

is highly commendable. The people of California's 46th Congressional District will miss him.

HONORING AM GENERAL CEO CHARLIE HALL ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Charlie Hall as he retires as CEO of AM General after 5 years of leadership of this iconic company, the manufacturer of the Humvee.

A natural and driven born leader, Hall joined AM General as CEO in January 2011 and led a top-to-bottom revitalization by launching key partnerships with the National Guard and Reserve, bolstering foreign military sales, and diversifying the company's commercial portfolio.

Hall is known for his collaborative, deliberative, no-nonsense leadership style and has never lost track of his top priority, delivering the best, light tactical vehicles on the planet for our men and women in uniform. Under his leadership, AM General has truly been transformed and now stands poised for a very bright future.

On behalf of the outstanding workforce at AM General and all Hoosiers in the Second Congressional District, I thank Charlie Hall for having such an extraordinary impact on this company and for serving as a role model for the next generation of leaders in our community. I wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL HERBERT JACK LLOYD

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an American patriot and hero. On December 10, 2015, Brigadier General Herbert Jack Lloyd was called home to be with his Savior, away from the war and strife he knew most all of his adult life.

General Lloyd served 35 years in the United States Army, moving from private to brigadier general, commanding at entry level from squad leader to assistant division commander. On July 16, 2014, General Lloyd was inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame. Brigadier General Lloyd has received numerous decorations throughout his service, including three combat jumps with the 6th Vietnamese Parachute Battalion, two Silver Stars, seven Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

Mr. Speaker, though I could expound on the godly, courageous, and patriotic life lived by General Lloyd, I will simply read a sentence from the General's obituary that he wrote himself: "If there is nothing worth dying for—in

this sense—there is nothing worth living for." I believe this speaks directly to who General Lloyd was as a man. He lived his life in complete service to God, country, and family.

I offer my most heartfelt condolences to his son, Mark; daughter-in-law, Beth; and his grandchildren, Hannah and Matthew. May the general's example and memories continue to live on in Hope, Arkansas, and around the world.

WEAR RED WEDNESDAY

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is Wear Red Wednesday to bring back our girls.

As millions here in America prepare for the holidays, we must think of the Nigerians whose celebrations will be tempered by fear and sorrow. Think of the Nigerian Christians fearful of fully celebrating Christmas and attending their places of worship, haunted by the Boko Haram Christmas Day church bombings of years past.

Think of the families that were devastated 611 days ago by the kidnapping of the Chibok girls. For these families, Christmas is a sobering reminder that their precious sisters and daughters are gone.

Please include these 219 girls and their families in your Christmas prayers this year. Pray that next year they will enjoy a peaceful and joyous Christmas together.

Please continue to tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls. Tweet, tweet, tweet #joinrepwilson.

FUTURE FORUM: CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to kick off the latest Future Forum Special Order hour. Today we will be talking about something of unique importance to millennials across the United States and, in fact, the world: climate change and what we do about it.

Joining me today are Members from across our country. We have Congressman BOYLE from the Philadelphia area, Congressman LIEU from the Los Angeles area, and Congressman GALLEG0 from the Phoenix area.

Why is the risk of climate change so unique and important to millennials? Well, they know that the very world in which they live—and the one that we will give to our children—is in danger of experiencing catastrophic environmental changes. It is our future that is on the line, and it is our future that is in danger.

I also encourage anyone watching this to participate in the conversation

at #futureforum, and I will engage our Members under that hashtag.

First, I want to start with Congressman LIEU.

I would ask you, Congressman, in the Los Angeles area, a place where young people are thriving and young people across the world are moving to, what are you hearing from millennials in the Los Angeles area?

Is it anything like what I heard in southern California when SCOTT PETERS and I were down there last month and we talked to students at the University of California, San Diego, and we had a word cloud? This is where you ask participants in the audience to text in what issue is most important to them, and the one that is more important gets bigger and bigger in font size. As you can see here in this photograph, climate was the number one issue on the minds of people down in San Diego. Is that what you are hearing in the Los Angeles area?

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TED LIEU).

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Absolutely. That is why I am very pleased and proud that the University of California system became the first, and currently the only, university to be a part of Bill Gates' breakthrough energy fund.

We are taking some great steps in California to mitigate carbon pollution. As you know, California passed the Global Warming Solutions Act last decade, and it is one of the strongest laws in the world. One of the first bills I authored seeks to replicate California's laws nationwide.

It is an important issue for millennials because it is going to directly affect you in the coming decades. It is going to affect our children and grandchildren. So we need to make sure that we mitigate carbon pollution.

All of us are busy. We all deal with a thousand issues, but carbon pollution is the one issue that can kill humanity as a species if we don't do anything about it.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Thank you, Congressman LIEU.

Something that is quite interesting to me is that for millennials, when polled or asked about climate change, it is not a partisan issue. In this House, it feels quite like a partisan issue.

My question for Congressman BOYLE: Across the country from Los Angeles, is addressing climate change a partisan issue, and what are you hearing from millennials in the Philadelphia area?

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE).

□ 1515

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. First, I just want to commend the gentleman Mr. SWALWELL for his excellent leadership when it comes to this issue of utmost importance to our generation, but also to all the other issues that face our generation, especially the student loan debt issue that he and I have spoken about a number of times here on this House floor.

With respect to climate change, this should not be a partisan issue. Indeed, in Europe, for decades, centre-right parties acknowledged and still to this day acknowledge the existence of global climate change and work to address it.

Here in the United States, however, it has, unfortunately, become a partisan issue. Yet, what is so interesting is that, when I go about my district in Philadelphia and in suburban Philadelphia and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and I speak specifically to small-business owners, small-business owners, by the way, at least half of whom are probably Republican, each and every one of them is talking to me about ways and investments that they are making to ensure that they can get more bang for their buck when it comes to energy and things that they are doing, investments that they are making to ensure that we do better as far as the environment, yet at the same time also reduce costs.

I did a tour back in the spring of a major company in my district that has made a massive investment in terms of solar panels on the roofs. This is a major facility, a family-owned business. This is not an insignificant amount of money they have spent in terms of this investment. They would not be doing so if they thought this was a hoax. They would not be doing so if they thought, by transitioning to renewables, they are able to bring down their energy costs and pour more money back into their business.

We need to end, especially in this House, this false dichotomy between doing what is right for our economy and doing what is right for our climate and for the next generation. The fact is, if we are smart and show the best of American ingenuity, we can do both.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Congressman GALLEGO, I am curious. You look at this poster board, and we see that 73 percent of people aged 18 to 29 believe that the Earth is warming. Clearly, 73 percent of people in that age range are not Democrats. They are not Republicans. In fact, young people are quite independent minded.

Are you finding that people in your congressional district in the Phoenix area believe that the Earth is warming and that mankind is not only responsible for that, but has an obligation to do something about it?

Mr. GALLEGO. Well, in Phoenix, we are always used to pretty warm weather. Of course, as of late, we actually have noticed it has actually gotten a lot, lot warmer, and we are worried.

Within that 73 percent range, you will meet a lot of people from all demographic backgrounds, especially Latino and African American communities, that are particularly worried. These are the communities that are growing still, a very young population, but also, unfortunately, tend to have less money.

What that means is, when it gets hotter—and it continues to get hotter in

Arizona—and they are going to have to pay for higher air-conditioning costs or are going to have to pay more for water service, they are the ones who are going to be directly impacted by climate change.

These young people—the average age of the Latino in Arizona is about 25—have to see into the future. What they see in the future is a State and a country that is warmer, that has less water, and that did not make the kind of energy investments that we could have done for many years.

Right now the politicians of today do not have the vision for the new energy future. That is why you see those high numbers. Those high numbers are a direct reflection of young millennials who really, truly care about the future and are projecting into the future what they think is important for stability of not just this country, but the population on Earth.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Now, Congressman LIEU, talking about this statistic, in the Los Angeles area, there is a lot that young people are doing with startups, especially in clean energy.

I had the opportunity to visit an incubator hub, thousands of square feet where they are working in Los Angeles in the Arts District to try and solve some of the greatest climate challenges we have through renewable energy sources.

What are you seeing as far as innovation in your area where people are saying: You know what. This is not a false choice between fossil fuels and doing nothing about it? Are you seeing something there at home?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. When California passed our landmark Global Warming Solutions Act, we had huge investments in green energy actually come into the State. California has now been a leader in green technology in terms of solar, in terms of biofuels and other technologies.

If you want to do that, people do come to California. It really has helped to jump-start parts of our community. I agree with Representative BOYLE. It is a false choice between the economy and climate mitigation. You can do both.

I also do want to note that it is not just young people who realize this. You have also now organizations that you traditionally would not call progressive coming on board, saying that carbon pollution is a problem. You have got the Catholic Church saying that we need to address climate change now. You have got the U.S. military.

One of the great things about our military is it is exceptional, it is amazing, because it actually deals with facts. The U.S. military takes the world as it is, not as they think it should be or in some fantasyland. When the U.S. military looked at the science and the facts, they said that this is a national security problem.

We are having more severe weather events. We are going to have food

shortages in other parts of the world causing migrations, causing conflicts. In terms of the U.S. military's own fuel use, it is very difficult to transport a lot of fuel over long distances. They are actually looking at renewables, at solar, at other renewable sources.

Lastly, let me just say, as we stand here today, one of the world's largest oil companies, ExxonMobil, believes in climate change. They believe it is caused by the burning of fossil fuels, and they support a price on carbon. Now, we wish it didn't take them over three decades to come to this position, but that is their position today.

Since they don't say it very loudly, I am going to say it very loudly. ExxonMobil believes in climate change. For those who don't, you may want to think what does that oil company know that you don't.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. If oil companies believe in climate change, you can, too. I think that is the message here today.

In Paris, over the past few weeks, over a hundred countries, thousands of world leaders, gathered to declare what over 98 percent of the scientific community has always known, which is that climate change is real. Man has caused it, and we must do something about it.

The reaction in my congressional district has been one of enthusiasm. People are happy to see that internationally this is being addressed. It is not just the United States. It is not just the giants, but every country across the globe is recognizing this.

What are you hearing at home, Congressman BOYLE, about the Paris talks and what can come out of it?

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Well, the first thing is the fact that 194, 195 nations or so from all around the world could come together and agree on one document as ambitious as this one is is truly inspiring not just on the issue of climate change, but, indeed, as we look at all the other immense challenges that we face as a human race.

I think that it is great specifically for this issue, but it also shows what we can do together if our hearts are in the right place and we are dedicated toward saving this planet.

I also just want to follow up on something that Mr. LIEU said, which is a great point in terms of talking about the broader coalition of people who want action on this incredibly important issue.

I would add one more to his extensive list, and that is the insurance companies. Insurance companies, especially on the East Coast, especially in south Florida and the entire Florida peninsula, have a great deal of exposure at stake.

They understand that right now—not 20 years from now, not 100 years from now—as we speak, there are parts of Florida, there are parts of Virginia Beach, that are flooding when it is not even raining. These are real consequences that we have to deal with.

For those of us in the Philadelphia area, in New York, New Jersey, I never imagined we would be riding out a hurricane and having to deal with the aftereffects—3 years later still dealing with those aftereffects, by the way—and the price tag for that for insurance companies was absolutely enormous.

One thing that we all need to consider—and this is a really shocking statistic, but sadly true—last month, November of 2015, was the warmest month in recorded history. Those records have gone back since 1880. We know that this is not a 1-month phenomenon, that indeed it is just a continuation of the trend that we have been dealing with.

I would really urge those who want to make this a partisan issue and part of the usual food fight that too often goes on around here, this issue is going to face Democrats, Republicans, Independents, every single person in our country, every single person on Earth.

The sooner that we take politics out of this and that we come together on a comprehensive solution that balances, yes, our economic needs with, also, our needs to tackle this issue, the better off all Americans will be.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I am glad that you mentioned, Congressman LIEU, the work that is being done in and among our Armed Forces.

Congressman GALLEG0, you served in Iraq, and you are a member of the Committee on Armed Services right now. I strongly believe that drilling our way out of this is not going to produce the energy results that we need, and, of course, as we know, it will be harmful to the Earth, that there are actually ways through innovation.

That is something that America has always done. We have innovated our way out of the problems that have challenged us. Whether it comes to wind, solar, alternative fuel cells, we are doing that from a national security posture.

In my congressional district, we have Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory. At Sandia, they are doing work with oil companies at what is called the combustion research facility, where they are trying to make the automobile engine more efficient. At Lawrence Livermore, at the national emission facility, which is the largest and most energetic inertial confinement fusion device built to date and the largest laser in the world, fusion holds the promise of providing a practically limitless supply of clean energy to the world.

I am wondering, Congressman GALLEG0, just as someone who has worked in the military, defending our country before, somebody who overseas the military now in Congress, what can we do from a national security posture to address climate change?

Mr. GALLEG0. Well, first we have to recognize that it truly is a national security issue in two areas. One, if you look at how we mobilize our troops, when you are out there—and I was a

frontliner. I served with the United States Marine Corps as an infantryman.

Many times I was far away from a base, but I still needed resources. So people had to drop off my food. People had to drop off a generator to power the computers that gave us the information we needed.

That was all done, unfortunately, by trucks that were exposing themselves to IEDs to bring us gasoline to basically power these generators to even keep us warm when it got really cold, things of that nature.

If we had a strong investment in green technology that allowed us to have energy independence down at the module level, it would reduce the amount of men and women that have to be on these dangerous roads.

When we kind of look at the grander scope of how you actually effectively fight a war, the first thing you do is you try to take away their energy resources. The first thing you do is you take out their electrical grid, you take out any opportunity for them to actually be able to move. That includes what we know now as gasoline.

If you look at some of our greatest victories, when Sherman was pushing through Europe, when Patton was fighting in World War II, what they did was effectively cut off the axis powers' ability to basically feed their engines by destroying their capability of refining oil into gasoline.

If we want to also make sure that we, as a country, have strong national security going now and into the future, we have to make sure that we are energy independent. Most of the hydrocarbons that are still in existence in this world are not in the United States. They are found in a lot of countries that are not stable allies of ours or in a very unstable region.

For example, Venezuela is one of our biggest oil partners. Even if you go down to the Middle East, they are in a very unstable area. We still rely on that area for a lot of our oil or the world, in general. If we do not receive their oil, they do set the price of the commodities, which also affects, obviously, a lot of our national security posture.

If we were truly serious about understanding what we need to do in the future to continue having a strong national security that defends the American way of life, energy independence through renewables is the way to do it.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Congressman GALLEG0, you come from one of the hottest spots in the United States.

Congressman BOYLE, you also alluded to November being the hottest month on record. It seems like every month we learn that the month before was the hottest month on record.

We are in the United States. If we were in Australia or South America, hearing that November is the hottest month on record may not be as surprising as a month that is in the dead

of fall and the dawn of winter in the United States.

Congressman LIEU, you represent a district that for 40 years before you were there was represented by the great Henry Waxman, someone who did a lot of good work on this floor to address climate change.

In our home State of California, while the future specific day-to-day effects of climate change are not yet known, projections not only show a rise in sea levels across the world and threatening our coast in California, but models are also suggesting increasingly extreme weather events.

Whether you are in the Los Angeles area or in the San Francisco Bay area, we have been experiencing drought-like conditions for years as well as hurricanes on the East Coast in places like the northeast that have not seen the intensity like Hurricane Sandy, which we have seen before.

□ 1530

And so, as we adapt for our current climate and any rapid change in our environment, I want to know, Congressman LIEU, can you talk a little bit about weather events and why this is a threat to coastal communities?

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Representative SWALWELL, that is a great point you make. Whether you call it science, facts, or measurements, you can measure climate change. So we know that last year was the hottest year in recorded history, only to be outdone by the first 6 months of this year, only to be outdone again, as Representative BOYLE mentioned, by November—last month. We know that ocean levels have risen 8 inches in about the last century, and just since 1992, they have risen about 3 inches.

I love my district, which stretches from Malibu, south through Santa Monica, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, and along the coast, and I don't want my constituents all moving to Representative GALLEG0's district because they are getting flooded.

It is important that we look at this. The projections show that by 2050, large parts of American coastal areas will be at risk of flooding—and that is a huge problem. So we have to not only pay attention to that as a national security interest, but just for people to live their normal lives. And Mother Nature does not discriminate.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Congressman LIEU, an interesting fact about that number. NASA projects that by 2050, between \$66 billion and \$106 billion worth of existing coastal property will likely be below sea level nationwide, with \$238 billion to \$507 billion worth of property below sea level by 2100. And so it certainly has, as you said, not just the livelihood effect on it, but also a price tag, as we have seen.

I mentioned Congressman GALLEG0 served in the military. I believe you also serve today as a reservist. If you will, talk about the national security threat because of climate change.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. I am very honored to have Los Angeles Air Force Base in my district. It was the first base to actually go green in terms of its vehicles. So all the vehicles the L.A. Air Force Base uses on the government side are energy-efficient electric vehicles. They are the first large institution to develop a vehicle-to-grid program where you actually plug in the vehicle and it gives electricity back to the grid when the grid needs it. If you can get that widespread, that would be a game changer across America. So the military is very focused on this issue.

Again, what makes America an exceptional country—one of the best in the world—is we actually rely on facts and science and measurements. Ninety-seven percent of scientists looking at this issue have said that climate change is real, it is largely caused by humans, and we need to do something about it or else we are going to be in a great world of hurt.

If 9 out of 10 doctors said your child shows the symptoms of diabetes, would you keep feeding your child Snickers bars? You would be crazy if you do that. You would actually go and seek treatment. It makes no sense for folks to believe in doctors and science and math and technology and then, on this one narrow issue of carbon pollution, simply for ideological reasons, say we are not going to trust any science or facts or measurements.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Bringing us back to what millennials believe on this issue. Some of you have participated in our Future Forum dialogue.

On January 14, Congressman LIEU will be in the Los Angeles area hosting a Future Forum dialogue on climate change, student loan debt, and the other issues facing our generation. But some of the science, as you mentioned, behind millennial beliefs is quite powerful.

According to a 2014 Harstad poll, 80 percent of millennials favor the idea of requiring utilities to generate at least a third of their power from renewable sources like solar and wind by 2030. That also falls in line with what much of the rest of the developed world is doing.

There was a New York Times story last year highlighting that, by the end of 2014, Germany would receive nearly a third of its energy through renewable sources. Two-thirds of young adults age 18 to 34, according to a National Geographic article, say they are inclined to vote for candidates who support cutting greenhouse gases and increasing financial incentives for renewable energy. And in a 2015 poll by NextGen Climate, 75 percent of voters under the age of 35 say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who pledged to turn the country to 50 percent clean energy by 2030.

So we have talked about the national security argument, we have talked about the economic advantages and, of course, the livelihood threat of flooding in extreme weather events.

Congressman BOYLE, what about American exceptionalism? Are we any less capable than Germany or Denmark or any of these other countries of addressing climate change?

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Well, for anyone to believe that—I know there are some right now who are running for President trying to denigrate America and talk about what is all supposedly wrong with us. I would point out that the whole history of our country has been seeing enormous challenges and meeting them and defeating them. That has been the entire history from Valley Forge, which I am privileged to represent, all the way through to the present day.

I would also say to the men and women of my generation—of our generation—who might be understandably skeptical on this issue because each and every month they hear the same statistics we do that this past month was the hottest month on record, only to be beaten by the succeeding month, that we have actually been here before in terms of dealing with environmental degradation.

As for our parents' generation, they faced two particularly strong issues that seemed very difficult to meet and defeat. One was with respect to the ozone layer. If we were having this conversation in the early 1970s, a great deal of the talk was about repairing the ozone layer. Even when some of us were kids, that was an issue. Notice that you don't hear about that anymore. That is because we made the important changes that were necessary, and we solved that problem.

A second was with respect to our waterways and rivers. I am proud to represent, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues here, the Delaware River in Philadelphia, which actually separates Pennsylvania from New Jersey. It is a beautiful waterway. It is also a very historic one, as that is where, famously, on Christmas Day 1776, George Washington and our soldiers crossed the Delaware into the Battle of Trenton to defeat the Hessians and help launch our young Nation on its way to independence.

Well, a previous generation ago, that waterway, as well as the Hudson River and countless others, was in its worst state ever. Today, that same Delaware River is cleaner than at any point in our grandparents' lifetime. That is an enormous achievement. It is one that, 40, 50 years ago, most people would have predicted could not have been accomplished.

So I would say to all Americans, but especially to those of our generation, yes, this is an enormous problem, but, yes, we can also defeat it. Yes, we can also rise to the occasion, just as we have with each and every other major challenge our Nation has faced.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. That is right, Mr. BOYLE.

Mr. GALLEGOS has seen this with me. He came out to my congressional district and spoke with millennials in the

San Francisco Bay Area. We are aspirational. We are optimistic. We are collaborative. In fact, we came out of the family cell phone plan, so we are used to solving all sorts of problems with group think and then actually arriving at a decision. That is what we do: We collaborate, we solve small problems, we think big, and we take on the larger problems.

Your closing thoughts, Congressman GALLEGOS, on what our generation can do to address this threat to our national security, our livelihood, and our economy.

Mr. GALLEGOS. I think if we actually lean back on the strengths of our generation, that is what we need to do. We are a very empathetic generation. We care about our community. We care about our world. And being able to translate that into political power is important.

Whether you vote for a Democrat, Republican, or Independent, make sure they understand that is your priority, to be represented by somebody who understands the threat of climate change and you want to see action.

We also need to get involved more on the economic innovation side that comes with the new energy future. We are going to be developing the technologies that are really going to be making the biggest impacts in terms of slowing down the warming of the Earth.

And it is our friends and colleagues now that are working in labs and doing the startups in Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Francisco that are creating the technology of tomorrow. We need to continue to be pushing forward, supporting their efforts, supporting them through R&D. But, more importantly, having a Congress that is supportive and understanding of the challenges of climate change is the key to all that.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Thank you, Congressman GALLEGOS, for participating today.

Thank you, Congressman LIEU, for your service to our country and for standing up for Americans now in this new world and understanding that this is a national security issue as well.

Congressman LIEU, if you want to, give us your closing thoughts on climate change and what millennials—and everyone, as you said—can do about this issue.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mother Nature does not discriminate. Whether you are 20 years old, a Republican or Democrat or a member of the Green Party, the laws of physics and the laws of chemistry do not negotiate.

We are now in a danger zone when it comes to carbon pollution. If we don't act quickly to reduce carbon pollution, in the coming decades we are going to be in a world of hurt. We are going to have far more extreme weather events, far more national security issues.

So, working together, it is my hope that we can pass strong legislation through this Congress, and I believe we will because, in a democracy, the side with the facts eventually wins.

Thank you, Representative SWALWELL, for having this terrific Future Forum event on the floor today.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Thank you, Congressman LIEU.

It has been exciting going to the nine cities across America and talking to young people and learning their thoughts. As the Future Forum, our goal has been first to listen, and then to engage with millennials, whether it is going to their college campuses, community colleges, workforces, incubator and startup hubs; and then it is to crowdsource these problems, and then for the lawmakers of Future Forum to come back to this body and this Chamber and act on the issues that young Americans care about.

It is the largest generation America has ever known. It is the most diverse generation that America has ever known. It is an aspirational generation that wants to solve problems and not sit on the sidelines and watch our sea levels rise and watch the Earth get warmer. It is a generation that feels a sense of responsibility that we are only on this Earth for a very short period of time, and we will be judged by what we leave to the next generation.

So, yes, we can do something about it. Young Americans are committed to fighting climate change. They know it is our own reality and the reality of those who will inherit this Earth, and they know it is better to start now, before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

BUDGETARY CONCERNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, as we get ourselves sort of organized, you will actually notice a couple of these boards are a little worn. It is because it is a, shall we say, the continuation of a theme. But this is sort of an auspicious day to actually do some of this, as we are getting ready to do the omnibus, the big budgetary bill.

What is so important here is, I want, everyone, first, to understand the \$1.1-plus trillion we are talking about is solely what we call the discretionary portion of the budget. This is the portion of the budget we debate here, we do amendments, we work through; and then, in this particular case, because of a series of blocks and frustrations and game-playing that happened previously, we get here to the end and we are trying to package it all together. But it is not the majority, it is not anywhere near close to the majority of our Federal spending.

So take a look at this board. And this is for 2015. So we are right now working on the budget for the 2016 appropriation cycle.

If you see the blue, the blue is mandatory spending. Those are things like Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid and other parts of the welfare portion of our budget that are formula-driven, that you hit a certain age, you get a benefit; you fall below a certain income, you get a certain benefit. It is about 69-plus percent of our spending, and this is for last year.

Only 31 percent of the 2015 budget actually goes through this sort of normal appropriation process, and that is really important to understand the scale of the spending and how little of it actually is debated, because it is a formula. It is also the portion of our spending that is exploding.

So we are going to walk through a couple of these boards today. One of my goals is actually to also walk through and talk about what is actually happening in some of the mandatory spending, and why, for all of us, we are going to have to have that very honest, very difficult, very math fact-based conversation.

In my district, the Scottsdale, Phoenix area, I am incredibly blessed. I have an amazing constituency, I have a wonderful area, but we have done 100+ of these budget townhalls over the last couple of years, and I will get people who will come in and say, but that number doesn't feel right. I know it may not feel right.

Previous politicians on both sides, I think, have underplayed what is happening in this country demographically and what it actually means to our commitment.

So if you are someone who really, really, really cares about keeping this country safe, you need to be willing to start to understand what is happening in these numbers. You need to understand the financial pressure that is going to be on your ability to finance the military. If you care about health care, you need to understand the financial pressure that is going to be coming to deal with those, medical research, education.

So let's first get our head around what is both happening, and then we are going to actually walk through some demographic slides. And the reason I want to do that is to understand, this isn't the type of discussion where you can throw a switch and the solutions are simple.

The next slide, this is actually sort of walking through the projections, and, understand, these projections have actually changed a little bit, but I didn't have a chance to finish all the calculations. So this is, functionally, four budget cycles from now. So it is the 2020 budget. We are right now doing the 2016 budget.

At that point, 76 percent of the spending is Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, interest on the debt, veterans benefits, and other transfer programs, welfare programs; 76. Remember, the budget cycle we just finished, it was 69. In, functionally, 4 or 5 years, it becomes 76 percent of all of our spending.

So if you care about the military, if you care about healthcare research, if you care about foreign aid, if you care about any of those things, it is shrinking rather dramatically as a percentage of our total spending.

Yet, you have got to understand, from 2015 to that 2020 budget, this government is going to go from, I think it is a \$3-some trillion budget to a \$4.1 trillion budget. So in that few years, we are going to actually increase by \$1 trillion in spending and revenues, and some of those revenues come from borrowing. Yet, the ratio continues to explode because it is going into that mandatory spending.

This is demographics. This is reality. And unless you have a solution for baby boomers to stop, like me, turning gray, we have to grow up and deal with it. I find here in Washington there is pathological avoidance of the reality that is upon us.

I am going to do this without knocking anything down. And I believe these are already up on our Web site, the ability to sort of take a look and see where is the money actually going; because I can't tell you how many times we would do those budget townhalls and someone would come in the door and say, Well, DAVID, if you just did this, if you would get rid of foreign aid, that would take care of the problem. Then you go to this slide and try showing them that the tiny, tiny, tiny little sliver right there was foreign aid.

Well, DAVID, if you would just get rid of this. Well, waste and fraud is huge. The reality of it, we know in Medicare and Medicaid and many of these things, we have to come up with more dramatically efficient ways, the use of technology. We are going to start to talk about that at the end of this, that there really are some solutions we need to be embracing. But they are little slivers.

Do you see the blue areas? Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, welfare benefits, interest on the debt? As you saw today, with the Fed starting to raise interest rates, we expect, in just a few years, interest to be bigger than the defense budget. In about 7 years, interest will be approaching \$1 trillion a year.

Understand, this is the reality of the math. This is no more happy talk that seems to go around in politics. It is math.

This portion over here, if you take out the Defense Department—so if you look at defense and all this blue, these here are all the agencies. It is important to understand these numbers, because I have been heartbroken at how often we do townhalls around our State, and there is this misunderstanding of where the money is actually being appropriated.

So we are going to talk about a little bit of the demographics of what is going on, but also, how much trouble, how much difficulty is Social Security in?