

I am proud to have worked with my colleague, Senator JEFF BINGAMAN, and others on a companion bill in the Senate.

I know after talking with service men and women from Arkansas that this is an important effort which will allow us to properly honor and recognize the individual sacrifice of those who put their lives on the line so far away from home to defend the freedom we cherish as Americans.

In an effort to demonstrate support for our men and women in the military, I am circulating a Soldiers Bill of Rights petition in Arkansas to demonstrate to my colleagues in Washington how important it is to honor the sacrifice of our veterans and their families. This legislation is one of ten priorities I have included in my Soldiers Bill of Rights and I hope we can pass this bill in the immediate future.

I close my remarks by commending my colleague, Congressman VIC SNYDER, who led this effort in the House. VIC is a good friend and a Vietnam Veteran, and I am very proud of his leadership on this issue on behalf of the constituents we represent in Arkansas.

#### GASOLINE FREE MARKET COMPETITION ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I would like to express my support as a cosponsor for S. 1737, the Gasoline Free Market Competition Act. Over the past few months, oil prices have skyrocketed \$40 per barrel, the highest price since 1990. High gasoline prices are inextricably linked to high crude oil prices. And these high oil and gas prices hurt Americans across the Nation and from all walks of life. Farmers, teachers, and small business owners across the country and in Wisconsin in particular are getting hit hard by these outrageous costs.

The statistics are staggering. For gasoline, the increases in crude oil prices have resulted in an average national price of \$1.96 per gallon. In Wisconsin, the current average price for a gallon of self-service regular unleaded gasoline in Wisconsin is \$1.821, according to AAA's Fuel Gauge Report. The current average is 7.1 cents higher than a month ago at this time and 23.6 cents higher than a year ago at this time. These are the highest gas prices we have seen in 13 years.

Unfortunately, under current law, the Department of Energy can conduct investigations into gasoline prices, but it does have the power to enforce the law or sanction companies for price manipulation. On the other hand, the Federal Trade Commission, FTC, does have the power to protect consumers from gas price manipulation. The FTC is supposed to promote competition and free markets, but all too often, the FTC has not actively overseen energy markets to prevent price fixing and market manipulation.

Congress needs to direct the FTC to eliminate anticompetitive practices

that currently cause a chokehold on the competitiveness of independent gas distributors and gas station owners. That is why I am supporting the Gasoline Free Market Competition Act, S. 1737. This legislation would modernize antitrust law to prohibit anticompetitive practices by single companies in the concentrated gasoline markets. The gasoline market in Wisconsin and at least 27 other States are now considered to be "tight oligopolies" with four companies controlling more than 60 percent of the gasoline supplies. We need to ensure that these concentrated markets are not subject to manipulation.

S. 1737 would address two major problems tied to gasoline price-fixing called "redlining" and "zone pricing." In tightly concentrated markets, numerous studies have found oil company practices are driving independent wholesalers and dealers out of the market. One anticompetitive practice is called "redlining," which limits where independent distributors can sell their gasoline. As a result, independent stations must buy their gasoline directly from the oil company, usually at a higher price than the company's own brand-name stations pay. With these higher costs, the independent station cannot compete. Investigations have also found large consolidated oil companies control not just the buying choices of local gas stations, but also the selling prices of gasoline distributors. This anti-competitive practice is called zone pricing. The company bases prices not on the cost of producing gasoline, but on the maximum a neighborhood will pay.

The Gasoline Free Market Competition Act, S. 1737, will do three things to address this problem. First, the bill would establish "consumer watch zones" for concentrated gasoline markets like Wisconsin. Where a few companies control a large part of the market, they can manipulate supplies and restrict competition with ease. Therefore, the FTC should watch consolidated markets more carefully.

The Gasoline Free Market Competition Act also shifts the burden of proof for price-fixing. If the FTC finds that an oil company is employing anticompetitive practices in a consumer watch zone, the company should have to prove it is not hurting consumers. Redlining and zone pricing would be presumptively illegal. Oil companies that engage in anticompetitive practices that manipulate supply or limit competition would have to prove these practices do not hurt consumers.

Finally, the act gives the FTC clear "cease and desist" authority to stop price-fixing. In consumer watch zones, the FTC could issue "cease and desist" orders to companies participating in these anticompetitive practices, forcing them to stop gouging consumers. The Congress needs to act now to ensure that anticompetitive practices do not lead to further gas price increases, as many energy analyst are predicting.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW ROSS

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to commend an outstanding young Floridian. Matthew Ross is an 11-year-old who has overcome tough circumstances and has succeeded. He recently won the prestigious national award, the Temple Grandin Award, for achievement in autism, became the first autistic child to serve as a page in the Florida House of Representatives and won the Special Olympics District Tournament Golfing Regionals in his area. What a year.

I had the privilege of meeting Matt recently. I was impressed by his polite demeanor and his interest in special education issues.

A little over a year ago, Matt was in special education classes because by his own words, he had "trouble with the way my brain processes information." He had been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and, earlier, his mother had even considered placing him in a group home. But, now just some 12-13 months later he has blossomed. He is no longer in special education classes, and as I understand it has political aspirations. I give high praise to his mother, Susan Ross, who has steadfastly stood by Matt and made it possible for him to succeed.

I wish Matt all the luck and blessings in the world. Keep it up, Matt.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASIA FOUNDATION

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Asia Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, CA, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2004.

The Asia Foundation is a national asset that has contributed in significant ways to the mutual interests of the people of Asia and the United States for a halfcentury.

Through its programs, the foundation has been instrumental at key moments in these five eventful decades. Early in its life, the foundation contributed to democracy, freedom, peace and constructive relations in post-World War II Asia. Since then, the foundation has invested in Asia's future leaders, built the capacity of democratic institutions, provided support to civil society groups, promoted the rights of women and created opportunities for economic growth and development.

Today, the foundation is contributing to new initiatives in the region, building new governance and opportunity in Afghanistan, for instance, through support to the Constitutional Loya Jirga, helping new democratic institutions in Indonesia and programs with moderate Muslim leaders, and continuing to support human rights and prospects for reform in Cambodia, Nepal, and throughout Asia.

Through its 17 field offices in Asia, the Asia Foundation has made its positive mark. The foundation identifies and supports reform-minded people at every level of society, from presidents and parliamentarians, to grassroots nongovernmental leaders. The foundation has supported educational institutions and libraries, legislatures and judiciaries, civil society and the media, all with the aim of improving the lives and helping to meet the aspirations of the people of Asia.

In every corner of Asia, the foundation's impact is felt through the fellowships it has provided to thousands of Asia's leaders since its founding, the new government and nongovernmental institutions it has supported and the new ideas it has fostered to meet the challenges facing Asia today. In so doing, the Asia Foundation represents America at its best: a private organization working in partnership with government, advancing mutual interests of the U.S. and Asia in supporting vibrant democracies, open economies, and peaceful relations.

As the United States addresses new challenges and opportunities in U.S.-Asian relations, we celebrate the Asia Foundation's history of achievement, and look forward to its continued contributions to the region in the future.●

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IN RECOGNITION OF MARY CONNELLY KEGELMAN, NATIONAL AND DELAWARE MOTHER OF THE YEAR

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mary Connelly Kegelman, recipient of the Delaware Mother of the Year and the National Mother of the Year awards. Mary has dedicated her life to raising her 10 children and to the thousands of school children whose lives she has touched.

Mary was born in Massachusetts in 1930. She received her Bachelor's degree in chemistry from Elms College in Massachusetts and went on to Fordham University in New York for her Master's degree in physical chemistry. It was during graduate school that she met her husband, Matthew. The two were married on October 12, 1953, in Massachusetts in front of their loved ones.

Shortly after graduation, Matthew was offered a job at the DuPont Company. The newlyweds moved to Delaware and have lived here for over 50 years. They have 10 children—John, Matthew, Jerry, Joseph, Thomas, Mary, Christine, Bernadette, James and Daniel, and 18 grandchildren.

Mary began teaching algebra part time at Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, DE in 1973. While her children were in middle school at Immaculate Heart of Mary, she saw a great need for algebra education. Two of her children were in seventh and eighth grade, and were not being taught algebra. Mary knew they were capable of learning it. She talked to the school, and began volunteering one day a week to teach

algebra to the top students in the class. One day turned into two days, and soon thereafter, the school asked her to come aboard full time to teach and to start the advanced math program at Immaculate Heart of Mary. With the help and cooperation of students, teachers, administrators and faculty, the curriculum developed into a top-notch program, with each of the top 15 students in grades 6, 7 and 8 participating.

It was after a lifetime of dedication to her family and students that Mary was recognized for her selfless devotion. American Mothers Inc., a non-profit group that promotes motherhood and family, awarded Mary with the Delaware Mother of the Year and the National Mother of the Year honors. The State award was presented to Mary in April, and the national award was announced in early May. Mary was honored for reading favorite bedtime stories, helping with homework and offering friendship when it was needed most. Those who know Mary describe her as embodying the spirit of what motherhood is supposed to be—nurturing, but strong.

Mary is an amazing woman. She has been committed to her family, her students, and her community. Even to this day, she spends several hours a week tutoring students who need help in math. She has helped shape the lives of thousands in the halls of the institutions she served, and in the hearts of those who have been lucky enough to call her their friend. I rise today to honor and thank Mary for her selfless dedication to the betterment of others. She is a remarkable woman and a testament to the community she represents.●

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WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION NATIONAL COMPETITION

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the students from Central Academy in Des Moines, IA, who participated in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals in Washington, D.C. The annual competition is the culmination of the students' extensive study of the American system of constitutional democracy. The team from Central Academy won the State competition, earning the honor of representing Iowa in the national finals on May 1-3. I am proud to say that performance of the Central Academy students in the national finals earned them the Regional Award for the central states, which is given to the best non-finalist team in each region. I offer my sincere congratulations to these exemplary students.

I had the opportunity to meet with these students when they were in Washington. They are a remarkable group of politically engaged young people and I am proud to have had them representing Iowa during the national competition.

The "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program, run by the Center for Civic Education with the help of Federal funding, provides an outstanding curriculum that promotes civic competence and responsibility among elementary and secondary students. Students take away a solid understanding of the origin of American constitutional democracy as well as the contemporary relevance and application of our founding documents and ideals. In short, the We the People program produces better citizens.

In closing, I would like to personally recognize the Central Academy students who participated in this program, Oliver Borzo, Andrew Dahm, Andrew Eilts, Becki Gell, Andrew Greiner, Sean Noonan, Carole Peterson, Paige Richards, Maura Walsh, Shannon Wenck, Emma White, Molly White, Christopher Woods, Ru-Huey Yen, Ru-Shyan Yen and their teacher, Michael Schaffer. They can all be very proud of their knowledge and accomplishments. I would also like to recognize the "We the People" district coordinator, Ivette Bender, and the State coordinator for Iowa, Linda Martin, for all their work in getting an Iowa team to the national finals.●

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IN SUPPORT OF LES BROWNLEE, ACTING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to praise the Acting Secretary of the Army, Les Brownlee, for his wonderful leadership and great job he has done under very difficult circumstances as the Army copes with the stresses of heavy involvement in the Global War on Terrorism, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, and as he juggles many demands and complex priorities as the Army continues to transform.

Acting Secretary Brownlee is indeed a highly distinguished public servant who has performed with great humility, energy and passion on behalf of all our active and reserve soldiers and their families. I was particularly impressed with the article "Army of One" by Katherine McIntire Peters which appeared in the latest edition of Government Executive magazine and believe that every member should take time to read it. I ask that this article be printed in the RECORD in its entirety.

The article follows.

ARMY OF ONE

Acting Secretary Les Brownlee once again leads troops through tumultuous times. On Christmas Eve 2001, Undersecretary of the Army Less Brownlee took an Air Force C-130 transport plane to Baghram Air Base in Afghanistan, where about 200 soldiers were battling al Qaeda and the terrorist organization's Taliban sponsors. It was a dangerous flight. To reduce their chances of drawing enemy fire, the pilots landed at night, with their lights extinguished. Brownlee spent the evening and following day meeting with soldiers, listening to their experiences and offering encouragement and praise for their service. He had been in office less than two