

worldwide. Indeed, much of our success depends on the men and women in the new democratic governments formed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they are stepping up to the challenge. In Iraq, people from all walks of life—Sunnis, Shias, Kurds—have participated in multiple elections and referendums across the country for the first time in Iraq's history.

Remarkably, after democratic elections in Afghanistan, women are holding positions of power in local and national governments, something that was impossible under the Taliban's rule. The sovereign governments are working with regional and international partners in achieving united democracies—an achievement only allowed through our fighting men and women in combat.

Many remarkable achievements have been made through the sacrifices of the men and women in the military, but perhaps the most important of all is what has not occurred in our country: since we took military action against these Islamic extremists and brought the fight to them, we have not seen an attack on American soil. The sacrifices that the sons and daughters of our Gold Star mothers have made and continue to make are protecting us on our shores. Unfortunately, we have seen that even after the death of terrorist leaders, such as Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, the forces of Islamic extremists vow that they will continue to wage war on American civilians. Our success against this type of enemy is only ensured by the brave men and women of our Armed Forces. They provide safety and security to our Nation, and we are truly grateful for what they have done.

While the cost has been high, the cost of doing nothing would be even greater. These words provide little comfort to the families who have lost loved ones, but we will always remember those who have lost their lives in support of our freedom and thank them for their sacrifice.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of fallen heroes from Colorado be printed in the RECORD.

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

Pfc. Travis W. Anderson
Pfc. Shawn M. Atkins
Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Bader
Sgt. Douglas E. Bascom
Sgt. Thomas F. Broomhead
Petty Officer 2nd Class Danny P. Dietz
Lance Cpl. Mark E. Engel
Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Falkel
Pfc. George R. Geer
Lance Cpl. Evenor C. Herrera
Cpl. Benjamin D. Hoeffner
Staff Sgt. Theodore S. Holder II
Maj. Douglas A. La Bouff
Staff Sgt. Mark A. Lawton
Spec. Derrick J. Lutters
Pfc. Tyler R. MacKenzie
Lance Cpl. Chad B. Maynard
Sgt. Dimitri Muscat
Sgt. Larry W. Pankey Jr.
Staff Sgt. Michael C. Parrott
Pfc. Chance R. Phelps

Pfc. Ryan E. Reed
Sgt. 1st Class Randall S. Rehn
Staff Sgt. Gavin B. Reinke
Sgt. Luis R. Reyes
Pfc. Andrew G. Riedel
Capt. Russell B. Rippetoe
Pfc. Henry C. Risner
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel A. Romero
Lance Cpl. Gregory P. Rund
Staff Sgt. Barry Sanford
Staff Sgt. Michael B. Shackelford
Cpl. Christopher F. Sittton
Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Slocum
Lance Cpl. Jeremy P. Tamburello
Staff Sgt. Justin L. Vasquez
2nd Lt. John S. Vaughan
Capt. Ian P. Weikel
Spec. Dana N. Wilson
Sgt. Michael E. Yashinski

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, in remembering their lives, we also honor and celebrate the joy they brought to their families. To the Gold Star and Blue Star mothers and fathers: I salute you and thank you for your service to this Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, how much time remains in morning business for our side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 9 minutes 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, first, I wish to recognize the Senator from Colorado for the speech he has just delivered. As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Gold Star mothers are always at our committee working with us to ensure that those who survived and are America's veterans are treated fairly and justly and the benefits they have been provided by law are delivered to them.

I thank the Senator from Colorado for his recognition of these phenomenal mothers and fathers who have borne the ultimate sacrifice of losing one of their loved ones, one of their children in pursuit of our freedom and justice around the world.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Idaho. We truly appreciate his leadership on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He is doing a great job.

Mr. CRAIG. I thank the Senator.

DRILLING FOR AMERICA'S OIL

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk to our colleagues about something going on in America at this very moment that probably is very pleasing to the average consumer. I came to the floor of the Senate over a month ago to deliver a speech using this map. I called it the "No-Zone Speech." I called it the "No-Zone Speech" because all of these red areas around our Nation, off our shores, in the Outer Continental Shelf, are no-zones to oil exploration and development. Why? Because we have said politically we don't want to go there. Yet it is believed by the U.S. Geological Survey that in the no-zone rests maybe 80 billion or 90 billion barrels of oil.

I gave that speech in late July of this year at a time when we were debating a very small area down here that could supply upwards of 3 billion or 4 billion barrels of oil, known as lease sale 181. The Senate finally got it, worked out their differences, and passed that legislation. They are now working with the House to try to resolve those differences.

But something phenomenal has happened at the gas pump. During the time I delivered that speech, the Senate was working on lease sale 181, and American consumers were paying over \$3 a gallon for their gas. What happened? If you went to the pump yesterday in certain parts of our country, you paid less than \$2 a gallon, and in my State of Idaho you are paying 30 cents or 40 cents less a gallon than you did in late July or early August. What happened?

Let me tell my colleagues what we think happened. It is about the very reality of America developing its oil reserves and becoming less dependent upon foreign, unstable sources.

About a month ago, Chevron announced they had discovered in the gulf in what is known as deepwater areas 20,000 feet below the ocean's surface, and 8,000 feet below the ocean's floor, possibly one of the largest oil find discoveries in the history of the United States. That announcement, coupled with the fact that there had been no hurricanes in this area, coupled with the fact that all of the oil development and refinement that was taken off line by Katrina is now back on line and operating, and the reality that there was a new reserve of oil that was secure to our Nation and not dependent upon a foreign unstable political power, changed the dynamics of the oil market.

The \$70-plus a barrel for crude that refiners were paying in late July was always believed by many of us who study the market to have \$20 of the \$70 as purely risk money and speculative price. That is gone. That is gone because of this very large discovery down in the gulf and the reality that the Congress is going to act responsibly for the first time and allow some development, some exploration in the no-zone.

To think we could become increasingly independent of unstable foreign sources of oil would be phenomenally important for this country and our economy and, most importantly, for the consumer. I am quite sure that the person who pulls up to the gas pump in Mid City USA today and is paying 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80 cents a dollar less than they paid a month ago is a pretty happy person, and they ought to be. But, more importantly, they ought to be recognizing what they should be asking the Congress of the United States to do, and that is to advance the development of drilling in the no-zone.

The Presiding Officer is a Senator from Alaska. She and I and others have worked for years to develop the rest of the oil reserves in Alaska in the ANWR

area, where there could be 30 billion or 40 billion barrels of oil, but America's politics has said no, and America's consumers have suffered. Then we work our way down the coast, down through California and all the other areas where the politics of those areas say, no, you can't drill here, and yet we believe there are trillions of cubic feet of gas and potentially billions of barrels of oil.

I have worked on the Energy Committee of the Senate since 1990. I have watched as others have worked with me and watched American consumers and the oil industry of our country becoming increasingly dependent on foreign sources. In 1990, it was about 40 percent dependency, and then 42 and then 45 and then 50 and then 55 and then 60. At the peak of this summer's consumption, upwards of maybe 65 percent of our oil was coming from those unstable political regions of the world where, at any moment, a terrorist attack or the bombing of a ship could spike the oil market because the supply would diminish, and that is why we saw \$70 a barrel for oil in speculative prices.

At just the moment when we are doing lease sale 181, the new discovery happens in the gulf, and the market recognizes that \$20 worth of speculation on risk goes away, and American consumers are beginning to recognize the value of being less dependent on foreign oil.

A very wise admiral a long time ago fought a very important battle with the politics of America and the politics of an old-style Navy, and his name was Rickover. He said: As long as our surface and subsurface Navy is dependent upon refueling with diesel fuel all over the world, we will not be free and independent. The politics of that was very rigorous. In 1982, Admiral Rickover delivered a speech before Columbia University where he talked about the battles he fought to develop the first Nautilus nuclear-powered submarine. He said that the political battle to get the submarine was more difficult than the design of the submarine itself.

Well, that was then, and that was many years ago, and most of us have forgotten that political battle because what we now know is that most of our Navy, both subsurface and surface, is nuclear powered. From the time the new nuclear Navy vessel is built, slides from the drydock into the water, and begins its mission around the world, it is never refueled.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The majority's time has expired.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to continue for 5 additional minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRAIG. So that Navy vessel never has to pull into a port anywhere in the world to refuel itself. It is totally independent. It can travel the

world. It can go into the Indian Ocean where it would be very difficult to refuel a diesel-powered vessel, and it sails on. That is why we are the dominant naval power of the world today, because of the vision of a man years ago who said: We must be independent—independent of energy sources for our Navy.

Why can't America demand energy independence for all of us? Can you imagine what would happen in our economy today if the hundreds of billions of dollars that are paid for oil from Iraq, from Kuwait, from Venezuela, and other unstable political areas of the world simply didn't have to be paid? Instead we would pay producers in our country for developing the resources that our country still has in the no-zone. Can you imagine our strength as a country? Can you imagine our foreign policy if we didn't have to recognize that we had to work to keep certain areas of the world stable because they are a source of our energy, they are a source of our very heartbeat as a country? They are the very source of the heartbeat of the economy of our country.

The recent discovery in the deep waters of the gulf proved the point and proved it loudly, and the markets reacted, and the consumers are benefiting today.

This President gets it. He understands it. It is why his first task as a President when he came to power was to develop an energy task force and to lay out for the Nation a national energy strategy that would move us toward energy independence. Oh, the gnashing of teeth, the ringing of hands that occurred on the floor of the Senate: We dare not drill in ANWR. We dare not go here. We must not do this.

During the course of all that rhetoric we became increasingly dependent upon unstable political areas of the world for our oil. And the American consumers began to pay the price a couple of years ago when gas went above \$2 and then \$2.10 and then 50 cents more and then \$2.80 and, of course, this summer over \$3 a gallon.

America's farmers today are now paying \$3.20 to \$3.50 a gallon for diesel, and they can't control their input costs. Many of them are finding themselves in financial difficulty because of the cost of diesel or the cost of fertilizer because, of course, it takes natural gas to produce fertilizer and nitrogen and phosphates.

America, wake up. America, get on your phone and call your Congressman and call your Senator and say: No more no-zone. Allow us to develop our resources and to do so in an environmentally sound way because we now have the technology. We proved it in the shallow waters of the gulf a decade ago. We are now proving it in the deep waters of the gulf as we speak.

Clearly, America could be energy independent. There is no question about it. The ability of the farmer to produce corn that is developed into

ethanol, the ability of our country to drill in the no-zone says that America could once again stand unafraid around the world as it relates to the political stability of the oil development and the oil-producing regions of a very unstable world.

The reason we are dependent today is politics, plain and simple. The reason the Senator from Alaska continually argues for the responsible and environmentally sound development up here in the northern reaches of Alaska is because we can do it and do it right, and there are billions of barrels of oil up there and trillions of cubic feet of gas. And America, once again, as Admiral Rickover understood decades ago, can be independent as she stands for other causes around the world.

What a difference a day makes. What a difference one oil find makes because that new Chevron oil find and that new trend in deep water may well increase our oil reserves by 25, 30, 40, 50 percent. What would happen if we were doing the rest of the development in this area, if we were doing the gas development up through Virginia and along the east coast, if we were developing offshore in California, if we were developing in the ANWR in Alaska?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, the reality is very simple and very obvious. It is all at the pump, and the American consumer, I hope, has awakened to the reality of what a difference a day makes in the price of gas and the impact on their family budget and their pocketbooks. Let's drill and develop the no-zones.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

SECURE FENCE ACT OF 2006— MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6061, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 6061, an act to establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.