

I'M A RESIDENT OF FLYOVER COUNTRY AND A CITIZEN OF STOPOVER COUNTRY

On my very first TV appearance ever (CSPAN's Washington Journal the first week of the Libby trial), I shut up my most belligerent caller very simply. He accused me of being a "Katie Couric type from the coasts" ... "who had no clue what people like me in flyover country were thinking."

Michigan.

As soon as I said I was from Michigan (unfortunately, Jane wasn't there to slap down any illusions I'm like Katie Couric), he shut up. Because I am, like he is, from flyover country.

Today, I get to add another moniker to my profile, thanks to Governor Palin. You see, when Palin was trying to claim she had extensive foreign experience thanks to her trips to visit the Alaska National Guard in Kuwait and Germany, she also mentioned her "trip" to Ireland.

Now, thanks to Governor Palin, mr. emptywheel (through whom I got citizenship), and Ben Smith, I can proudly say I'm a citizen of Stopover Country.

I wrote the other day that a Palin spokeswoman said trips to Germany, Kuwait and Ireland made up her foreign travel.

Two details worth clarifying:

The Ireland trip was a refueling stop on her trip to military installations in Germany and Kuwait, spokeswoman Maria Comella said.

Apparently, Shannon Airport (which has a big US immigration operation to process all the returning Americans) is so foreign that Sarah Palin is now basing her Commander of Chief credentials on it.

Frankly, there are parts of Flyover Country—probably even including Ann Arbor—that are more worthy of the "foreign" claim.