that the current technology being used for reconnaissance was becoming quickly outmoded and he strongly suggested that they work with our group of officers in developing future reconnaissance projects."

The speech by Dent, made in 1955, led to the development by Air Force-contracted private industry of the first spacecraft-based cameras.

"Within a week of the General's speech, we were visited by representatives of three different contractors," Webb said. "One was a representative of Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, another was from Eastman Kodak and the third was one of the most brilliant optical designers this country has ever produced, Dr. James Baker. Fairchild said they could build the camera, Kodak would handle the processing and Baker would design the lenses required.

"These individuals had done their homework and told us they were confident that they could build a photographic system that could meet our specifications. We had the camera system from them in a year."

The photographic equipment, which was originally designed for the U-2 spy plane, was meant to operate at an altitude of approximately 84,000 feet. The camera system designed by the Fairchild-Kodak-Baker partnership had a 24-inch lens and a better resolution than any other visual reconnaissance system used at that time. However, the Soviet development of satellite technology would change the nature of Webb's work forever.

"When we originally had the Fairchild camera developed, we were still thinking airplanes," Webb recalled. "But, the development of Sputnik forced us to take the resulting technology into space. When the Soviets

successfully orbited Sputnik, the first satellite in 1957, most of America was horrified that we no longer had a technological edge in the Cold War. With my team, we were exhilarated that it had been proven a satellite could be successfully orbited. It gave us an additional step toward our research goals."

Webb and his co-workers already had an interest in utilizing a space-based camera system for observation. Using some foresight, Webb was able to get transferred to a unit dedicated to guided missile research and incorporated what he learned there into the great body of reconnaissance knowledge he already possessed.

"I was no longer influenced by people who knew only airplanes," he said. "We were now looking at using a camera system that needed to produce high-quality photos from an orbit of 100 miles, instead of 85,000 feet. But the development of the Fairchild camera laid the groundwork for what we would be using later on. The lens we used with the CORONA system was a slight variation of Dr. Baker's 24-inch lens used on the U-2."

The CORONA program began in 1955 with numerous experiments at a classified site near Palo Alto, California. Webb was assigned to the program, the United States' first efforts at using a spy satellite, in the fall of 1958. "Our program's cover name, which was operated under scientific pretenses, was Discoverer," Webb said. "We already had a lot of ballistic information that had been done by the guided missile people at Lockheed, the primary contractor of the program."

The early months of the CORONA program were frustrating for Webb and the Lockheed team. Rocket failures, camera problems and film difficulties all combined to serve as an expensive tutor for the group. The CORONA system consisted of a large orbiting camera, which would be linked to a "bucket" containing approximately 4,000 feet of film. After receiving radio commands from Webb and his associates, the satellite was designed to photograph designated areas with the film spooling back into the bucket. The bucket would then detach from the camera and plunge back through Earth's atmosphere where it would be recovered by aircraft upon a parachute reentry.

On August 18, 1960, the first fully successful CORONA mission was accomplished, with the satellite photographing areas in the Soviet Union and China. An American flag, stowed in the satellite's bucket, was presented to President Dwight D. Eisenhower in a secret White House ceremony later that month.

The White House, however, was even more pleased with the photographs obtained by CORONA. "That single mission obtained more photos from behind the Iron Curtain than all the combined U-2 missions flown up to that time," Webb said. "It was considered an outstanding success, and we were in business."

The CORONA project was utilized successfully during the Cuban Missile Crisis, most of the Vietnam War and an important period of the Cold War. Portions of the project's development and results are still classified, but many of the spy photos have been made available to the public on the Internet by the CIA and Air Force.

"The CORONA project represents a crucial development in aiding the national security efforts of the United States," said Vice President Gore in a ceremony held at the Pentagon last year.

Originally from Letcher County, Ky., Webb credits Berea for getting him on track for what he considers a fascinating career. "At Berea they taught me to work. They gave me the discipline I needed to do well," Webb said.

Oh, and just how did Webb get his "coffee table," anyway? "When they changed the design of the satellite and no longer needed these, a crate arrived at my office," Webb remembered.

"When I saw what was in it, I called my supervisor and asked why it had been sent to me. He said, 'We have been given an order from the highest possible authority that the bucket is yours to keep. Your efforts have been appreciated. Now, don't ask any more questions.' And he hung up."

REMEMBERING HARRY HOE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I rise today to note the passing of one of southeastern Kentucky's most notable citizens, Mr. Harry Morgan Hoe. Mr. Hoe was a decorated World War II veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge under the command of GEN George Patton. He recalled once what General Patton said to his men then:

"Half of you guys are not going home, you know that, don't you? You're over here to take that hill, and if you don't take it, I want to see the truckload of dog tags that show me that you proved yourself."

Well, Harry Hoe did return home, after fighting in five major European campaigns, and he certainly did prove himself. He received the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star, the Oak Leaf Cluster for heroic action and the French Liberation Appreciation Medal.

But Mr. Hoe's heroic service in World War II is just the beginning of his incredible life story. He would go on to meet the love of his life, his wife Mary, in college and return to his hometown of Middlesboro to work in the family foundry business. He would be elected to the State legislature, invest countless hours in volunteer work and community service, and become a role model for me and many others for his leadership, his humility and his dedication to the people of the Bluegrass State.

With his wife Mary, who passed away some time ago, Harry had three children and several grandchildren. I wish to offer my greatest condolences to the Hoe family and all of Harry's many friends who are mourning his loss.

Mr. President, a wonderful article that appeared today in the Middlesboro Daily News tells the story of Mr. Harry Hoe's life and career. It is a fitting tribute to a fine man and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Middlesboro Daily News,
May 10, 2011]

MIDDLESBORO LOSES 'CROWN JEWEL'
(By Lorie Settles/Staff Writer)

MIDDLESBORO.—Many in Middlesboro are mourning the passing of one of the city's most influential people—Harry Morgan Hoe. "The city has lost one of its crowned jewels," lamented longtime friend and businessman, Dewey Morgan. "He and Mary Bob (his