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SENDING UP A SIGNAL FLARE

(Mr. ROSKAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send up a signal flare about a grievous concern that has foisted itself upon this Nation from the Obama administration, and that is this: the Obama administration is now going up to communities of faith and poking their chest and saying, either you will change the dictates of your conscience, or we will fine you. We will use the long arm of the Federal Government to manipulate you into our view of the world, not the view of the world that you think is bestowed upon you by God.

Mr. Speaker, that is a grievous error. That is a provocation that needs to be answered, and, in a nutshell, we have a foreshadowing of what happens when that isn't answered. It's a foreshadowing that comes in the form of a quote from Pastor Martin Niemoller, an anti-Nazi activist, who said:

First they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the Communists, and I didn't speak out because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

And then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for this country to rise and to speak out and to push back on this outrageous provocation from the Obama administration.

HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Before my Pennsylvania friends get all freaked out, I appreciate you letting me come to the floor for 5 minutes to do what is now a weekly constitutional of mine and talk about high level nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain.

What I have been doing, to set the stage, is going around the country highlighting locations where there's nuclear waste throughout this country, and just making the statement that it is in the national interest, and actually it's national Federal law that this waste be consolidated in a centralized storage facility. And so with that, I'll begin.

Today we're headed to the great State of Minnesota, and we're looking at a nuclear power plant called Prairie Island. Now, Prairie Island has 725 million tons of uranium, of spent fuel, on-site. Prairie Island has waste stored above the ground in pools and dry casks.

Prairie Island is in the Mississippi River floodplain, as you can see from

the photo here. And Prairie Island is 50 miles from the Twin Cities.

Now, where should this waste be? Well, this waste should be where an 1982 energy policy, the Waste Policy Act, and then the amendments in 1987 said, by Federal law, it should be, which is underneath a mountain in a desert. And where is that mountain? The mountain's called Yucca Mountain.

Currently, after \$15 billion spent researching and preparing the site, we have zero nuclear waste onsite. If we were storing the nuclear waste there, it would be 1,000 feet underground. It would be 1,000 feet above the water table, and it would be 100 miles from the nearest body of water, which would be the Colorado River.

Now, look at the difference between Yucca Mountain, 100 miles from the Colorado River, versus nuclear waste right next to the Mississippi River, actually in the Mississippi River floodplain.

So, why aren't we doing what the law has dictated? Well, we have the majority leader of the Senate who's been blocking funding and stopping any movement to do the final scientific study. In fact, the will of the House was spoken last year when we voted, I think, 297 votes, bipartisan votes, to complete the funding and the study.

So let's look at the Senators from the region of where this nuclear power plant is. And it's very curious: The two Senators from Minnesota, Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator FRANKEN, they're silent. They're silent on nuclear waste in their own State. It's very curious. Not only nuclear waste, but nuclear waste on the river.

And then you go to North Dakota. Senator CONRAD has voted "no." Senator HOEVEN supports it.

South Dakota, Senator JOHNSON voted "no." This is all in the region.

Senator THUNE supports. Senator NELSON votes in support of Yucca Mountain. Senator JOHNSON votes in support of Yucca Mountain.

Now, Minnesota has two sites, three reactors; two of them are right in this location. So, as I've been coming down to the floor, if you add these new Senators to the total tally, right now we have 40 Senators who have expressed support for moving high-level nuclear waste. We have 12 who are curiously silent on nuclear waste in their State or in their region, and we have 10 who have stated a position of "no."

It's in the best interest of our country, for the safety and security of this country, that we consolidate in a centralized location, underneath a mountain, in a desert, in the defined spot by law, which is Yucca Mountain.

And again, I want to thank my colleagues and friends from Pennsylvania for allowing me to intrude upon their hour.

I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMEMORATING ARIZONA'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 56 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a milestone in Arizona's history, the centennial of our great State. After nearly 49 years as a U.S. Territory, Arizona became part of the United States on February 14, 1912.

Today Arizona is a bustling, contemporary oasis of more than 6 million people. Its natural wonders—the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest, the Red Rocks of Sedona, the Painted Desert, coupled with modern conveniences, most notably air-conditioning—draw millions of visitors from around the world every year. But it wasn't always so.

Early settlers, ranchers, farmers, and miners had to wonder what they'd gotten themselves into. Such was the case with my ancestors. Allow me to tell a sliver of their story because it tells a little about Arizona's history.

William Jordan Flake, my great-great-grandfather arrived in Arizona territory in 1878. When he bought a ranch on the Silver Creek, he was warned by the previous owners not to invite any other families because the land and water would not sustain them. Fortunately, he didn't listen. Soon the town of Snowflake was born, becoming the hub of activity in what was then Arizona territory.

Not long after, William Jordan's son, James Madison Flake, was deputized, along with his brother, Charles Love Flake, to arrest an outlaw who had drifted into town. As they disarmed the outlaw, the outlaw reached into his boot, drew a weapon, and shot Charles in the neck, killing him instantly. James received a bullet in the left ear before returning fire, killing the outlaw.

Just 3 years later, James Madison Flake sat at the bedside of his beloved wife as she passed away, leaving him with nine children. "Once again I must kiss the sod and face a cloudy future," he poignantly wrote in his journal.

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But like so many other pioneers who settled Arizona, he not only faced the future, he shaped it. Along with raising these children and many others that would come later, James Madison Flake involved himself politically in the issues of the day. Notably, he tells in his journal of attending numerous meetings and conventions around Arizona and Colorado to promote the cause of women's suffrage. No doubt, he was proud when, just after Statehood in 1912, Arizona became the seventh State to approve the right of women to vote. Just a few years later, the Nation followed with the 19th amendment to the Constitution.

James Madison Flake would be proud to know that Arizona has many women

legislators, has had a number of women Governors, and that the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor, is a proud Arizonan. He would surely be proud to know of Gabby Giffords, daughter of Arizona and one of this Nation's enduring symbols of hope, who served this Nation's House of Representatives so ably.

Over the past 100 years, Arizona has been home to a number of colorful and transformative figures: Carl Hayden, Barry Goldwater, Mo Udall, and JOHN McCAIN.

With so many unsuccessful Presidential candidates, it's often joked that Arizona is the only State where mothers don't tell their children, Some day you can grow up to be President. In fact, mothers get to tell their children something better: You have the privilege of being an Arizonan.

One thing is certain. Because of the hard work and sacrifice of those who have gone before, Arizona's next 100 years promise to be even better than the first because in Arizona, the beauty of the sunset in the evening is only eclipsed by the sunrise in the morning.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING JOE PATERNO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 52 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with colleagues from Pennsylvania to recognize the accomplishments of Joe Paterno, the longtime Penn State football coach who passed away last month.

Paterno's accomplishments as a teacher and a coach rank him among the very best in the history of the country. His accomplishments were both on the field and on the campus.

I'm pleased today to be joined by a number of my colleagues from Pennsylvania and pleased to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY. I'm glad to be here with my colleagues from Pennsylvania.

My thoughts of Coach Paterno go way back to the time when I was a really young guy in Butler, Pennsylvania, and Coach Paterno at that time was an assistant coach for Rip Engle. Coach Paterno would come into our high school, and he was very close friends with my high school coach, Art Bernardi.

But the thing I remember most about Coach Paterno, he had the ability to

inspire you to do things that maybe you didn't think you could do. He had the ability to get you to go beyond being tired into being better. As a young guy growing up, he would come into our study halls and he would come into our halls, and I had the chance to go to Penn State many times to see him as an assistant coach, and always enjoyed the moments we had, and then go over to his house with Mrs. Paterno, and he would say to Mrs. Paterno, Hey, these guys are hungry. Can you get them a sandwich? Can you get them something to eat? They were always so nice to us, and the kids were small then.

So I can understand the sense of loss that not only the Paterno family has but the State of Pennsylvania, and in particular, Penn State University, because Coach Paterno was part of the fabric of that which is Penn State. He was the leaven that held Penn State together. He was the man that transcended not just football, because football was only a very small part of our life, but it was that game that taught us about life that was to come and the adversity that you would face and the problems that you would have to solve, and the idea that, yeah, well, you may not have done it real well on that last play. The only sin was not getting up off the deck and getting ready for the next play.

So I join my colleagues from Pennsylvania, and there's a deep sense of loss for all of us in Pennsylvania, and especially all of those folks at Penn State who have lost a true leader and a true icon—not just for college football and not just for athletics, but for the American life.

So I am deeply indebted to Coach Paterno for what he taught us. I also am grieving with the family and with the rest of the State of Pennsylvania for the loss of a truly great American, Joe Paterno.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman for his comments, for joining us and honoring and remembering a great individual in Joe Paterno.

It's now my honor to recognize Mr. GERLACH, another colleague that I've had the privilege and honor to serve with since coming to Congress.

I yield to Congressman GERLACH.

Mr. GERLACH. I appreciate this opportunity to join you here today.

Mr. Speaker, I'm joining my colleagues from Pennsylvania in recognizing Coach Joe Paterno and the legacy he forged during more than 60 years at Penn State University.

Most major college football programs measure success solely on what happens on a hundred-yard patch of grass on Saturday afternoons in the fall. If you measured a career only in wins and losses, what Coach Paterno achieved is historic: 409 times he walked off the field victorious, the most wins of any coach in Division I college football.

However, what set Coach Paterno apart was that he demanded excellence

from his players every day of the week. Success with honor was what Coach Paterno expected, whether his players were performing in front of a hundred thousand fans in Beaver Stadium or taking an exam in a classroom.

As someone who played football through youth league all the way through college, I fully appreciate the special role that a football coach can play in the lives of his players. A coach is, above all, a teacher, and one who can build his players' character and instill the values of hard work, persistence, and teamwork—lessons that last a lifetime. Coach Paterno did just that.

Football was the means by which he molded players into leaders and forever transformed a university. He prepared his players to be winners in life, not just on Saturday afternoons.

That is why when Joe Paterno passed away on January 22, Pennsylvania lost a legendary football coach who graciously used the spotlight that he was given to help his players, Penn State University, and our great Commonwealth.

May he rest in peace.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman for participating today and this remembering and celebrating.

Mr. Speaker, in the times of my life I have had opportunity to reflect back on and think of as special times, there is one time in particular when I was a senior in high school. I grew up in Center County. I went to Penn State, I'm a proud Penn State alumni. I grew up in the shadow of the Nittany Lion and Joe Paterno. One of my most meaningful memories having played high school football was the day I got word that Coach Joe Paterno had asked for game films to look at me as a prospect for that great team. That was going well until he saw that as an offensive guard I was less than 200 pounds.

But today, I still treasure that, that he looked at my performance and at least saw something there.

Joe Paterno grew up in Brooklyn, the descendant of Albanian and Italian immigrants. He derived a toughness from that heritage, describing his father and Albania as a land of quiet, hardheaded people. His toughness was seasoned by a deep appreciation of the classics.

Virgil, which he read in the original Latin, was a key source of inspiration for Paterno. He wrote, "I'll never forget the majestic ring of the opening lines of 'The Aeneid': 'Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris,'" which he translated as "Of arms and the man I sing."

Paterno drew inspiration from Virgil's hero Aeneas. Of Aeneas he wrote, "He yearns to be free of his tormenting duty, but he knows that his duty is to others, to his men."

He attended Brown on a football scholarship, where he met and combated prejudice—prejudice from those who thought that football players lacked the intellectual firepower of other students, prejudice from those