

think about retirement at some point in their lives but now figure they will be working much longer now than they had once thought.

Their decisions to not spend money really hurt on the local level in Wyoming. I suspect the same is true in many other states because we (local governments) do not have the means to reach directly into their pockets to get the necessary funds for our services like the federal and state governments do.

People and businesses are hunkered down and holding tight while they wait to see when the Congress is going to quit proposing massive and expensive changes to the entire landscape of the country. If this were a battlefield I would say that the current strategies being employed are a well thought out and all encompassing assault. We are effectively being surrounded. We have no open flanks to escape through. Almost every aspect of our lives appears to be exposed and we have no way to cover it up.

I ask the question then: are we creating more panic and fear with all that is going on? If we just settled down and got out of crisis mode would businesses begin to expand on their own? Would people once again shop without fear this could be their last shopping trip for awhile? If everyone just stopped and took in a very deep breath and exhaled slowly would the increased flow of oxygen into the body bring clearer thoughts and a more relaxing mood?

It is almost the first of October. It just doesn't seem to me that we need to disarm and dismantle all of the world's nuclear arms; create a massive overhaul of the world's best healthcare system; return the atmosphere to a pre 1950's condition; balance a federal budget; save every endangered species; find a cure for H1N1 virus; create a vaccine for HIV/AIDS; declare what is left of the public lands in the west as wilderness; save the polar ice cap; become energy self sufficient; tear down all of the coal fired generation facilities; replace every incandescent light bulb with a fluorescent one; paint every roof top in the United States white; and do everything else that is being talked about and have it all done by the end of this year. It makes no sense to me and I don't think it makes much sense to anyone else.

I realize that none of you belong to the party currently "in power" (such an awful term), but there may be something that you can do to just slow things down some. The people of this country need time to catch their breath.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts with you. We will continue to do the best we can at picking up the pieces that are left to us. We will also continue to hope for bigger pieces to come our way.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM R. DAVIS,  
*Mayor.*

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. FORREST M. BIRD

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I am proud to honor and congratulate Idaho resident Dr. Forrest M. Bird for a lifetime of service and achievement. I had the pleasure today of meeting with Dr. Bird and his wife Pam, and very much enjoyed that short visit. Dr. Bird is well and widely known around the world for his lifesaving inventions: the Bird Mark 7 respirator, which was the first reliable and low-cost respirator in

the world; and the Baby Bird respirator, which has greatly decreased infant mortality rates. In addition to being a brilliant inventor and scientist, Dr. Bird is a former pilot and founder of the Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center, which is located in Sagle, ID, where his company, Percussionaire Corporation, produces his lifesaving medical devices. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including two Lifetime Scientific Achievement awards, and has been inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. In 2008, he was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Bush and received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by President Obama just this week.

Dr. Bird's interest in aviation and his invention of the world-renowned Bird respirators are remarkably intertwined. His father served as a pilot in World War I, and, after earning a degree in aeronautics, Dr. Bird served as an Army Air Corps pilot in WWII. At the time, airplanes were designed to reach higher altitudes, but pilots were increasingly unable to breathe as the altitude increased. Dr. Bird's consideration of this problem, and his attendance at medical school after the war, eventually led him to the invention of the famous Bird respirator. In 2007, his twin interests of aviation and invention led him to open the Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center.

Clearly there is good reason for the impressive list of honors that Dr. Bird has received throughout his life. It has been a life of service that has made an incredible mark upon the world. His inventions have touched, transformed, enhanced and saved the lives of millions around the world. His museum provides a great service to his community by educating and inspiring young visitors and by bringing long-lost memories alive for older visitors. For his groundbreaking contributions to America and the world, Idaho is proud to have produced such an impressive citizen. We appreciate and honor his remarkable achievements.●

##### REMEMBERING BRIGADIER GENERAL MILDRED INEZ CAROON BAILEY

• Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, today I honor a woman of great character; a woman who provided unquestionable leadership to our Nation and a woman who proudly hailed from North Carolina. Our State motto, "Esse Quam Videri," "To be, rather than to seem," richly describes BG Mildred Inez Caroon Bailey; a trailblazer who thrived on challenges, especially when she was told, "it can't be done." As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am proud to recognize General Bailey's contributions to the U.S. Army in this Chamber today.

Brigadier General Bailey was born in 1919 in Fort Barnwell, NC, and raised in nearby Kinston. Inez, as she was known

to her friends, directed the Women's Army Corps, WAC, from 1971 to 1975. Enlisting at a time when a woman's role in uniform was unclear, she experienced unquestionable changes for women in the military throughout her 33-year career. General Bailey was the third female to be promoted to brigadier general, a rank she never sought, but would never have thought to turn down.

When she wasn't studying her favorite subject, French, Inez worked in her parents' grocery store. Upon graduation, she enrolled in Flora McDonald College in Red Springs, NC, and later transferred to the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina—now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She graduated in 1940 with a degree in education and one professional goal—to be a French teacher. She eventually accepted a job teaching French in Taylorsville, NC.

When World War II broke out, this North Carolina French teacher thought a job in the Army Air Corps might be interesting, but it wasn't until a friend dragged her along to Fort Bragg that she really gave the military a second thought. The Army needed women to take the place of male soldiers who worked nonbattlefield jobs in order to free them for service on the front lines. Six months after Pearl Harbor, Inez joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, WAAC, the predecessor to WAC, at Fort Bragg. Although her parents were unhappy about her decision, they supported her nonetheless. Although women held primarily administrative, clerical and supply-type positions, she was encouraged to discover that women were also packing parachutes and were even mechanics. Due to her college degree, General Bailey was eligible for officer candidate school.

Her first unit command was at George Field Army Air Base in Illinois. There, she became very good at marching. She said, "I didn't know any women who didn't like marching. We thought it was fun and we were proud of our marching, we could keep a good beat with the Colonel Bogey March!" They even added words to the march, "Duty is calling you and me. We have a date with destiny. Ready, the WACs are ready. Our hearts are steady, the world to set free. Service, we're in it heart and soul. Victory is our only goal. We love our country's honor, and we'll defend it against any foe."

Eventually the Army made use of her background as a French teacher, assigning her to teach English to freed French prisoners of war who had been held in Morocco. She was thrilled to teach the soldiers because they were excited to learn, unlike the high school students she taught before joining the Army. At the end of the war, the debate about women serving in the military continued. Brigadier General Bailey could have left, but by then she was married and making, as she recalled, "a magnificent sum of \$166.60 and 2/3 cents a month—much more than a