

should not distinguish between our civilian and military workforces, both of whom serve their country with equal dedication.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### NOMINATION OF JAMES GRITZNER

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about James E. Gritzner, who was approved by the Senate last night to serve as United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa. I am pleased that the Senate was able to move swiftly on this judicial nomination. Jim Gritzner has extensive trial experience and is fully qualified to serve on the District Court. His reputation for being fair and evenhanded is something we expect of all judges, and he will be a great addition to the Southern District of Iowa.

By way of background for my colleagues, Mr. Gritzner received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dakota Wesleyan University, a Masters of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa, and a law degree from Drake University Law School. His distinguished legal career includes having practiced with several Iowa law firms, most recently with the Des Moines, Iowa firm of Neymaster, Goode, Voights, West, Hansell & O'Brien.

In addition to being in private practice for over 20 years, Mr. Gritzner has had a long record of public service. He served as a member of the Iowa Board of Parole from 1980 to 1982. From 1985 to 1990, Mr. Gritzner was the primary prosecutor for the Committee on Professional Ethics and Conduct of the Iowa State Bar Association and the Client Security and Attorney Disciplinary Commission of the Iowa Supreme Court.

I am sure everyone would agree that these are excellent qualifications. Jim Gritzner will serve the Federal bench very well, and I am proud to have supported his nomination to the Southern District of Iowa.●

##### CALIFORNIA COASTAL PROTECTION AND LOUISIANA ENERGY ENHANCEMENT ACT

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I have joined my colleague, Senator BOXER, in introducing the California Coastal Protection and Louisiana Energy Enhancement Act. This legislation will add to the production of oil and gas off the Louisiana gulf coast while solving a difficult problem associated with production off the coast of California.

The Federal Government, through the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service, MMS, manages oil and gas exploration in all Federal waters from 3 miles beyond the coastline. For years, leases have been issued to companies, giving them the right to explore and produce on these lands. Companies bid on proffered

leases at the MMS, then pay rental payments to the Federal Government to maintain their leases. Once oil or gas is flowing from Federal lands, companies pay a royalty on the production to the Federal treasury.

Between 1968 and 1984, the MMS awarded 40 leases off the coast of California to a number of different companies so that they could explore for oil and gas and bring these energy resources to market. The proven oil reserves under these leases are vast. Over the past 34 years, owners of the leases have been working through the processes of Federal and State government to bring production from these lands online, as was the original purpose of the lease sales. During this time, the owners have been paying annual rental payments to the Federal Government. To date, none of them are producing.

The people of California have become increasingly opposed to new oil and gas production off their coast. This opposition has created a dilemma for the Federal Government and the leaseholders because while the opposition of the people of California has made it more difficult to proceed with oil production, the ability to produce oil from these lands is exactly what the companies have been paying the Federal Government for all these years.

Senator BOXER and I have been working to solve this longstanding problem. The legislation we are introducing today will essentially move the investment these companies have made with the Federal Government from the California waters to the Federal waters in the central and western areas of the Gulf of Mexico. This investment will finally be put to the use for which it was originally intended, to provide a domestic source of energy for the United States. This will mean a more vibrant oil and gas industry in my state and more jobs for Louisianians. It will maintain the integrity of the MMS leasing process and the Federal contracts that have been in place these many years. Finally, it will assist the people of California in reaching their goal of no new oil production off their coastline.

The California Coastal Protection and Louisiana Energy Enhancement Act gives the California leaseholders the option to move their investments to the central and western Gulf of Mexico. If the leaseholders choose, they may receive credits for the money that has been paid to the Federal Government for the California leases, and any other money invested in developing the leases. These credits may be redeemable at the MMS for lease bonus and royalty payments for production in the Gulf of Mexico. participating companies would then surrender the California leases and agree not to bring any future legal actions against the government for their inability to go forward with production over the past 34 years. Finally, our bill takes the lands that were in the leases and creates an ecological preserve to protect

traditional fishing areas and provide conservational scientific and recreational benefits.

About 65 percent of our Nation's energy needs are supplied by oil and natural gas. The waters of the Gulf of Mexico have proven to be a significant source of oil and natural gas and are predicted to remain so for the foreseeable future. While states such as Louisiana continue to welcome the development of Federal crude oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico, this development is accompanied by adverse impacts on the infrastructure and public service needs of States, counties and local communities that "host" the development of these Federal sources. With the rest of the country consistently turning to the waters of the central and western Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas production, it is long past time to share a meaningful portion of the revenues generated annually from Federal offshore crude oil and natural gas resources with the coastal states that serve as the platform for this development: Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama.

I believe this bill is a creative solution to a difficult problem that has been left unattended for too many years. I commend my colleague, Senator BOXER, for taking a leading role with me in crafting this legislation. I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this bill.●

##### WICHITA HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to recognize the class from Wichita Heights High School which will be representing the State of Kansas in the 2002 national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program.

On May 4-6, 2002, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC, to take part in this competition, which is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. This 3-day competition, administered by the Center for Civic Education, is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress and consists of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

I am very pleased to see these young people advocating the fundamental ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation. I am proud that this class from Wichita Heights High School will be representing Kansas on the national level in this worthy endeavor. I wish their entire team the best success at the We the People . . . national finals this May.●