

takes a lot of time and determination. After all, the Latino population increased more than 40 percent between 2000 and 2010. A lot more Latinos, a lot more Latino citizens, and a lot more Latino voters.

A lot of us live in swing States. We are about 30 percent of the population in Arizona, about 25 percent in Colorado, Florida, and Nevada. Indiana alone has 350,000 Latinos. Not so many, you say; but when you remember that President Obama only won Indiana by 26,000 votes in 2008, his Latino support was the margin of victory.

The truth is we're growing everywhere. One-quarter of all of the children in America are Latino; 500,000 Latinos turn 18, and they all become eligible to vote every year. More than 50 million Latinos live in America. Most of them, 9 out of 10, are citizens of the United States.

Fifty million is a lot of people to keep track of, especially if you want to offend each and every one of them, but that is apparently what Mitt Romney is trying to accomplish.

To appeal to the most extreme elements of his party, last week he called Arizona's harsh immigration law a model for America. Well, he's partially right. Arizona's anti-immigration law is definitively a model. It's just not a model for immigration policy, but it's a model for an awful lot of other things. Let's just count them.

One, if you're a politician, Arizona's law is a model for how to achieve early retirement. State Senator Russell Pearce was an author and lead sponsor of Arizona's draconian anti-immigration law. He talked about little else. His constituents weren't pleased, though, so Senator Pearce became the first State legislator in the history of Arizona to be recalled from office. The biggest backer of Mitt Romney's immigration model is now unemployed.

Two, if you want to wreck your local economy, Arizona's law is a model for lost jobs and tax revenue. The purchasing power of Latinos in Arizona in 2009 was nearly \$35 billion. That's right. One study estimated that undocumented immigrants alone paid \$443 million in local taxes. Another study estimates that Arizona would lose nearly 150,000 jobs if all undocumented workers were removed from the State.

Three, Arizona's law is a model for how to energize Latino voters. In 2004, George W. Bush, when running for President, received nearly 45 percent of the Latino vote in Arizona. That's pretty good. How did anti-immigrant Jan Brewer do for Governor in 2010, 2 years later? More than 70 percent of the Latino voters voted against her. But wait. In 2011, Hispanic voter mobilization led to the election of two Latinos to the Phoenix City Council for the first time ever.

□ 1030

In Daniel Valenzuela's district, Latino voter turnout increased five-fold, 500 percent.

Four—and I'll stop at four because my time is limited—Arizona's law is a model on how to make decent people suffer.

Alabama followed the Arizona model, and a judge advised a woman facing domestic abuse that, if she sought a restraining order against her abuser husband, she would be asked to prove her immigration status and face deportation—while her husband laughed.

In both Arizona and Alabama, citizens and legal immigrants have been harassed and detained because they look suspicious or cannot immediately prove their citizenship status.

So let's review.

Mitt Romney's model for America: has an author who was kicked out of office; means lost jobs and tax revenue for everyone, not just immigrants; has mobilized Latino voters and pushed them away from the Republican Party; and has caused good, hardworking people—immigrants and nonimmigrants alike, documented and undocumented—to live in fear.

Maybe Mitt Romney and I have different ideas of what "model" means. Maybe he thinks Bernie Madoff is a "model" investment banker or adviser. I think "model" means something you can be proud of, something that makes America better and stronger, more just and fair, something that shows America the way to the future.

By that standard, Arizona's law is a perfect model. It shows America exactly the policy to avoid on immigration, and it shows Americans exactly the type of candidate to avoid for President of the United States.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND BRAVERY OF MICHAEL COLALILLO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAVAACK. About 450 U.S. soldiers, sailors, and pilots received the Nation's highest combat award during World War II. One of these was a former soldier from West Duluth, who earned the medal during the closing days of the war.

Michael Colalillo was born on December 1, 1925, in Hibbing, Minnesota, the son of an Italian immigrant father who worked in the iron mines. Michael was one of nine children, and at 18, he was drafted into the United States Army.

On April 7, 1945, a month before the war in Europe ended, Colalillo's unit came under heavy fire in a small, rural town in Germany. Pinned on the ground, Colalillo and his fellow soldiers were in a death trap. Lying on the ground, bullets and shells flying everywhere, Colalillo decided something had to be done, and he was the guy who had to do it.

Even though he was a private and not in command, Colalillo rose up and yelled to the other soldiers to follow his lead. Inspired by his confidence, the soldiers advanced in the face of savage

enemy fire. When Colalillo stood up that fateful day, he marched forward into America's military history. Mr. Colalillo surged towards the Germans, firing his submachine gun until it was knocked from his hands by shrapnel. He then ran toward an American tank to take control of the machine gun mounted above its cannon turret. Bullets clanged off the tank's armor and zipped by his body as Mr. Colalillo responded to the onslaught of German enemy fire.

"It was a rough time and I was scared," Mr. Colalillo said, "but I had to do what I had to do."

Mr. Colalillo blasted at one enemy position "with such devastating accuracy," the Medal of Honor citation read, that he killed or wounded 25 German soldiers and silenced a machine gun nest. After this gun jammed, Mr. Colalillo dismounted from the tank and grabbed another submachine gun to continue his assault on foot. When ordered to withdraw, Mr. Colalillo stayed behind and carried a wounded soldier over his shoulder through open enemy terrain while artillery and mortar rounds pulverized the ground around him.

A few weeks later, he was approached by two military police officers, who escorted him to a nearby headquarters. He was informed that the tank's commander had nominated him for the Medal of Honor, which he received in December 1945 at a White House ceremony.

In an interview in 2008 with the 100th Infantry Division Association newsletter, Colalillo recalled "the good Lord was with me" during that battle. "I could see our guys getting shot . . . I could see the muzzle flashes of the Germans shooting at us, and I aimed at them."

Mr. Colalillo died on December 30 at a nursing home facility in Duluth, Minnesota. He was 86 years old. Mr. Colalillo is survived by his son, Al, of Hayward, Wisconsin, and by his daughter, Michele, of Meadowlands, Minnesota.

In Minnesota, we have a track record of military excellence. According to the Medal of Honor Society, 46 Minnesotans have received our Nation's highest award for bravery. In the Eighth District, we honor those who have served, and for Michael Colalillo, the Medal of Honor Park in Duluth bears his name. We are forever grateful for his service to our great country.

Thank you, Mr. Colalillo. You make us all proud to be Americans. May God's peace be with you.

TOO SILENT ON SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, once again, the world is standing by, silent and passive, while the Government of Sudan wages war on its own people.

We have been here before when hundreds of thousands of people perished in Darfur before the international community finally woke up and took action to try to protect innocent civilians from their own government's brutality. The humanitarian crisis continues in Darfur. There is no peace, and villagers, refugees, and humanitarian personnel still live and work under the constant peril of attack. President Bashir has expelled many humanitarian workers from Darfur—and even today, threatens to shut down their lifesaving operations.

Last May, we witnessed the ruthless ethnic cleansing of Abyei by the Sudanese people. More than 100,000 people of the Dinka indigenous population were forcibly displaced. They fled to South Sudan, seeking safe haven, where they remain today in very, very poor conditions. When Sudanese President Bashir saw that the world was indifferent to this brutal assault, he began military operations in June against insurgents in South Kordofan and, more generally, against the Nuba people.

And still the world stood silent.

So, in September, Khartoum launched attacks on another border region. This time, the state of Blue Nile was under siege with attacks by the Sudanese Army and the bombings of civilians. Thousands fled to the neighboring countries of Ethiopia and South Sudan for safety, joining the desperate refugees from South Kordofan.

So Sudan has undertaken a bloodbath against its own people in the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile—house-to-house arrests and killings, rape, the merciless bombings of civilians.

For nearly 8 months, Khartoum has blocked all humanitarian aid to South Kordofan and Blue Nile. It has not only continued to bomb in those states, but it has crossed the border and has bombed refugee camps and towns inside South Sudan, where tens of thousands had hoped to find food and shelter.

Here are some photos of some people in refugee camps in South Sudan:

Saleh Kora is from the Angolo tribe in South Kordofan. The government dropped bombs on her fields when she was trying to plant. Then the government dropped six bombs on her village. This poor woman here grabbed her children and hid in a nearby ditch. After the bombings stopped, Sudanese soldiers moved into the village and burned several homes. When they began shooting people, Saleh ran and hid with her children. The soldiers didn't care if you were an unarmed civilian, a woman or a child. She fled with her children across the border in January to the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan.

This woman over here to my far right and her little girl are from the Nuba Mountains. She is married to a man who fled the nightmare of Darfur in 2005. Both were suffering from malnutrition when they arrived at the refugee camps.

The people of South Kordofan and Blue Nile are being subjected to bomb-

ings, murder, rape, scorched earth, and starvation. This should come as no surprise when Ahmed Haroun, the Sudanese official wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity in Darfur, is now the governor of South Kordofan.

Mr. Speaker, we are fast approaching the month of March, the point at which the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, or FEWS NET, has predicted that South Kordofan and Blue Nile will reach emergency levels of food insecurity. This is just one level short of all-out famine. Yet Khartoum still denies food and medical relief to the suffering people of these regions.

Last week, the United Nations Security Council called on the Sudanese Government and the armed rebels to allow unhindered access for humanitarian aid and for both sides to return to talks and to cease hostilities.

□ 1040

President Bashir said “no.” The United States and the international community, including China, Russia, and others, must increase the pressure on Sudan to allow the delivery of aid to the suffering people of South Kordofan and the Blue Nile, and to reach agreement on a cease-fire. The safety and security of the Sudanese people, whether in Darfur, Abyei, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, or elsewhere, must be our first priority.

Mr. Speaker, we have been silent for too long.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 15, 2012]

IN SUDAN, SEEING ECHOES OF DARFUR

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

YIDA, SOUTH SUDAN.—A great humanitarian catastrophe and vicious ethnic cleansing is unfolding here in the remote and impoverished region where Sudan and South Sudan come together.

For some in the Nuba Mountains, living in thatched huts far from electricity or paved roads, the sharpest acquaintance they are making with 21st-century technology is to be bombed by Sudanese aircraft.

Bombings, ground attacks and sexual violence—part of Sudan's scorched earth counterinsurgency strategy—have driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes in South Kordofan, the Sudanese state where the Nuba Mountains are located. In some ways, the brutality here feels like an echo of what Sudan did in Darfur, only now it is Nubans who are targets.

“They said that they want to finish off the black people; they said they want to kill them all,” recalled Elizabeth Kafi, a 22-year-old Nuban who said she was kidnapped in December by Sudanese uniformed soldiers. She and others say that the mostly Arab Sudanese soldiers scorn Nubans partly for their darker skin, partly because some are Christian, but mostly because many Nubans back an armed uprising against decades of Sudanese misrule. In 23 days of captivity, she said she saw the soldiers use guns to execute several Nuban men, including her grandfather and brother-in-law. She described watching soldiers gang rape and then cut the throat of a young Nuban woman, and also stab to death the woman's 3-year-old son.

Kafi said that she also saw 20 to 25 soldiers hold down two Nuban girls, who she guessed to be about 14 or 15 years old, and gang rape them. The girls died from the rapes and beatings, she said.

It's impossible to confirm Kafi's full story, but others verified that she had been kidnapped. And many other Nubans recount similar attacks, or describe similar racial epithets. As in Darfur, the Sudanese soldiers often call their darker-skinned victims their “slaves.” Ahmed Haroun, a Sudanese official wanted by the International Criminal Court for committing crimes against humanity in Darfur, is now the governor of South Kordofan, and he seems to be employing similar tactics here.

While the Sudanese government is trying to suppress an armed rebellion in the Nuba Mountains, it is civilians who bear the brunt of the suffering. In an apparent effort to starve the rebels, Sudan is blocking aid groups and food assistance from reaching the area, and the United Nations Security Council a few days ago expressed “deep and growing alarm” at rising hunger levels there. Some 28,000 Nubans have sneaked out and settled in a new refugee camp here in Yida, South Sudan, just south of the border with Sudan. Scores more straggle in most days, many half-starved.

“I came because I was starving,” said Muhasin Kuwa, a 24-year-old woman who just arrived at the refugee camp. Both her parents had starved to death, along with seven small children in her small village, she said.

The Sudanese military has tried to block access routes, making escape perilous. I spoke to members from a group of 16 who had crowded into a car, paying \$45 each for what they hoped would be a flight to safety in the refugee camp. But then, the day before I interviewed them, they came to a checkpoint manned by Sudanese soldiers.

“They called us over,” said the vehicle's owner, Haroun Suleiman, 42. “Then they shot at us with guns.”

Two male passengers, ages 41 and 25, were shot dead, he said. Two women, one with a month-old baby, are still missing. The others ran frantically into the bush and escaped, eventually making their way to the refugee camp.

The Sudanese government bombed this refugee camp in November, and, just a week ago, it bombed the nearby town of Jau, in South Sudan. Fears are growing of a new all-out war between Sudan and South Sudan, in part because of an oil dispute. South Sudan separated from the rest of the country just in July, and the two sides can't agree on the oil pipeline fees that the South should pay. The South then shut off oil production, so both countries are now facing an economic crisis. Some experts warn that the North may try to seize oil wells from the South.

Nuban children are already growing up in war. When kids surrounded me in the refugee camp, I asked them how many had lost a brother or sister in the war. About one-third raised their hands.

When the food runs out in the Nuba Mountains, perhaps in two or three months, there will be a risk of mass starvation. I saw one 4-year-old girl at a feeding center run by Samaritan's Purse, the aid group, who weighed only 22 pounds. Unless outside countries enforce humanitarian access into the Nuba Mountains, we can expect more famished children like her.

The Sudanese armed forces try to keep aid workers and journalists out, so the story of suffering has not received much international attention. I'm going to try to slip into the Nuba Mountains and report back. Stay tuned.

BELL STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from