

rate of production. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge does nothing to address the immediate need of the Federal Government to respond to fluctuations in gas prices and help expand refining capacity. Those who offer the Refuge as the solution to our need for energy independence are pointing us in the wrong direction.

This year's Energy bill finally moves past this misguided debate and other fiscally and environmentally irresponsible proposals. The United States is at an important juncture. By supporting the Energy bill, I am supporting a new direction for our Nation's energy policy: one that encourages renewable energy, conservation of the resources we have, and American innovation.

GREAT LAKES SHORT SEA SHIPPING ACT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I speak in support of the Great Lakes Short Sea Shipping Act of 2007. This legislation will exempt from the harbor maintenance tax certain commercial cargo loaded or unloaded at U.S. ports in the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence System.

In recent years, transportation planners have been struggling to identify ways to move people and goods more efficiently. Congested highways, particularly at the Detroit, Michigan/Windsor, Ontario border crossing, the busiest border crossing in North America, acts as a huge constraint to economic growth.

The purpose of the Harbor Maintenance Tax, HMT, is to generate revenue from port users for port maintenance conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps maintains Federal shipping channels by conducting periodic dredging, which is necessary to remove sand and silt that occur naturally in shipping channels. HMT receipts are placed in the harbor maintenance trust fund, which serves as a source of revenue for the Corps' dredging budget. The HMT is assessed on cargo transported between U.S. ports and cargo imported to U.S. ports from other countries. Exports are not assessed a tax. More specifically, the tax is not paid by the vessel owner, nor the port, but by the owner of the cargo in each ship. The bill would provide a narrow exemption to the HMT for the movement of nonbulk only commercial cargo by water in the Great Lakes region, which includes the movement of freight and people between the U.S. ports on the Great Lakes and between Canadian and U.S. ports on the Great Lakes.

This very narrow exemption would remove the current disincentive to moving freight by water and allow the region's transportation planners to develop new shipping services to not only relieve highway congestion, but to improve air quality as well. Moreover, the legislation could open up new shipping services to be offered on the Great Lakes, thus creating jobs in the mari-

time sector. One of the other benefits is that this exemption will offer options for trucks that may choose to use the bridges, tunnels, or now ferry service. Because the Detroit/Windsor border crossing is the busiest border crossing in North America, any alternative mode of transportation that allows for commerce to flow more smoothly, quickly, and efficiently is beneficial not only to the Great Lakes region, but to the country. Also, in this time of us working to be more responsible and have a cleaner environment for our children, allowing trucks off of the congested highways and onto ferries where they can cut off engines and not idle, will reduce air emissions, improve air quality, and cut down on gasoline usage.

Moreover, since trucks currently use roads rather than ferries to move around the Great Lakes region, the Federal Government does not HMT on their cargo. Under this proposed legislative exemption, if a truck boarded a ferry, the Federal Government would still not collect a tax.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT ROY P. LEWSADER, JR.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude, I honor the life of a brave soldier from Clinton. Roy P. Lewsader, Jr., 36 years old, was killed on June 16 while deployed in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, when a rocket-propelled grenade detonated near his vehicle. With a promising future ahead of him, Roy risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Roy was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom, his second tour of duty in the ongoing war against terrorism. He was assigned to the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, stationed in Fort Riley, KS.

Today, I join Roy's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Roy, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Roy was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Roy will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Roy's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled

here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Roy's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Roy P. Lewsader, Jr. in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Roy's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Roy.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. STURM

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, at the end of this week Robert E. Sturm will retire following a long and distinguished career of exemplary service to the U.S. Senate, most recently as chief clerk of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. We could not have had a more capable, conscientious and dedicated chief clerk for these many years. More important, though, we will miss Bob's friendly helpfulness to each member of our committee, to all of the staff who work on and with our committee and to the many members of the public who follow the work of our committee.

Bob Sturm began his service to the Senate 33 years ago in 1974, shortly after graduating from college, as a mail room clerk for Senator Birch Bayh of Bob's home State of Indiana. He served as mailroom clerk and mailroom manager for Senators Dick Clark of Iowa, Donald Stewart of Alabama, and Russell B. Long of Louisiana. For 2 years he was an office systems consultant for the Senate Computer Center where he assisted 14 Senate offices and helped lay the groundwork for today's Senate-wide computer network.

Bob served as Senator PATRICK LEAHY's office manager before he became the financial clerk and systems administrator for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry in 1987, when Senator LEAHY became chairman. Bob was promoted to chief clerk for the committee under Chairman DICK LUGAR in 1995 and has held the position under several succeeding chairmen. Of course, I was pleased have Bob continue as chief clerk when I became chairman in 2001. He then continued in that position when Senator COCHRAN and Senator CHAMBLISS chaired the committee and when I once again became chairman earlier this year. It is a tremendous testament to

Bob's abilities, professionalism and dedication that he has served as chief clerk for such a number of chairmen of both parties.

For all of these years, we could always count on Bob to take care of all types and any number of details to make sure our committee functioned smoothly. He took responsibility for everything from stocking supplies, to covering the front office, to troubleshooting the computer system, to handling the whole range of committee finances, rules and legislative documents and reports. Bob starts the day early and on many occasions, without hesitation, has stayed late into the night, or even overnight, to do what needed to be done. Thanks to this high level of dedication, we could always be sure that the paperwork and other details were in order for hearings and committee meetings. Also, of special note, Bob very successfully oversaw the recent renovation of our beautiful committee hearing room in the Russell Building.

Former Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine once said, "Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the Nation." Those words perfectly capture the extraordinary dedication of Bob Sturm.

We all congratulate Bob on the milestone of his retirement from the Senate. I also thank him for all of his great work and express my gratitude for his friendship and invaluable help to all of us over the years. I am but one of many who wish Bob all the best, with many years of health and happiness, as he begins this new phase in life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL GRASSLANDS WEEK

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, while many may not know, last week was National Grasslands Week. I would like to join Secretary Johannes and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to celebrate and recognize the legacy represented by the establishment and maintenance of our national grasslands and to honor all of the individuals that have worked so diligently over the years to preserve New Mexico's precious grassland ecosystem.

In my home State of New Mexico we enjoy the luxury of hosting two officially designated national grassland areas. Those are the Kiowa and the Rita Blanca National Grasslands. These grassland reserves, located near the towns of Clayton and Roy, in the northeastern part of the State, are chartered under the Cibola National Forest System. They are both ongoing ecosystem restoration projects that were implemented following the Dust Bowl in the 1930s.

While the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands started as a means to

preserve the environment and wildlife, they are rich in cultural significance as well. The lands were once inhabited by a number of Native-American tribes, including the Comanche, Kiowa, and Kiowa-Apaches. They were nomadic tribes whose culture depended heavily on hunting Buffalo and gathering food from the areas vast array of native plants. The area also plays a significant part in the history of the Wild West as the Homestead Act of 1862 brought thousands of settlers out West, many of which settle in the grasslands of eastern New Mexico. They contain over 100 individual grazing permits, which incorporate the use of a wide variety of grazing management techniques, a large range of piñon-juniper management programs, which includes prescribed burning and mechanical treatment along with a personal use fuel wood program, and many active partnerships with State and local governments, and other entities such as Quail Unlimited and New Mexico State University's Clayton Livestock Research Center.

The National Grasslands of north-eastern New Mexico provide thousands of acres of wildlife habitat, livestock forage and even serve as centers for recreation and clean energy initiatives. The Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands also attract many visitors who get to see firsthand the biological wealth, culture, and heritage the grasslands preserve and maintain. Visitors can participate in a wide range of activities like camping, picnicking, fishing, and wildlife viewing and get a taste of our western heritage.

The New Mexico's Grasslands provide a place of peace, quiet, and beautiful sunsets. Next time you are in my home State, I invite and encourage you to visit these great places in northeast New Mexico. I commend USDA, which has managed public grasslands to meet the needs of the American people for over seven decades, and salute the staff of the Cibola National Forest and the people of New Mexico who work so hard to help administer these grasslands in a way to maintain and preserve sustainable use.●

HONORING COACH TERRY HOEPPNER

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today Senator LUGAR and I, with heavy hearts, honor the life of a great Hoosier from Woodburn, IN, Terry Hoepfner. Coach Hoepfner died last week after battling brain cancer for several years.

He graduated from Franklin College in 1969. After graduation, he began his career as a coach, spending time coaching high school football in Indiana, South Carolina, and Alabama until he was hired by his alma mater's football program in 1980.

He was the defensive coordinator for 6 years at Franklin College until he was hired by Miami University in Oxford, OH. He spent 13 years as an assistant coach until 1999, when he was pro-

moted to head football coach, a position he held for 6 years.

Coach Hoepfner came to Indiana University in 2004 as the new head football coach and brought with him a new energy to Bloomington. At his first press conference, he stated that, "Our goals are simple—100 percent graduation rate, and the Rose Bowl. We will shoot for perfection, and we can settle for excellence."

In March, doctors were forced to hold Coach Hoepfner out of spring practices, and on June 19, 2007, he finally succumbed to the disease. He is survived by his wife, Jane; his children, Drew, Amy, and Allison; and his grandchildren, Tucker, Spencer, Tate, and Quinn.

Coach Hoepfner was held in high esteem by both colleagues and former players. Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern University football coach said, "He was one of the great role models in our coaching profession."

Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback, who played for Hoepfner at Miami said, "He has been a second father, a teacher and a friend. He believed in me and I owe everything to him for where I am in life. I hold the deepest love and respect for him, his wife Jane, and their family. He has been a role model for so many young men. I aspire to be as honorable and touch as many lives as Coach Hep. I will miss him more than words can describe."

It is our sad duty to add the name of Terry Hoepfner in the official record of the Senate for the role he played in the lives of so many young athletes. May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn.●

HONORING POLICE OFFICER FRANK C. DENZINGER

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude I honor the life of a dedicated police officer from Indiana. Frank Denzinger, 32 years old, died on June 18, 2007, from a gunshot wound he suffered in the line of duty as a Floyd County sheriff's deputy. Frank risked his life, every day, to serve and protect Hoosiers in order to make Indiana a better place.

Frank was a good man and was well loved by the Floyd County community. He was best known for his devotion to his family as a loyal father, husband, son, and brother. He was a loving husband to Tara, who said their 2-year-old daughter, Avery, was his "pride and joy." He is also survived by his parents Frank W. and Patricia, as well as his sisters, Sara Rowe and Amy Cook.

Frank was a graduate of Floyd Central High School, and also graduated with honors from Vincennes University and Eastern Kentucky University. He was a 4-year veteran of the Floyd County Sheriff's Department. The former Floyd County Sheriff who hired him, Randy Hubbard, described him as being an "excellent, high-quality" deputy, who was always willing to lend a