

ESSAY BY KAYSIE FAAS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Kaysie Faas attends Needville High School in Needville, Texas. The essay topic is: Oil Prices Crash: The Impacts on Our Country and Our State.

Over the past year to eighteen months, we have watched crude oil prices plummet from over \$100 per barrel to the \$30 per barrel range. Over this same period gas prices at the pump have fallen from almost \$4.00 per gallon, to well below \$2.00; the lowest in years. While many people enjoy paying these lower gas prices and extra cash in their wallet, the effects on our economy are often very damaging, especially now that the United States produces much more oil than the past.

Years ago, the United States relied heavily on foreign oil as domestic production was falling short of expectations. Generally, when we rely on imported oil, increased oil prices negatively impact the U.S. economy, as the price for many goods and services are driven by the price of oil. For example, higher fuel prices result in increased shipping costs, which basically impact the cost of everything from apples to iPads. Also, higher oil prices result in higher chemical prices for all chemicals that are produced from oil. So, in general, when we heavily rely on foreign oil, higher oil prices have a large impact on our economy.

However, in the 2000s, new technology (called "fracking") emerged in the oil and gas industry which made it possible to extract oil from previously untapped layers. As this technology spread across the U.S., the U.S. became one of the top oil and gas producers in the world. Closer to home, oil and gas production in our state of Texas also followed suit and boomed as well. This boom resulted in a great economic boost for our state as a whole and also for the greater Houston area that relies heavily on the oil and gas industry. I personally witnessed this boom during my family travels around the state. One time quiet and desolate small south Texas towns had become full of activity, with new hotels, convenience stores and restaurants. Everyone who wanted a job, had a job, and times were good. However, as the U.S. and Texas produces more oil, we are now more dependent and affected by the price of oil. So, as the price of oil drops, drilling and production does as well. This directly affects these small Texas towns and large city oil and gas centers such as our home congressional district and the Houston area. These decreases in drilling and production activities result in massive lay-offs in oil producing regions. Now the small town hotels and restaurants are empty and forced

to close. Large oil companies in the big cities are forced to cut thousands of jobs. These falling oil prices have a devastating effect on our area.

As stated above, cheaper gas prices appear to be a blessing to an economy. However, residing in a state and a congressional district that rely heavily on oil and gas, the effects can be devastating, even though we are saving at the pump.

RECOGNIZING MILDRED JANE
WORSHAM AND LANDON WORSHAM

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in recognition of the service and dedication of Mildred Jane Worsham and Landon Worsham to the Chatham Presbyterian Church and the entire Chatham community.

Mildred Jane Worsham has been serving the Chatham Presbyterian Church congregation as their organist for over 70 years. Mildred began playing for Chatham Presbyterian in 1945 at the age of sixteen. Over the years, she shared that duty with the late Augusta Parrish on an every-other-month basis, and she now serves as the sole organist.

In addition to her duties as organist, Mrs. Worsham has also served as the church's long-standing session clerk, Choir Director, taught Sunday School, Bible School and Bible Studies, and Mrs. Worsham had the honor of being named the first female elder of Chatham Presbyterian Church and was one of the church's first female deacons. She was also a commissioner for the Presbytery of the Peaks, which included 129 churches spanning parts of Central Virginia, Southside, the New River Valley and Allegheny Highlands, and served as the Commissioner to the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in the United States. Mrs. Worsham has also been a member of the Sylvania Garden Club, the Homemaker's Club, and assisted her husband's work as Chief of the Chatham Volunteer Fire Department for over 50 years.

For decades, Landon Worsham's service to the Chatham community has extended far beyond firefighting. In 2013, I had the privilege of joining the Town of Chatham, Virginia to honor Mr. Worsham for his 60 years of service to Chatham as a volunteer firefighter, 50 of which he spent as fire chief. In addition to this tremendous accomplishment, Mr. Worsham has been an active volunteer at the Chatham Presbyterian Church, serving as the superintendent of Chatham Presbyterian's Sunday school for over 50 years and counting. Mr. Worsham is also an elder at the church and has served numerous times on the session.

Mr. Worsham also served as a leader in the Chatham Lions Club and the Chatham Jaycees, as well as serving as the Vice President of the Pittsylvania County Fire-Rescue Association. He also served his country in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, and was wounded in New Guinea and awarded the Purple Heart.

I ask the members of this House of Representatives to join with me and the entire Chatham community in thanking and honoring the service and dedication of Jane Worsham

and Landon Worsham to the Chatham Presbyterian Church and the Town of Chatham, and to the surrounding counties and our great nation.

CONGRATULATING JESSICA M.
BARRETT ON RECEIVING THE
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINIS-
TRATION'S 2016 WOMEN IN BUSI-
NESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR
AWARD FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jessica M. Barrett on her selection as the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2016 Women in Business Champion for Guam. This award honors an individual on Guam who, as an advocate for women entrepreneurs, has fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership.

Jessica is the President of Barrett Enterprise, Inc., a local family-owned business started in 1972 by her parents Jack and Maxine Barrett that provides basic plumbing and water infrastructure services to residential, commercial, and government clients on Guam. Originally an operation of two employees providing only plumbing services, today, Barrett Plumbing has grown to a workforce of 19 full-time and locally hired employees, including five women, providing plumbing services, as well as maintenance and installation of new construction of water and wastewater lines infrastructure. Under Jessica's leadership, Barrett Plumbing expanded its operations and achieved federal HUBZone certification. The company also partners with the Guam Department of Labor to provide an apprenticeship program to train new practitioners on Guam.

Jessica is also deeply involved with several community organizations on Guam. She is a founding member and current president of the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). In this capacity, Jessica has worked to provide guidance and counsel to local organizations and businesses about promoting and advancing the role of women in the construction industry. She has also supported local organizations such as the Guam Animals in Need (GAIN), Santa Teresita Catholic Church, and Catholic Social Services. Further, in 2014, the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce recognized Jessica as Guam's first Chamorro woman plumber.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating Jessica Barrett on her selection as the SBA's 2016 Women in Business Champion for Guam. I commend her for her many contributions to our island and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 4570, the