

rural area of Salmon. Public transportation is not an option. Most home sites are within a 10-mile radius of town; however, public trails and non-motorized travel is not an option either. Our family is suffering from the increase in energy costs to the degree that we have had to alter an already modest lifestyle. We live in an area where pickups and SUVs are a way of life. We use our truck to mend fences, irrigate, transport lumber and haul equipment. We have reduced the insurance on this vehicle to liability and only drive it now when we have to. We have purchased a small 1989 "beater" car that gets 25 mpg to travel to town. We would purchase a more economical vehicle if we could, in particular, one that utilizes hybrid technology. However, our family cannot afford a \$30,000 vehicle; this is a "luxury" afforded to the wealthier classes.

On visiting Sun Valley recently, we saw a beautiful trail system, a bus system and pedestrians/bikes everywhere. Their community is unique in Idaho. They have the economic foundation to provide alternatives to their citizens that lessen the burden. It is not safe to travel on bike or scooter along US Hwy 93 and 28 into the town of Salmon. Our populous is too small to support a bus system. We would like to see more support for the development of alternative transportation, in particular, non-motorized travel such as a beltway that would connect the rural outskirts to the center of town. As Salmon grows, we are also seeing more children traveling along these narrow and inadequate strips of highway. We would also be providing a safe means for them to access community services such as the library and swimming pool.

Many of us are already car pooling and have limited our trips to town as much as possible. Please help us find other means to lessen the burden of living in rural Idaho.

MICHELLE, *Salmon.*

I have been riding a bike to work this is great; however, I am financially strapped to the point where I will not spend any money for anything other than food, gas. We are not traveling; our kids are not entering into sports. We are staying close to home. I am only buying gold and silver for retirement because I suspect Congress and the Senate will never fix the problem of inflation. If the situation worsens, I will become another bankruptcy casualty.

1. Remove the Federal reserve or get us on a two tiered gold standard and a path back to financial responsibility.

2. Bring our troops home no foreign spending on anything but American-A nationalistic view.

3. Incentives for companies to return to America.

4. Drill, drill, drill, blue collar workers state we are being lied to about the amount of oil off of Alaska.

STEVEN, *Nampa.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING CURT MENARD

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special resident of my home State of Alaska, Curt Menard.

Mayor Curt Menard passed away March 3, 2009, after a long battle with myeloma.

Mayor Menard was the embodiment of a true Alaskan. Honorably serving in our Nation's Air Force took him to our State where he left his mark. Curt and

his wife Linda purchased one of the original homesteads in the Matanuska-Susitna—Mat-Su—valley and Curt became one of the first dentists in the area. He devoted his life to the people of the Mat-Su, and for that we are all grateful to this remarkable man.

On behalf of his family and his many friends, I ask today we honor Curt Menard's memory. I ask that his obituary, published March 5, 2009, in the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman, be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman,
Mar. 3, 2009]

Curtis Delbert Menard, 64, died March 3 at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, from complications of multiple myeloma.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Wasilla High School with Pastor Larry Kroon of Wasilla Bible Church officiating. The following are pallbearers: Curtis C. Menard, Larry, Sgt. Maj. Ret. Ritchie, Nancy, Jim, Gabrielle, Tanner, Harrison, Sullivan, Brock, Grant, Jack, Alexandra, Jane and Charles Menard, and Lewis Bradley. Burial will take place later in the spring at the Menard homestead.

Dr. Menard was born June 16, 1944, in Detroit. He graduated from L'Anse High School in 1962, received his undergraduate degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., and graduated from Marquette University School of Dentistry Class of 1968.

He had served with Habitat for Humanity, The Alaska Railroad Board, American Legion, Salvation Army Board, and as chairman of the Multi-Use Sports Complex, and was a member of Wasilla Bible Church. He was an honorary member of the Wasilla Rotary Club, was the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and the Frontiersman Mat-Su Dentist of the year. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, flying, marathons, farming, coaching, politics, and well wishing.

His family wrote, "Curt Menard was raised in L'Anse, Mich., born to June and Curtis Menard. At 15 years old he met the love of his life, Linda. Linda and Curt moved to Milwaukee, to pursue his life-long dream of becoming a dentist. In 1968 he graduated as class president from Marquette University School of Dentistry. He joined the United States Air Force and was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. He worked exclusively with Vietnam soldiers in preparation for the war. During that time he learned to fly and there his love affair with planes commenced. He flew a 206, Supercub, Citabria and a PA 14. In 1972 he purchased one of the original homesteads in the Mat-Su Valley and built the first professional building and dental office in Wasilla. He especially loved his dental contract in the village of Togiak. Three years later Curt lost his dominant right arm in an electrical accident. With unsurpassed determination, Curt learned to practice dentistry with his left hand. Sen. Curt Menard's public service began as a school board member. Encouraged by his experience, he ran for office and became a state legislator. By this time, he had two thriving dental offices, Palmer and Wasilla Dental Center, 33 employees, five children, and was a respected community leader and politician. He had a love for farming and not only baled 55 acres of hay every summer, but enjoyed cows, chickens, turkeys, homing pigeons, pigs, horses, a cat and many dogs. In 2001, tragedy again struck the family. Curt's son, Dr. Curtis C. Menard II passed away in a plane crash.

"Curt was diagnosed in 2003 with multiple myeloma, an aggressive and painful cancer

of the bone. In 2006, in true Curt fashion, he took on the task of running and being elected Mat-Su Borough Mayor. In 2007 he went through a stem cell transplant at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. In a selfless manner he put his community before himself and carried out his mayoral responsibilities until the very end. And if you met "Doc" today, his hook would not be the first thing you would notice. You'd see the twinkle in his eye, feel his zest for life and compassion for his fellow man, share his love of his countryside and then, maybe, you'd notice the hook. But by then you'd be so hooked on the man, it wouldn't matter."

Survivors are his wife Linda of Wasilla; sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Gretchen Menard of Milwaukee, Steven Menard of Wasilla, Dr. Dirk and Alicia Menard of Fairbanks; daughter and son-in-law, McKenzy and Jared Boyd of Milwaukee; daughter-in-law, Dr. Carole Menard of Wasilla; grandchildren, Brock, Grant, Jack, Alexandra, Gabrielle, Tanner, Harrison, Sullivan, Jane, and Charles; father, Curtis C. Menard of L'Anse, Mich.; brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry and Virgie Menard of L'Anse, Sgt. Maj. Ret. Ritchie and Maj. Ret. Joyce Menard of L'Anse, and Jim Menard of Nome; and sister, Nancy Menard of Germantown, Wis. He was preceded in death by his mother, June Menard; and son, Curtis C. Menard II. •

REMEMBERING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the life of a great American, John Hope Franklin, who died last week at the age of 94. Dr. Franklin was a witness, participant and documentarian of the struggle of African Americans for civil rights and the fight to have this country fulfill its promise to become a more perfect union for all of its citizens.

Dr. Franklin once said, "I want to be out there on the firing line, helping, directing or doing something to try to make this a better world, a better place to live." In his life, Dr. Franklin did just that through his work with W. E. B. Du Bois, his efforts on Brown v Board of Education with Thurgood Marshall and by marching from Selma to Montgomery with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. How wonderful that this great fighter for civil rights was able to witness the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States.

As a historian and a teacher, Dr. Franklin enriched this Nation by educating us all about race issues. He began his teaching career in 1936 at Fisk and continued teaching over the next six decades, at schools such as Howard University, the University of Chicago, Cambridge University in England, Harvard, Cornell, the University of California Berkeley, Duke, and other institutions. He had a passion for teaching, and I was fortunate enough to sit in on Dr. Franklin's classes at Brooklyn College in the 1960s. Having him there was like having a real star in our midst, and students who were lucky enough to get into his class bragged about him from morning until night.

Dr. Franklin was the author of nearly 20 books, beginning with "The Free