

passion for research with his commitment to patient care. He joined the Surgical Service of the Veteran's Affairs Boston Healthcare System in 1976, where he spent the rest of his career. He rose to become Chief of Surgery at the West Roxbury VA Medical Center in 1984, Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 1992, and Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School in 1987.

Early in his tenure at the VA, Dr. Khuri realized the need for a methodology to assist surgeons in managing the health of the heart during cardiothoracic surgery. In his quest to identify a metabolic indicator of intraoperative myocardial ischemia, Dr. Khuri invented and patented a probe that would measure the pH of the heart muscle, a device currently in the final stages of research and development.

In addition to his work in surgical heart protection, Dr. Khuri was deeply interested in improving the quality of care for all surgical patients. In 1978, at West Roxbury VA Medical Center, he established the first automated data management system in a surgical intensive care unit in the Northeast. Today, the electronic patient record in the VA is by far the most advanced and comprehensive electronic medical records system in the world.

Dr. Khuri also led a unique national effort within the VA which established the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program in 1994. The program is now recognized by the surgical community as the standard for the comparative assessment of quality of surgical care and for continuous improvement in surgery. This program has now become the model for a joint effort between the VA and the American College of Surgeons to incorporate data in the private sector to see that all patients receive the best care possible.

In the course of his outstanding career, Dr. Khuri achieved national and international prominence. His research laboratory at West Roxbury has been continuously funded for 24 years and has trained more than 60 residents and postgraduate students in applied research. He was a member of numerous professional organizations, including the prestigious American Surgical Association, and he served on and chaired many regional and national committees, including a 3-year term as president of the Massachusetts Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Khuri was the author of more than 200 peer-reviewed publications. He was also a regular reviewer for more than ten scientific journals, and served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. He was the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the 1998 Frank Brown Berry Prize, which honors an outstanding physician in the federal health care system each year. Just days after his death, Dr. Khuri was named the recipient of the 2008 Ernest Amory Codman Award for im-

provements in the safety of care to the public.

As a Palestinian American, he felt the pain of the conflict in the Middle East firsthand, and he devoted much of his life to seeking peace in the region. He worked with groups in the Boston area to create and sustain dialogue between Israelis, Palestinians, and Jewish and Arab Americans.

Dr. Khuri embodied the American story of hope, opportunity and service. He built a remarkably successful professional life as a public servant, and he also built a beautiful and loving home. His hobbies ranged from carpentry to photography to actively serving in his church. His love of life, his profound humility, his steadfast faith, and his eternally optimistic outlook will continue to inspire all those whose lives he touched. He is deeply missed by his wife and three children, his four grandchildren, his mother and brother, his many loving family members, his friends and patients, and the community he loved to serve and served so well. •

TRIBUTE TO RICH ARENBERG

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as the Nation celebrates a new beginning by welcoming a new administration to town next week, my office will be saying goodbye to a longtime trusted adviser and friend. Today, I pay tribute to my legislative director, Rich Arenberg, who will retire from Congress after 34 years to take a teaching position at Brown University.

In the nearly 15 years that Rich has led the legislative team in my office, he has provided invaluable guidance on innumerable issues that have arisen. No doubt, he has a detailed record—likely in chart form—of the legislative back-and-forth behind each bill, if not each vote, we have confronted together. And when Rich announced his retirement to the legislative staff last month, the number of long faces around the table spoke volumes about his skills.

Rich has an encyclopedic knowledge of Senate history, procedure, and protocol. He has been a mentor to countless Hill staffers, as well as a thoughtful, reasonable, skilled adviser to the Members he has served. He is a gifted storyteller who enlightens and entertains my office with anecdotes of his decades on the Hill. And above all, he is an incredibly decent human being, devoted to his work, loyal to the people around him, with a passion for life.

Rich takes a distinct interest not only in understanding the policy implications of the bills that came before the Senate but also in appreciating the subtleties of each vote the significance of procedural votes and the connotations of each Senator's stance. Rich revels in the obscure though sometimes critical anomaly: for example, he often tracked which Senators reversed their positions between or during votes.

With his competence, focus, and passion, Rich has endeared himself to

those who had the pleasure of working with or near him. Beyond his personal qualities, he has distinguished himself with a remarkable record of legislative contributions. Rich and I arrived in the Senate at the same time following the election of 1978. As a staffer for Senator Paul Tsongas, whom he had previously worked for in the House of Representatives, Rich was initiated in the Senate in a pursuit that also dominated my first year: securing loan guarantees for Chrysler that helped save the company and had an enormous positive impact on the vibrancy of our domestic auto industry. He contributed significantly to the Alaska Lands Act, enacted in 1980, which remains of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation of the last several decades.

Beginning in 1984, he served as chief of staff to Senator George Mitchell. His work to investigate the Iran-Contra affair could fill a book—and, in fact, Rich helped Senator William Cohen and then-Majority Leader Mitchell write "Men of Zeal," a book detailing the 1987 Iran-Contra hearings in which Rich played a critical role. As a special assistant for national security affairs for Senator Mitchell in the early 1990s, Rich handled a variety of intelligence matters, and his work required extensive travel around the world.

Since joining my staff in 1994, Rich has contributed to legislation protecting the Great Lakes, improving treatment for drug abuse, and preserving American jobs. Rich has been on the front lines of legislative efforts that have sometimes spanned years. He has been at my side at the crack of dawn each Wednesday morning for weekly radio interviews, at the ready to answer questions. His performance reflects a deep respect for the Senate and an understanding that the root of senatorial accomplishment is cooperation and collaboration.

He has worked long hours with a zeal for legislative maneuvering matched only by his passion for the Red Sox and exceeded only by his love for his family. I was honored that he and his wonderful wife Linda chose my Capitol hideaway as the site to celebrate their wedding, a joyful day that included a spirited procession through the Senate building and Capitol subway. And when his Red Sox won the World Series or when his beloved cocker spaniel had a new litter of puppies or when his sons or daughter were in the midst of an adventure, there was a glint in his eye and a smile would break across his face.

But there is no doubt that Rich's engaging stories, insightful observations, and flair for humor will be a treasure trove for the students who are fortunate enough to be in his classroom. They will learn the ins and outs of the Senate from the best. They'll learn about Rich's "tilted deck" theory, which predicts that the Senate will take until the eve of adjournment or weekend recess to act, and then, if it

fails to do so, will inevitably take until the eve of the next deadline to try again. And I am willing to predict that after a semester with Rich, his students will know well that a gorilla in an idiom should always weigh 800 pounds and that they will pay close attention to the President's appraisal of the State of our Union.

For one more glimpse of Rich's great accrued wisdom, look at his office. Inside Rich's office, he has posted a quote from Confucious. It reads: "When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it—this is knowledge."

That is the brand of excellence that Rich brought to all his work in the Senate, and that approach is why he has been such a trusted and important adviser to me, as well as to other Senators. And when he does not know a thing, he figures it out. Rich, thank you for your work on behalf of the people of the State of Michigan, mastering their issues, applying your legislative skills to their benefit. Thank you for your service to the Nation in the Senate, advancing the spirit of thoughtful bipartisanship that makes this body work. Thank you helping me navigate the murky waters of Senate procedure and precedent for all these years. And thank you for your friendship and for being—day-in and day-out—the kind of staff member that a Senator can be proud of.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

I am a college student in Pocatello at ISU in the Physician Assistant Program. My husband is a real estate agent and we own a few rentals in town. I wanted to comment on the effect that rising energy prices have had on the real estate market. Generally spring and summer are boom time in Idaho's real estate

market. But we have noticed a sharp downturn in the market in Pocatello this spring. There are a glut of homes on the market and nothing is moving. It is as if everyone is holding their breath, glad to have a home, and not ready to move. I am sure things will move, but prices have dropped significantly.

I am glad to hear you are concerned about this. Both my husband and I agree. Drill here, drill now. If we have untapped energy reserves in the United States . . . we are fools! We need to be accessing our own resources, creating jobs, growing our economy, and saving ourselves money. I am sure we can do it in a responsible way with minimal effect on the environment. I do not want to damage our environment, but if it costs us our economic liberty to do it . . . I say drill.

ANNIE and JASON DIXON.

Thank you for your email. Most citizens do not feel that Washington is aware of our concerns or listening . . . and here you are asking . . . thank you.

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family is a 5th generation Idaho family. We have worked hard for 40 years to teach our family to accept responsibility for themselves and their success. There are no free-loaders in our family. Now, because of the current economic trend, we are all very concerned about our future in spite of our hard work and sacrifices. Higher energy prices have caused concern in every corner of our lives and every time we go to the pump or pay our utility bills our concerns are heightened and reaffirmed. Fear is a great motivator . . . unfortunately it is a negative motivator and we are seeing the results dramatically.

We have seen the negative impact in every household in our family. Our son-in-law is a very successful Realtor and his business is off 50% from last year. Another son-in-law has his own construction company. His business is off 40% from last year. My son and I have a very successful commercial real estate business and typically earn over \$400,000 a year. We have only had one closing this year. Buyers are hesitant to move forward because of the current economic concerns. Our youngest son was planning on starting his own business using the degree he obtained from college but now he feels he must find employment elsewhere. Another son began building his own home this winter and is now questioning whether he should move into his dream home or sell it and find something much smaller.

These are not minor inconveniences. These are life changing concerns and we can do nothing to change or control them.

The economic status of our country is critically out of control because of poor judgment and planning on the part of the policy makers in Washington. Because of years of doing nothing to plan and prepare for the future the security and success of our entire family is now being threatened. We are fearful, we are disappointed and we are angry.

It is alarming to think that the policies of our government leaders have caused such a life altering situation. Wouldn't you think that the country who championed capitalism would understand the law of supply and demand? Wouldn't you think that the brightest and best that have been sent to Washington would have seen this crisis coming?

We do not blame the oil companies. The government has kept their hands tied for years. We blame you . . . the policy makers and leaders of this nation. Now the light of truth is shining brightly and we can all see the results of listening to the special interest groups who only care about their own selfish interests. Washington has put this country and its citizens in a perilous and

fearful situation. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to anarchy.

It is time for Washington to stop "looking" at the situation like spectators and start "fixing" the problems with real solutions that work. It is time for Washington to wake up to the reality of where we are at and the impact of their neglect. Washington has neglected reason and ignored the writing on the wall. At what price?

Americans can make this country strong and independent again if the bureaucrats and the special interest groups will just get out of our way.

We are very grateful that we have our faith and our family. We will weather this unnecessary storm but what about the rest of the people who call this nation home? I guess if Washington fails to stop the insanity we can always feed our children spotted owls and polar bears.

Please Senator Crapo. Do not let us down. This is just the tip of the iceberg. If we do not do something now who knows what the next crisis will be and how far this country will fall into chaos.

DENNIS and JANETTE STEVENS, *Idaho Falls*.

I am 22 years old and when I first started driving only a short 7 years ago, at that time it cost me 35-40 dollars to fill my truck, today it cost just over 100 dollars. Do the math that is a huge increase and most of which has been in the past few years. I am currently spending 400+ dollars a month on gas. This new cost is taking a big hit on me and my savings account which I am relying on since I will never see all that money I pay into social security. You guys in Congress just don't seem to get how angry the American people are at your lack of caring on how we feel. Remember we are the ones who elected you to represent us not your own interests or lobbyists. Please start doing your jobs and look out for the interests of the greatest country in the world. Drill for our own oil now. I know it will not be an immediate help but imagine if we do nothing, we apparently never learned from the 70s. Thanks for at least asking our opinion and please relay the messages to the rest of Congress.

ANDREW.

I'm a bit disappointed in the way you have phrased your plea. You are only asking for horror stories and looking for support to find ways to decrease fuel costs and increase fuel supplies. I am affected by fuel costs as much as the next person, but I try to look at the larger picture and I wish you would to. Easily available and cheap fossil fuels has been a major problem for our country and for humanity in general. It got us through the industrial revolution and was responsible, in no small way, for much that is good in our society. Unfortunately, it also causes much harm. Some examples:

- (1) Global warming
- (2) International policy driven by a need to ensure a continuing oil supply
- (3) The loss of great public transportation systems, such as the light rail system that served the treasure valley for decades
- (4) The loss of our freight rail system in favor of an enormously powerful trucking industry that is much more costly to the environment and dangerous to the public.

I am sure the list could go on.

So, I propose that we look at the opportunities created by high oil prices—the opportunity to develop alternative energy sources, the opportunity to emphasize public transportation, the opportunity to begin weaning ourselves from dependence on foreign sources of fuel. I know that my opinion is not popular, but I believe we have not yet got to the point where fuel costs are painful