

10 years at the Meadows school teaching AP Physics and coaching the girls basketball team.

John Milburn is a wonderful teacher, athlete, and citizen. I am honored to join his wife Christine, his students at Meadows and Boulder City High School, and all Nevadans in congratulating him on his exceptional career.

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES
ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, we will somberly celebrate the lives of a new generation of fallen heroes and honor American soldiers who paid the ultimate price in battle. We can only offer our gratitude as a small measure of comfort to the families of the young American men and women who will not be returning home from Afghanistan or Iraq.

Like those Americans before them, these brave men and women heeded our Nation's call to duty and followed their Commander-in-Chief's orders to go to battle, willingly and dutifully. They sacrificed their lives in wars and conflicts that their comrades are still fighting today.

As we pay tribute to the lost soldiers, we hope for the safe return of the men and women still on the battlefield, overseas and in hostile territory. To serve their country, they left behind families and loved ones, jobs and communities. But like millions of American soldiers through the years, they will be back on U.S. soil soon enough.

It is our duty to live up to the promises that we made to each and every one of those soldiers and to every veteran who served his or her nation. Unfortunately, the painful truth is veterans' critical needs are being ignored each day. It is shameful that 200,000 veterans must wait 6 months or more for their first appointment at a VA medical facility. It is disgraceful that the current Republican budget calls for cutting veterans' health care by \$6.2 billion over the next ten years. It is unpatriotic to burden our retired soldiers and their families with extra costs for prescription drugs and doctor visits.

Is this what our soldiers have to look forward to? A litany of broken promises? Congress and the President must keep their promises to the nation's veterans and make adequate investments in veterans' health care. Because of President Bush's budget priorities and tax breaks for millionaires, veterans will continue to suffer the consequences. Democrats have offered a plan to roll back health care cost increases imposed by the Bush Administration and the Republican Congress, expand health care access for veterans and educational opportunities for reservists, and provide cash bonuses to soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, families of those killed on active duty would receive higher benefits under the Democratic proposal.

Our brave men and women have met all kinds of threats and have defeated unspeakable dangers, but they must not be forced to fight for what is rightfully theirs here at home. Our veterans may be gone from the military, but they must not be forgotten.

RURAL AFRICA AND THE KYOTO
PROTOCOL

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, as someone who has visited rural Africa, I was fascinated by the testimony of Dr. John Christy at a recent hearing I chaired on the Kyoto Protocol. Dr. Christy, who is the Alabama State Climatologist, worked as a missionary to Kenya in the 1970's. He observed the great hardships faced by rural men and women living in villages without electricity.

Dr. Christy noted that, "With only three to five acres on the family shamba, every square inch was utilized for food production and living space, so the search for fuel was a daily chore for the women and young girls. I would see them daily set out to the edge of the nearest forest, usually several miles away, to cut down wet, green trees, chop the branches into suitable lengths, tie them into 80 pound bundles and load them on their backs for the trek home. Many of these women were either pregnant or carrying babies in blankets tied in front of them."

He further observed, "The typical home was a mud-walled, thatched-roof structure. Smoke from the cooking fire fueled by undried wood was especially irritating to breathe as one entered the home. The fine particles and toxic emissions from these in-house, open fires assured serious lung and eye diseases for a lifetime."

Dr. Christy concludes by stating, "Providing energy from sources other than biomass (wood and dung), such as coal-produced electricity, would bring longer and better lives to the people of the developing world and greater opportunity for the preservation of their natural ecosystems. Let me assure you, notwithstanding the views of extreme environmentalists, that Africans do indeed want a higher standard of living. They want to live longer and healthier with less burden bearing and with more opportunities to advance. New sources of affordable, accessible energy would set them down the road of achieving such aspirations."

The Kyoto Protocol and other efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions have potential to substantially increase human pain and suffering in undeveloped countries while doing very little to stop the destruction of forests. I encourage climate policy makers from wealthy counties to carefully read the following letter from Dr. Christy and avoid the unintended consequences that cause pain and suffering to rural people in developing countries.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
IN HUNTSVILLE,
Huntsville, AL, May 22, 2003.

Hon. RICHARD POMBO,
Chairman, House Committee on Resources,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: It was a pleasure participating in your 13 May 2003 hearing regarding the Kyoto Protocol. As you requested, I am happy to provide this letter to clarify and expand on your question during the hearing about how my experiences working and living in Africa affect my insights into the issue of global warming.

After graduating from college in 1973 I applied for service as a missionary to Kenya. I

was appointed to a position as "Science Master" at the Baptist High School in Nyeri, meaning I taught the physics and chemistry courses to African students from mostly rural areas. Baptist High was a boarding school, so many of our students came from homes several miles away. On weekends I would travel to the surrounding small villages to meet the students' families and speak in their churches. Nyeri was a small, upcountry town about 90 miles north of Nairobi. Most of the people in this area lived on small "shambas", 3 to 5 acre farms on which maize and other foods were grown. At 6000+ feet elevation, some days and most nights were quite cool, requiring energy for warmth as well as cooking and light. There was no electricity in these rural homes.

With only 3 to 5 acres on the family shamba, every square inch was utilized for food production and living space, so the search for fuel was a daily chore for the women and young girls. I would see them daily set out to the edge of the nearest forest, usually several miles away, to cut down wet, green trees, chop the branches into suitable lengths, tie them into 80 pound bundles and load them on their backs for the trek home. Many of these women were either pregnant or carrying small babies in blankets tied in front of them. They would bend forward almost 90 degrees so as to balance the wood and maintain forward momentum without falling. Older women developed a characteristic sway-back from years of burden bearing as they hauled not only wood, but food to and from the markets and water from a creek to the home.

The typical home was a mud-walled, thatched-roof structure. Smoke from the cooking fire fueled by undried wood was especially irritating to breathe as one entered the home. The fine particles and toxic emissions from these in-house, open fires assured serious lung and eye diseases for a lifetime. And, keeping such fires fueled and burning required a major amount of time, preventing the people from engaging in other less environmentally damaging pursuits.

When the Arab Oil Embargo hit in October 1973, the price of fuel rose dramatically. Oil's scarcity caused petrol (gasoline) stations to close on weekends. What little advanced infrastructure already in place that depended on oil was rendered intermittent or ineffective. For example, taxi prices increased so that the typical African could not afford the desperately needed trip to the town hospital; rumors spread that driving with the headlights on wasted fuel, so night automobile accidents soared; electric power to the few essential institutions which needed it often failed. To people already living on the edge of existence, any perturbation in energy costs was enough to cause significant distress. The poorest people suffered the most with the rising energy costs as what little dependency they had was now out of reach.

I've always believed that establishing a series of coal-fired power plants in countries such as Kenya (with simple electrification to the villages) would be the best advancement for the African people and the African environment. An electric light bulb, a microwave oven and a small heater in each home would make a dramatic difference in the overall standard of living. No longer would a major portion of time be spent on gathering inefficient and toxic fuel. The serious health problems of hauling heavy loads and lung poisoning would be much reduced. Women would be freed to engage in activities of greater productivity and advancement. Light on demand would allow for more learning to take place and other activities to be completed. Electricity would also foster a more efficient transfer of important information from radio or television. And finally, the

preservation of some of the most beautiful and diverse habitats on the planet would be possible if wood were eliminated as a source of energy.

Providing energy from sources other than biomass (wood and dung), such as coal-produced electricity, would bring longer and better lives to the people of the developing world and greater opportunity for the preservation of their natural ecosystems. Let me assure you, notwithstanding the views of extreme environmentalists, that Africans do indeed want a higher standard of living. They want to live longer and healthier with less burden bearing and with more opportunities to advance. New sources of affordable, accessible energy would set them down the road of achieving such aspirations.

These experiences made it clear to me that affordable, accessible energy was desperately needed in African countries. But the energy issue is relevant here too. My wife, Babs, is the President of the Board of Directors of the Madison County Christian Women's Job Corps. This privately-funded, voluntarily-directed organization seeks to train women to obtain the type of job skills needed today. Most of the women, often single parents, are in financial crisis. Increasing the cost of energy for these women would disproportionately restrict their ability to provide for themselves and their families. As in Africa, ideas for limiting energy use, as embodied in the Kyoto protocol, create the greatest hardships for the poorest among us. As I mentioned in the Hearing, enacting any of these noblesounding initiatives to deal with climate change through increased energy costs, might make a wealthy urbanite or politician feel good about themselves, but they would not improve the environment and would most certainly degrade the lives of those who need help now.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond with further explanation of my experiences in Africa and my views on energy availability.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. CHRISTY,
*Director, Earth System Science Center,
Professor, Atmospheric Science,
Alabama State Climatologist.*

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Southern Indiana is blessed with natural beauty, and the Hoosier National Forest in my congressional district is an important source of this beauty. I have greatly enjoyed my visits to this national forest over the years.

Today I voted against passage of H.R. 1904, The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. I decided not to support this legislation after giving it careful consideration and weighing its effects on my constituents.

I have many constituents who regularly visit the Hoosier National Forest. They enjoy hiking, fishing, horseback riding and mountain biking in the forest. My constituents also feel strongly about the right to comment on and participate in the management decisions that are made regarding this beautiful national forest.

I voted against H.R. 1904 because I am very concerned that it would result in my con-

stituents having fewer opportunities to comment on forest policy proposals. H.R. 1904 would expand the use of "categorical exclusions" by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and reduce the opportunities for the public to comment.

I have consistently supported efforts to ensure the public has meaningful opportunities to comment on national forest policy proposals, and I will continue to support the public's right to comment. I voted against H.R. 1904 because it could limit the opportunities the public would have to participate in forest policy-making decisions.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, this week, my district in Staten Island is honored to host the Vietnam Wall Experience. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the heroism of the fathers, sons, sisters and daughters that gave their lives during that conflict.

These men and women traveled around the world to serve their country. They joined the military for different reasons and with different backgrounds, but were united in purpose to serve the cause of freedom.

Matthew Bono, at 25, was six years older than the average draftee. He became a father-figure to his fellow soldiers, as beloved there as he was throughout his home neighborhood. He did not survive Khe Sanh. Vincent James Caravello enlisted just before his 18th birthday, right out of high school. He was killed in Thua Thien five months after he arrived in Vietnam.

The Grunt Padre, Father Vincent Capodanno, died trying to rescue men while under fire. He was known for his devotion to "his" Marines and put himself in harm's way for them again and again.

Other men were never fully accounted for after they disappeared. Lt. Kevin O'Brien served as a spotter in a U.S. Army Bird Dog 01-G craft. He is believed to have crashed over Khe Sanh in South Vietnam during bad weather on January 9, 1969. Air Force Major Gerald Crosson, Jr., was declared missing on May 16, 1968 after his plane did not return from a night reconnaissance mission.

America lost fifty-eight thousand in Vietnam, including 84 from Staten Island. And then there are the wounded, POW-MIA and other veterans, all of whom deserve our deepest thanks. Today on Staten Island, nearly twelve thousand Vietnam veterans still make their homes.

There is no truly adequate way to put into words our appreciation for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I believe it was wise to have the memorial be simply a wall, bearing the names for us to remember.

However, that does not relieve us of the responsibility to find a way to express to our children and theirs why it is that we have such love for the ones who gave their lives.

They knew the danger when they went in, and ultimately they were fighting for us. America is stronger today because of the example they set. We must teach our children to study

what these men did and why it was a noble cause. We are grateful to the Vietnam Wall Experience for helping make that job a little easier.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. ROLLISON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan, an outstanding citizen and one of my best friends since childhood. I am proud to recognize Bob Rollison in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to his community, his state and his nation.

Bob Rollison (Robert Charles Rollison as his mother called him) has been my great friend since we were both seventh-graders at DeWitt Junior High School. Even as a teenager, he was the kind of person that would befriend everyone, and in my case, he was a friend to a country kid that had come to a new school. Bob has always had the unique ability to make everyone feel comfortable.

Even as we grew into adulthood, got married and raised a family, we continued to enjoy spending a lot of time together, particularly hunting. Through it all, Bob was always the trustworthy person that everyone could depend on.

When Bob assumed the responsibility of running his family's business, he was known by colleagues, customers, and even competitors, as fair, honest, and accommodating. He was not only a supplier to local farmers, but worked diligently to provide them with information on the latest technology and equipment. But, more than anything else, you could always go to Bob for a kind word, good advice, and an honest opinion.

Bob has been active in many leadership roles in the community and in the agriculture business. He served in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, local politics, seed organizations, and numerous projects to make our community a better place to live and work.

Bob is now battling a serious illness, and continues to have the great attitude and spirit that he has generously shared with those around him throughout his life. He has made life richer for all—like me—who are fortunate enough to call him a friend. On behalf of Congress, I pay tribute to my good friend, Bob Rollison, for his tireless service to Arkansas and the United States.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE HIS- PANIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Hispanic Health Improvement Act along with my lead cosponsor Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS. This legislation is a comprehensive bill aimed at improving Hispanic health in the United States.

As the fastest growing population in the U.S., Hispanics now comprise close to 13 percent of the total population. Yet, they continue