

Blanton started the season 5-12 with the A's, but during the All-Star break he was traded from the organization that drafted him in the first round in 2002. In joining the Phillies, Blanton was thrust into the National League pennant race.

Blanton went 4-0 in 13 starts for Philadelphia, helping the Phillies win the NL's East Division. He pitched the decisive Game 4 in the NL Division Series against Milwaukee, allowing one run and five hits in six innings against a Brewers' lineup that included former Greenwood High School star Corey Hart.

"That was awesome getting to face somebody from the area—somebody I got to play with in summer ball," Blanton said. "We played together with the Kentucky Colonels. That's real nice to see somebody else from here have success like he has had the last couple of years."

Blanton got a no decision in his lone NL Championship Series start against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

He saved his best game for last, going six innings and allowing two runs in a 10-2 victory that helped the Phillies take a 3-1 lead in the World Series.

But it was Blanton's fifth-inning at-bat that will forever be remembered—a solo home run to left field that Blanton said was his first since 1999, when he played for Franklin-Simpson High School. Blanton's shot was the first World Series home run by a pitcher in 34 years.

"It's what you dream about as a kid when you're in the backyard playing Wiffleball with your buddies or your dad is throwing you batting practice," Blanton said. "You are always taking that last swing like it's Game 7 of the World Series. Mine wasn't Game 7, but it couldn't have been much better if it was. I think other than maybe throwing a no-hitter or something, I wouldn't trade it for anything else."

Three nights later, Blanton charged the mound with his teammates, celebrating a world title.

"It still gives me chills just thinking about it," Blanton said. "There's really not another feeling like it in sports. It's the ultimate team accomplishment. Just having the dogpile on the field, knowing no one in baseball is better than you, it is really hard to put into words. It feels good to be able to accomplish that."

While the World Series title was a life-altering experience, Blanton insists he hasn't changed.

"I'm still the same," Blanton said. "I think if anything changed, it's getting (to the World Series) made me respect it a lot more. I played with a guy, Jamie Moyer, who I think last year was his 22nd year in the majors and that was his first World Series. That shows you how hard it can be to make it and win it."

And Blanton, who recently signed a one-year, \$5.475 million deal with Philadelphia, is determined to work just as hard to help the Phillies defend their title.

"I feel like we have a great team coming back," Blanton said. "We have a solid lineup and a great bullpen. I feel like we have a great starting staff and all the components that it takes to win. We're not a one-dimensional team, and we have a great clubhouse and coaching staff on top of it."

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Committee on Indian Affairs Rules of Procedure. There being

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Rule 1. The Standing Rules of the Senate, Senate Resolution 4, and the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, to the extent the provisions of such Act are applicable to the Committee on Indian Affairs and supplemented by these rules, are adopted as the rules of the Committee.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 2. The Committee shall meet on Thursdays while the Congress is in session for the purpose of conducting business, unless for the convenience of the Members, the Chairman shall set some other day for a meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary.

OPEN HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Rule 3. Hearings and business meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Chairman by a majority vote orders a closed hearing or meeting.

HEARING PROCEDURE

Rule 4(a). Public notice, including notice to Members of the Committee, shall be given of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be held by the Committee at least one week in advance of such hearing unless the Chairman of the Committee, with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman, determines that the hearing is non-controversial or that special circumstances require expedited procedures and a majority of the Committee Members attending concurs. In no case shall a hearing be conducted with less than 24 hours' notice.

(b). Each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall submit his or her testimony by way of electronic mail at least 48 hours in advance of a hearing, in a format determined by the Committee and sent to an electronic mail address specified by the Committee.

(c). Each Member shall be limited to five (5) minutes of questioning of any witness until such time as all Members attending who so desire have had an opportunity to question the witness unless the Committee shall decide otherwise.

(d). The Chairman and Vice Chairman or the ranking Majority and Minority Members present at the hearing may each appoint one Committee staff member to question each witness. Such staff member may question the witness only after all Members present have completed their questioning of the witness or at such time as the Chairman and Vice Chairman or the Ranking Majority and Minority Members present may agree.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Rule 5(a). A legislative measure or subject shall be included in the agenda of the next following business meeting of the Committee if a written request by a Member for consideration of such measure or subject has been filed with the Chairman of the Committee at least one week prior to such meeting. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit the authority of the Chairman of the Committee to include legislative measures or subjects on the Committee agenda in the absence of such request.

(b). Notice of, and the agenda for, any business meeting of the Committee shall be provided to each Member and made available to the public at least two days prior to such meeting, and no new items may be added after the agenda published except by the approval of a majority of the Members of the Committee. The notice and agenda of any business meeting may be provided to the Members by electronic mail, provided that a

paper copy will be provided to any Member upon request. The Clerk shall promptly notify absent members of any action taken by the Committee on matters not included in the published agenda.

(c). Any bill or resolution to be considered by the Committee shall be filed with the Clerk of the Committee not less than 48 hours in advance of the Committee meeting. Any amendment(s) to legislation to be considered shall be filed with the Clerk not less than 24 hours in advance. This rule may be waived by the Chairman with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman.

QUORUM

Rule 6(a). Except as provided in subsection (b), a majority of the Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Committee. Consistent with Senate rules, a quorum is presumed to be present unless the absence of a quorum is noted by a Member.

(b). One Member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing or taking testimony on any measure before the Committee.

VOTING

Rule 7(a). A recorded vote of the Members shall be taken upon the request of any Member.

(b). A measure may be reported from the Committee unless an objection is made by a member, in which case a recorded vote by the Members shall be required.

(c). Proxy voting shall be permitted on all matters, except that proxies may not be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. Unless further limited, a proxy shall be exercised only for the date for which it is given and upon the terms published in the agenda for that date.

SWORN TESTIMONY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Rule 8. Witnesses in Committee hearings may be required to give testimony under oath whenever the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee deems it to be necessary. At any hearing to confirm a Presidential nomination, the testimony of the nominee, and at the request of any Member, any other witness shall be under oath. Every nominee shall submit a financial statement, on forms to be perfected by the Committee, which shall be sworn to by the nominee as to its completeness and accuracy. All such statements shall be made public by the Committee unless the Committee, in executive session, determines that special circumstances require a full or partial exception to this rule. Members of the Committee are urged to make public a complete disclosure of their financial interests on forms to be perfected by the Committee in the manner required in the case of Presidential nominees.

CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY

Rule 9. No confidential testimony taken by, or confidential material presented to the Committee or any report of the proceedings of a closed Committee hearing or business meeting shall be made public in whole or in part, or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of the Members of the Committee at a business meeting called for the purpose of making such a determination.

DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS

Rule 10. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified in, or who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at, an open Committee hearing tends to defame him or her or otherwise adversely affect his or her reputation may file with the Committee for its consideration and action a sworn statement of facts relevant to such testimony of evidence.

BROADCASTING OR HEARINGS OR MEETINGS

Rule 11. Any meeting or hearing by the Committee which is open to the public may

be covered in whole or in part by television, radio broadcast, or still photography. Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting devices shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the sight, vision, and hearing of Members and staff on the dais or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

AUTHORIZING SUBPOENAS

Rule 12. The Chairman may, with the agreement of the Vice Chairman, or the Committee may, by majority vote, authorize the issuance of subpoenas.

AMENDING THE RULES

Rule 13. These rules may be amended only by a vote of a majority of all the Members of the Committee in a business meeting of the Committee: Provided, that no vote may be taken on any proposed amendment unless such amendment is reproduced in full in the Committee agenda for such meeting at least seven (7) days in advance of such meeting.

MEDICAL DEVICE SAFETY ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator KENNEDY once again in the introduction of this important legislation. The bill that we introduce today will correct the Supreme Court's decision in *Riegel v. Medtronic*, which misconstrued the intent of Congress and cut off access to our Nation's courts for citizens injured or killed by defective medical devices.

Last year, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a series of hearings to examine the way in which the Supreme Court's decisions in the areas of retirement benefits, consumer product safety, workplace discrimination, and personal finance have consistently trended against the rights of consumers and in favor of big business. In many cases that have profound effects on the lives of ordinary Americans, the Court has either ignored the intent of Congress, deferred to corporate interests, or sided with a Federal agency's flawed interpretation of a congressional statute's preemptive force to disadvantage consumers. The impact of the decisions that were the focus of those hearings continue to be felt by Americans today, whether they are prohibited from seeking redress in the courts for an injury caused by a defective product, paying exorbitant credit card interest rates and fees with no relief from the laws of their own state, or subjected to the unscrupulous practices of some in the mortgage lending industry.

These hearings raised awareness in Congress, and among Americans, about the impact the Supreme Court has on our everyday lives. I am especially proud that following on these hearings, and through the efforts of a determined and principled congressional majority, we witnessed our constitutional democracy at work when President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. And I am heartened that Congress reclaimed the intent of its original legislation and overrode the Supreme Court to restore the rights of Americans to be free from discrimination in the workplace.

The bill we introduce today is another important step to correct an erroneous reading by the Court of Congress' intent in enacting the medical device amendments of 1976. This legislation will make explicit that the preemption clause in the medical device amendments upon which the Court relied does not, and never was intended to, preempt the common law claims of consumers injured by a federally approved medical device.

The extraordinary power to preempt State law and regulation lies with Congress alone. Where the Court reaches to the extent it did in the *Riegel* decision to find Federal preemption contrary to what Congress intended, Congress is compelled to act, just as it was in the case of *Lilly Ledbetter*. I hope all Senators will join us in this effort.

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:

The bicycle is a very big part of the answer to high gas prices and so many more problems that Idahoans face. The use of bicycles reduces demand for fossil fuels. If demand goes down, prices will follow downward. Furthermore, increased use of bicycles puts no pollutants into the air that we and future generations breathe. Use of bicycles promotes better health by adding consistent daily exercise to our daily lives and will lead to a slimmer, healthier and better quality of life for all Americans. Better health leads to lower demand on our health care system also.

I urge you to please support increased bicycle friendly infrastructure in our transportation system for all the right reasons, only a few of which I have listed here today.

ANDREW, *Mountain Home*.

I am a pastor in Caldwell and have found that the elevating fuel costs have made it where I have to spend my day deciding whether or not I will visit people in my congregation. The sick, the hospitalized, the elderly, the families that are feeling the im-

pact of all this . . . it all rolls down to making a decision, "Can I afford to go and see them?" It is a sad thing. Because when I make the decision to go and see them, I impact my family as well. But they need to be visited. So I go. Please Senator, do what you can to help us Idahoans enjoy the quality of life without having to worry about the cost of life. God bless,

TROY, *Caldwell*.

You asked a good question. And I thank you for doing so.

How have high energy prices affected our lives?

We have been fortunate that the high price of fuel is merely an inconvenience and not a devastating disturbance in our lives. We have also planned wisely for this and are careful with our fuel consumption. We drive small commutes and patronize businesses in our immediate area. We have made good choices and take responsibility for our actions. We do not play victim to political arm-wrestling.

I agree with a previous response: "I think that the high prices for gas/diesel that we're experiencing are a necessary evil. It is time for this entire country, but our politicians in Washington . . . to wake up & realize that the amount of petroleum on this planet based is finite. The current problem with prices should not be dealt with by some . . . Band-Aid." In other words, Idahoans need to wake up and realize that high fuel prices are not a sign of the times—they are here to stay and it is time to start thinking like the rest of the world when it comes to fuel consumption. Americans (and Idahoans) need to scale down vehicles, increase mpg, turn necessary travel into opportunities to be active (walking, riding a bicycle, etc.) and look into mass transit. Duh. Why are we so slow to welcome these alternatives?

I think Idahoans should be given an annual tax credit for operating vehicles that get more than 20 mpg and/or for limiting miles traveled. It is time Idahoans start thinking globally and not just selfishly when it comes to transportation. Vehicles are for function only; they are not for status. I am shocked by how many Idahoans still think big trucks and big wheels are some kind of status symbol. To educated, environmentally conscious Idahoans it just spells ignorance. And in our beautiful valley, as the smog increases, these people are completely unaware or uncaring of what their egos are doing to our air quality. I have three small children, two with asthma. The depletion of our air quality often leaves us trapped indoors. As their mother this makes me sad and frustrated and as a life-long Boise citizen who never experienced these "red alerts" growing up, this makes me furious.

Please Senator Crapo, ask your fellow Idahoans to think globally, act locally and give them financial incentive to do so. Right now.

JACQUI, *Boise*.

I would like to share my story about the effects of gas prices on my life. I believe that prices are affecting businesses all around so that there is less employment available. I know they have an effect on the economy; so many people are cutting down on their expenses. I had one job where I was required to sell a product to customers. When I was talking to people who were already having financial difficulties I could not feel very good about adding another financial burden on them. Because of a scarcity in decent jobs around here, I have not been able to come up with a decent enough income to be able to buy a car. I have also felt persuaded away from wanting to buy a car because the gas prices are so high.

There are several solutions to the problems of the oil crisis and inflation in the economy.