

presence over the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico was a major factor in pushing enemy operations away from the coast and protecting vital shipping and cargo up and down our coastlines.

In 1943 German U-boat attacks ceased off the Atlantic coast of the United States. One high-level German officer credited the Civil Air Patrol with being the primary reason for withdrawal, saying, "It was because of those damned little red and yellow airplanes."

As the U-boat threat ended, Civil Air Patrol expanded its homeland security and emergency operations to include search and rescue, border patrol, forest fire patrol, and disaster relief in every State in the Nation.

By war's end, nearly 60,000 members had participated in the Civil Air Patrol and flew 75 million miles over 750,000 hours in support of critical homefront missions. Its volunteers ranged in age from 18 to over 80. Many served for the entire war, while others, most of whom later joined the military, served for shorter periods. A substantial number received "belligerent" certificates indicating they had participated in combat-related duty with the Civil Air Patrol.

The individual accounts of Civil Air Patrol pilots' performance and heroism are too numerous to recount, but just a few examples can illustrate the valor with which they served.

For instance, Maj. Hugh Sharp and Lt. Eddie Edwards from Rehoboth, DE, landed their Sikorsky amphibian in high seas to rescue two other CAP airmen who had to ditch their plane. They found one crew member who was badly hurt, but they were unable to take off due to a pontoon damaged during a rough landing in 10-foot seas. They made a decision to taxi the aircraft back to land, but they quickly discovered that the damaged amphibian listed too far to the left and it didn't make much progress. It just sort of went around in circles. So Eddie volunteered to climb to the end of the right wing to keep the plane in balance. The next day, when a Coast Guard ship met the aircraft, Eddie had to be carried from the wing after holding on tightly for 11 hours in freezing and wet conditions. Both pilots were awarded the first Air Medals of the war by President Roosevelt.

Capt. Francis "Mac" McLaughlin flew coastal patrol missions from Daytona Beach, FL, for 17 months. During that time, he, along with Albert Crabtree, ditched a Fairchild 24 aircraft in the Atlantic and floated in a life raft for several hours until the Coast Guard picked them up. They quickly became members of the "Duck Club," an exclusive organization that recognized those who survived a CAP ditching. There would soon be many in that club, as I mentioned. When the coastal patrol ended, Mac went to Massachusetts to tow aerial targets, the CAP's second most dangerous duty after the coastal patrol. Seven CAP pi-

lots and observers would be shot down and killed during gunnery practice. Mac, who served the entire war on Active Duty with the Civil Air Patrol, passed away at the end of 2011.

Another CAP veteran was Lt. Charles Compton, who flew from Coastal Patrol Base 1 at Atlantic City, NJ, on antisubmarine and convoy escort missions. He recently noted:

Convoys could be attacked at any time. We had a war going on and the threat of German submarines off the east coast. Our job was to make it less easy for the German submarines to surface without being detected.

Charles, who lives near Chicago and turned 95 last summer, remembers that during these dangerous missions, pilots often used sunken ships as points of reference to help them navigate when over water. He added that, unfortunately, sunken ships were plentiful at that time. Recently recognized for his service with Civil Air Patrol's Distinguished Service Award, he credits the exceptional efforts of his fellow Atlantic City squadron members for the honor he received.

These are just three stories, but they are illustrative of Civil Air Patrol's many World War II heroes. More importantly, these stories serve as a powerful reminder of the dedication and service that all gave to our Nation.

When the war ended, Civil Air Patrol members received the recognition they deserved. Over time, however, their story was lost to much of the Nation. This Congressional Gold Medal will ensure that this story is told over and over to future generations and recognizes the Civil Air Patrol and its World War II members for their critically important service to our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CARBON POLLUTION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I want to speak about the ongoing and deliberately overlooked problem of carbon pollution and what it is doing to our planet.

In the context of these remarks, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article entitled "Game Over for the Climate," written by Jim Hansen and published in yesterday's New York Times.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The New York Times, May 9, 2012]

GAME OVER FOR THE CLIMATE

(By James Hansen)

GLOBAL warming isn't a prediction. It is happening. That is why I was so troubled to read a recent interview with President

Obama in Rolling Stone in which he said that Canada would exploit the oil in its vast tar sands reserves "regardless of what we do."

If Canada proceeds, and we do nothing, it will be game over for the climate.

Canada's tar sands, deposits of sand saturated with bitumen, contain twice the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by global oil use in our entire history. If we were to fully exploit this new oil source, and continue to burn our conventional oil, gas and coal supplies, concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere eventually would reach levels higher than in the Pliocene era, more than 2.5 million years ago, when sea level was at least 50 feet higher than it is now. That level of heat-trapping gases would assure that the disintegration of the ice sheets would accelerate out of control. Sea levels would rise and destroy coastal cities. Global temperatures would become intolerable. Twenty to 50 percent of the planet's species would be driven to extinction. Civilization would be at risk.

That is the long-term outlook. But near-term, things will be bad enough. Over the next several decades, the Western United States and the semi-arid region from North Dakota to Texas will develop semi-permanent drought, with rain, when it does come, occurring in extreme events with heavy flooding. Economic losses would be incalculable. More and more of the Midwest would be a dust bowl. California's Central Valley could no longer be irrigated. Food prices would rise to unprecedented levels.

If this sounds apocalyptic, it is. This is why we need to reduce emissions dramatically. President Obama has the power not only to deny tar sands oil additional access to Gulf Coast refining, which Canada desires in part for export markets, but also to encourage economic incentives to leave tar sands and other dirty fuels in the ground.

The *global warming* signal is now louder than the noise of random weather, as I predicted would happen by now in the journal Science in 1981. Extremely hot summers have increased noticeably. We can say with high confidence that the recent heat waves in Texas and Russia, and the one in Europe in 2003, which killed tens of thousands, were not natural events—they were caused by human-induced climate change.

We have known since the 1800s that carbon dioxide traps heat in the atmosphere. The right amount keeps the climate conducive to human life. But add too much, as we are doing now, and temperatures will inevitably rise too high. This is not the result of natural variability, as some argue. The earth is currently in the part of its long-term orbit cycle where temperatures would normally be cooling. But they are rising—and it's because we are forcing them higher with fossil fuel emissions.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen from 280 parts per million to 393 p.p.m. over the last 150 years. The tar sands contain enough carbon—240 gigatons—to add 120 p.p.m. Tar shale, a close cousin of tar sands found mainly in the United States, contains at least an additional 300 gigatons of carbon. If we turn to these dirtiest of fuels, instead of finding ways to phase out our addiction to fossil fuels, there is no hope of keeping carbon concentrations below 500 p.p.m.—a level that would, as earth's history shows, leave our children a climate system that is out of their control.

We need to start reducing emissions significantly, not create new ways to increase them. We should impose a gradually rising carbon fee, collected from fossil fuel companies, then distribute 100 percent of the collections to all Americans on a per-capita

basis every month. The government would not get a penny. This market-based approach would stimulate innovation, jobs and economic growth, avoid enlarging government or having it pick winners or losers. Most Americans, except the heaviest energy users, would get more back than they paid in increased prices. Not only that, the reduction in oil use resulting from the carbon price would be nearly six times as great as the oil supply from the proposed pipeline from Canada, rendering the pipeline superfluous, according to economic models driven by a slowly rising carbon price.

But instead of placing a rising fee on carbon emissions to make fossil fuels pay their true costs, leveling the energy playing field, the world's governments are forcing the public to subsidize fossil fuels with hundreds of billions of dollars per year. This encourages a frantic stampede to extract every fossil fuel through mountaintop removal, longwall mining, hydraulic fracturing, tar sands and tar shale extraction, and deep ocean and Arctic drilling.

President Obama speaks of a "planet in peril," but he does not provide the leadership needed to change the world's course. Our leaders must speak candidly to the public—which years for open, honest discussion—explaining that our continued technological leadership and economic well-being demand a reasoned change of our energy course. History has shown that the American public can rise to the challenge, but leadership is essential.

The science of the situation is clear—it's time for the politics to follow. This is a plan that can unify conservatives and liberals, environmentalists and business. Every major national science academy in the world has reported that global warming is real, caused mostly by humans, and requires urgent action. The cost of acting goes far higher the longer we wait—we can't wait any longer to avoid the worst and be judged immoral by coming generations.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The article begins with two simple sentences: "Global warming isn't a prediction. It is happening."

He talks about the dangers of the Canada tar sands and what that means for us if we go ahead with that project. His conclusion is this:

If Canada proceeds, and we do nothing, it will be game over for the climate.

Canada's tar sands, deposits of sand saturated with bitumen, contain twice the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by global oil use in our entire history.

He looks at the recent extreme weather that people—not only across the country but across the world—have been noticing. He concludes:

We can say with high confidence that the recent heat waves in Texas and Russia, and the one in Europe in 2003, which killed tens of thousands, were not natural events—they were caused by human-induced climate change.

So the risk we face is a real one, and we are actually seeing it begin to happen in present time. He says:

The tar sands contain enough carbon—240 gigatons—to add 120 parts per million to our atmosphere. As I have said before on the Senate floor, we have lived for 8,000 centuries within a range between 170 and 300 parts per million of carbon in our atmosphere. That is the bandwidth within which the human species has lived on this

planet, and we have gone rocketing out of that bandwidth in recent years. We are now at 390 parts per million out of a bandwidth, for 800,000 years, between 170 and 300 parts per million. The tar sands would add 120 parts per million to that. That would take us to 510, if my math is right.

Tar shale—a close cousin of tar sands found mainly in the United States—contains at least an additional 300 gigatons of carbon.

This shows the folly of what Dr. Hansen describes:

... as a frantic stampede to extract every fossil fuel through mountaintop removal, longwall mining, hydraulic fracturing, tar sands and tar shale extraction, and deep ocean and Arctic drilling.

Jim Hansen is somebody who is worth listening to. He has been writing about this now for more than 30 years.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a posting by Neil Wagner entitled "Hansen Had It Right in 1981 Climate Report."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HANSEN HAD IT RIGHT IN 1981 CLIMATE REPORT

(By Neil Wagner)

A recently rediscovered 1981 paper, written by NASA atmospheric physicist James Hansen and others, has been analyzed and found to be impressively accurate about the course of climate change since its publication.

The 10-page paper (available at this link), which was published in the journal *Science*, had been overlooked for decades when researchers Geert Jan van Oldenborgh and Rein Haarsma from the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute uncovered it and began scouring its contents.

The paper's impressive prognostication is the best kind of vindication for Hansen, who has suffered more than his share of the slings and arrows from climate deniers in the media, such as Fox News, Rush Limbaugh, and Andrew Breitbart. He's also taken hits from "climate confusionist" Physicist Freeman Dyson, and has charged that the Bush administration tried to silence his warnings about global warming's urgency.

Deniers of climate change often look for boogymen in their attempts to disprove the phenomenon's existence. As a means of putting a face on the "global warming hoax," an individual is often singled out for attack. In his new book, *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars*, scientist Michael E. Mann calls this technique the Serengeti Strategy, since the technique is akin to lions singling out vulnerable prey from a herd.

The links below provide current information about some of the paper's projections: Atmospheric carbon increase, Formation of drought prone regions, Sea level rise, Antarctic ice erosion, Opening of the Northwest Passage.

The complex world of climate science rarely enjoys such clear and simple validation. When such an opportunity presents itself, we owe it to ourselves to make some noise about it. Haarsma and van Oldenborgh's findings should be shouted from the rooftops.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. He says:

A recently rediscovered 1981 paper, written by NASA atmospheric physicist Jim Hansen and others, has been analyzed and found to be impressively accurate about the course of climate change since its publication.

The 10-page paper . . . which was published in the journal *Science*, had been overlooked

for decades when researchers Geert Jan van Oldenborgh and Rein Haarsma from the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, uncovered it and began scouring its contents.

The paper's impressive prognostication is the best kind of vindication for Hansen, who has suffered more than his share of the slings and arrows from climate deniers in the media . . .

He concludes:

The complex world of climate science rarely enjoys such clear and simple validation. When such opportunity presents itself, we owe it to ourselves to make some noise about it.

With appreciation to Jim Hansen, how the actual science has borne him out over the past 30 years, and with respect for the predictions he makes, we should as soon as we can begin to address ourselves to this problem.

Jim is not alone. An array of scientific organizations wrote us all a letter back in October of 2009 whose conclusion is pretty clear and stark in scientific language:

Observations throughout the world make it clear that climate change is occurring and rigorous scientific research demonstrates that the greenhouse gasses emitted by human activities are the primary driver. These conclusions are based on multiple independent lines of evidence and contrary assertions are inconsistent with an objective assessment of the vast body of peer reviewed science.

We act as if it is something new, but, in fact, it is not. The determination that carbon dioxide would warm the planet as it increased its concentration in the atmosphere was figured out around the time of the American Civil War by an Irish scientist who worked in England named John Tyndall. What Tyndall discovered we have proven to be true, as since then we have dumped gigaton after gigaton of carbon into our atmosphere, loading it up to the point now, as I said before, that we are well outside the bounds that have protected our species for 800,000 years on this planet.

The scale of what 8,000 centuries means is perhaps best measured against the time that scientists now believe man first began to engage in agriculture, first started scratching the earth and putting seeds into the ground. Before then, we were primarily hunter-gatherers, leading a very primitive life. So we have gone from beginning to scratch the earth and plant things to be, 10,000 years later, the species we are. We lived within this bandwidth of 170 to 300 parts per million for 8,000 centuries. To veer outside of it is significant and hazardous.

I am delighted that Mr. Hansen, despite all the abuse that has been heaped on him, continues his work. I hope the time comes when we start to listen to the voice of what our planet is telling us, the voice of what our scientists are telling us, the voice of what our children are telling us, and not just the voice of what the lobbyists for the polluting industries—particularly the oil and gas industries—are telling us.

Frankly, the lobbyists for the polluting oil and gas industries are not

telling us the truth. They are not telling us the truth. The truth is becoming increasingly apparent, and the problem is that as time goes by you can reach tipping points that are irrecoverable. It would be really tragic for us to look back and think, if we had been able to act on time, if we had listened on time to the signals of our Earth, our planet, the signals that are plainly in our face, we could have made a world that was better and safer for our children. But, instead, in our folly, in our greed, in our willingness to listen to the falsehoods of these polluters, we shot past that point, and there is no way to recover it now.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LEAHY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise on the Senate floor today to pay tribute to Mary Leahy, director at the Central Vermont Adult Basic Education—sister, friend, and lifetime educator—who is retiring this month.

For 40 years, Central Vermont Adult Basic Education has provided free literacy services for adults and out-of-school youth. Thirty-seven of those years, Mary Leahy has been at the helm. In her role as codirector at Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Mary dedicated herself to preparing lower skilled workers to meet the demands of the shifting economy.

Whether it was attending townhalls, community centers and libraries, or knocking on doors directly, Mary has spread the word. She has recruited members for this program all over the State.

I have seen the joy in the face of a grandfather able to read a children's story to a grandchild—something the grandfather was not able to do for that child's parent because he could not read when they were a child.

In a recent article honoring Mary in the Times Argus, Vermont Poet Laureate Sydney Lea said these kind words about Mary:

This has been way beyond a job for Mary; it's really a vision of humanity that she's been dedicated to. I have an admiration for her that is pretty close to boundless.

I agree with my friend Sydney. Mary's lifelong passion for learning has enabled countless Vermonters to gain the critical skills needed to participate in today's workforce. In our country today, 88 million adults face at least one educational barrier, such as no high school diploma or no college, and only 3 to 4 percent of the workers with the most limited literacy proficiencies receive the basic skills training from

their employers. Under Mary's guiding hand, Central Vermont Adult Basic Education has allowed Vermonters, young and old, to reach their full potential and to be successful both in the classroom and in the workforce—I might add parenthetically, also just in their everyday lives.

As her older brother, I have known Mary all her life. She is a loving, intelligent, and hard-working person. She has the soul and talent of an artist and the generosity of a saint in sharing her talent and commitment.

I am so proud of Mary, and I ask unanimous consent that the Times Argus article "Closing a Chapter" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Times Argus, April 30, 2012]
CLOSING A CHAPTER: MARY LEAHY ENDS
CAREER AT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
(By David Delcour)

Pages turn, chapters end, books close, and Mary Leahy—a woman who has dedicated her life to literacy in central Vermont—knows that better than most.

On Tuesday, Leahy plans to put the proverbial "period" at the end of her 37-year career with Central Vermont Adult Basic Education. The Marshfield woman's name has become synonymous with the organization where she's worked for nearly four decades.

And Leahy will tell you she's treasured every minute of it.

"I'm surprised I'm leaving," Leahy said during a Friday afternoon interview at CVABE's office on Washington Street in Barre. "This is what I am because the work is every bit at the center of my heart."

For those unfamiliar with CVABE, "the work" involves providing "free, individualized and confidential academic services" to folks who range in age from 16 to 90-something.

Many are high school dropouts, some are immigrants struggling to learn English, and still others are challenged by a growing "digital divide" that didn't exist back in 1975 when a much younger Leahy ditched her job as a high school art teacher to try something completely different.

Seated in an armchair located in the shadow of a paper mache version of Barre's "Stonecutter" memorial—this one holding a book in an outstretched hand, instead of a hammer at his side—Leahy said she has never regretted enlisting as a foot soldier in one of the earliest fronts in the "War on Poverty."

"When this job opened up, I went for it and it's grabbed every single bit of imagination that I have," she said. "It has been endlessly interesting and incredibly rewarding."

It was also real work, according to Leahy. "Back then all of us were working out of our cars and going here and there and everywhere," she recalled. "I've tutored in barns, I've tutored in churches, I've tutored in restaurants . . . wherever people were and (wherever they) felt comfortable."

Leahy's initial assignment was to expand the then-loose-knit, Barre-based program into five communities in Washington, Orange and Lamoille counties.

"That meant literally going through the hills and knocking on doors and saying: This is a program, it's free, and do you know anybody . . . who would find it helpful?" she recalled.

Those trips, Leahy said, were as much a search for "students" as they were an at-

tempt to recruit volunteers, whom, she is quick to note, have long been the backbone of CVABE.

That outreach paid off, according to Carol Shults-Perkins, who joined CVABE two years before Leahy and is the other half of the organization's long-standing "executive team."

"We've been delivering, and committed to delivering community-based services here in central Vermont for more than 40 years now, but it really was Mary (Leahy) who began—community by community, town hall by town hall, library by library engaging individual community members . . . and ensuring that community partnership and community participation has been part and parcel of the community-based services we provide."

According to Shults-Perkins, who will soon assume the role as CVABE's first executive director, the thought of running the organization without Leahy sharing the helm is going to take some getting used to.

"We have worked as a team for 35 years," she said. "You can't replace Mary (Leahy)."

Shults-Perkins won't get any argument from Newberry resident and Vermont Poet Laureate Sydney Lea. Lea, an 18-year member of CVABE's board of directors and its current president, thinks highly of the woman who recruited him during a chance encounter in a hospital parking lot.

"This has been way beyond a job for Mary (Leahy); it's really a vision of humanity that she's been dedicated to," Lea said.

"I have an admiration for her that is pretty close to boundless," he added, noting when he had to pick someone to install him as poet laureate last year, he turned to Leahy.

"She (Leahy) was the first person who came to mind," he said. "No fellow poets, no academics, just Mary."

A soft-spoken, silver-haired woman, with kind eyes and a tendency to deftly shift the focus of a conversation away from herself, Leahy speaks passionately about the importance of adult education, the courage of those who avail themselves to the services CVABE provides, and the commitment of an ever-changing cadre of volunteers who "find the time in their busy schedules to make a difference."

It's a recipe that works, according to Leahy, who spent one of her last days on the job pitching the merits of a program that has been her life's work.

"We're really the earliest of early ed(ucation) programs," Leahy said. "If parents are really important to their children's academic success, then for the parents who missed out on their own education, it stands to reason their child is not going to be on an equal playing field with other kids . . . That's where we come in."

"If we can place ourselves in the public imagination as part of the warp and weave of the entire fabric of education, then we're there for people whose time is right," she said. "When they're ready to learn (and) they want to learn, we're here to help."

Leahy said she is in the process of sifting through an office filled with notes, letters, and student work that underscore the life-changing nature of a basic education.

"It's like a memory tunnel," she said. "I'm unearthing all these wonderful things."

One was a note from a then-newly computer literate woman who thanked her CVABE teacher for helping her master modern technology.

"She was 90," Leahy said of the woman.

Although Leahy believes it is time for her to retire from CVABE, she said she won't be going far and will likely add her name to the organization's roster of volunteers.

"I'll be around," she said.