

dressed in an orange jumpsuit, pleading for help. A year later, in 2011, another proof of life, pictures of Bob, his beard long, his face thin, his gregarious smile gone, a shadow of the exuberant family man in this photograph.

In March, marking the ninth anniversary of Bob's disappearance, south Florida came together in support of Bob's return with a rally. Each of Bob's children spoke so beautifully about the special relationship that they share with their father, his commitment to his family, his words of wisdom, his ability to touch the lives of everyone that he meets.

Bob Levinson served this country for nearly 30 years, first as a DEA agent, and then as an FBI agent. He is the definition of a patriot. He loves this country. He dedicated his life to public service. Now we must do whatever we can to bring Bob home; home to Christine, his wife of over 40 years; home to his daughters Susan, Stephanie, Sarah, and Samantha; home to his three sons, Dan, David, and Doug, and son-in-law Randy; home to meet, for the first time, the newest members of his growing family, his sons-in-law and daughter-in-law, Ralph, Ryan, and Sophia, and his six beautiful grandchildren, Ryan, Grace, Caroline, Harry, Sean, and Bobby; home in time for the birth of two new grandchildren; and home in time to hold 2-year-old Bobby as he begins treatment for lymphoma.

Bobby was named after Grandpa Bob. Bob's daughter Susan said: I always wanted to name my son after my dad not because he has been taken, but because growing up I always knew how special my dad is.

The family needs Bob home. We can't wait any longer. Whether you support engagement with Iran or not doesn't matter. The fact is, for the first time since Bob went missing, the United States Government sits directly across the table from their Iranian counterparts.

The future of our relationship with Iran is uncertain. That is why we can't wait. The Iranians have spent the last 2 years seeking acceptance from the international community, but to be treated as a responsible nation, they must act as a responsible nation. After Iran released other Americans this year, the U.S. Government announced Iran's commitment to use newly established channels to move us closer to Bob's return, but, 11 months later, Iran has not fulfilled that commitment.

Our allies are looking to invest in Iran. U.S. businesses are seeking new economic opportunities, and Iran is seeking to change its standing in the world. I am not here today to debate U.S. policy. I am only here to remind Iran and to remind the world that an American is still not home.

I am grateful to this Congress for the unanimous passage of a resolution earlier this year calling on the Government of Iran to find Bob and bring him home and for the deep, deep support so many of my colleagues have offered the

Levinson family. I don't want to have to introduce that legislation again next year. I don't want to come back to the House floor in 2017 to plead for Bob's return. This is the moment for action. This is the time to bring Bob home.

When the Levinson children were growing up, they would pile into the family Suburban before Christmas in search of the best holiday decoration displays. The kids would sit back singing Christmas songs, and Bob would hold Christine's hand while he drove. Even though the family has grown too large to fit in one Suburban now, Bob and his family deserve to see the lights together this year. They deserve to sing together. This must be the last season that Bob spends away from his family.

CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, this year my parish, Holy Cross Catholic Church in Hutchinson, Kansas, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Sixty years ago, then-Bishop of Wichita, Most Reverend Mark K. Carroll, proclaimed Holy Cross Parish to be the third parish in Hutchinson. On June 23, 1957, the church celebrated their first mass in a 4-H building.

Holy Cross Parish has come a long way from that first mass held on the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Now a beautiful church adorned with holy images, the parish serves Christ's people from the moment they are born with the Sacrament of Baptism, to feeding them with the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist, to couples exchanging marriage vows, to those seeking forgiveness in the confessional, and, finally, to when we prepare to meet our Lord at the end of our earthly lives. At each milestone of a Catholic's life, Holy Cross Catholic Church is there to guide us toward the truth: to know, love, and serve the Lord in this life so as to be with Him in the next.

The work of the Holy Cross community certainly extends outside the church walls. The parish is present in the community, serving meals to the needy, visiting inmates in prison, working to save the lives of the precious unborn children, and comforting those who grieve.

Additionally, education has always been a high priority for the Holy Cross Parish. Hundreds upon hundreds of boys and girls, young men and women, have received a superb Catholic education at Holy Cross Catholic School and Trinity Catholic High School. Dedicated teachers, administrators, coaches, committed families, holy priests and nuns, and supportive parishioners have worked together to prepare each of these students to serve as Christ's light to the world. The fami-

lies that make up Holy Cross Catholic Church are a living example of individuals who live out their faith in their work and their daily lives.

Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. The First Amendment guarantees the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of conscience. It is my sincere hope that, as America moves forward, our leaders will place the issue of religious liberty at the forefront of their political and legislative agendas.

On this 60th anniversary of Holy Cross Catholic Church, it is my prayer that the parish will continue to grow and thrive, welcome new members, and share the Gospel with the world.

THE WAR ON SCIENCE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the growing antiscience attitude in Washington. This attitude has manifested itself even on the cover of the respected National Geographic magazine, titled "The War on Science." The war on science is being conducted in two ways. First, by rejecting or trying to discredit legitimate science. Second, by reducing Federal science funding.

Skepticism of science is hardly new and is sometimes well founded, but what is happening today is different and is part of a trend in the United States to discount or disbelieve experts in any field. I hear from scientists who are very worried that the quality and quantity of science produced in this country will decline as a result.

American inventors and innovators have improved our lives and have given our country an economic edge, helping make us the strongest country in the world. Let me share a partial list of revolutionary achievements by American scientists: airplanes, phonographs, practical incandescent lamps, wireless communications, microwave ovens, lasers, personal computers, washing machines, cyclotrons, 3D printing machines, polio vaccinations, the nuclear bomb, light-emitting diodes or LEDs, fiber optic cables, mobile telephones, computer mouse, public key cryptography, global positioning systems or GPS, and social media.

Now let's recall an earlier battle against science that used the discredit tactic; namely, the tobacco companies' effort to dispute the science that smoking is addictive and causes deadly diseases. The tobacco industry tried to both discredit and threaten the scientists who were advancing the facts, and funded questionable scientists to create doubts about the actual scientific results. The tactic worked for a time while tobacco producers were able to continually hook millions of new people on their dangerous product. Eventually the science won out, but the cost was terrible.

Today a similar effort is underway with respect to climate change. The science is clear, with a vast majority of climate scientists agreeing that the climate is warming and that continuing to emit carbon into the atmosphere at current levels will bring significant and mostly detrimental change to our environment. Moreover, even though the evidence that climate change is already taking place and is overwhelming and increasingly obvious, there is widespread denial that climate change is even happening or that it would be possible to help combat it. But the things that need to be done to address climate change, such as taxing carbon emissions, can be done gradually, predictably, and in a way that helps the economy grow and puts people to work.

So why is there so much resistance?

The resistance in America is caused by a well-funded campaign to create doubt about obvious scientific facts. The fossil fuel industry, in particular, has been paying its own scientists to go on talk shows, to publish in their own denial journals, and generally to create doubt whenever possible about climate change, suggesting that it would be better to wait for conclusive evidence before doing anything. But to wait for conclusive evidence is to wait for catastrophe.

While Republicans in Washington are trying to reduce or eliminate funding for climate change research, there also seems to be an effort by Republicans to reduce science funding across the board. This will result in fewer scientific advances in the U.S., which will likely cause us to fall behind our competitors. But this is part of a larger trend that denies there are real experts. Science denial has become a pop culture. This is dangerous because modern society is built upon the things that science got right.

I see the war on science in this country as shortsighted and very damaging to our economy. We need to change the tone and direction toward a positive process that acknowledges and supports the role science has played and will continue to play for our country. That means working with legislators and getting more scientists and other concerned citizens involved in the political process to ensure that our Nation can continue to benefit from new scientific discoveries and innovation and which will help create the jobs we need to continue to be a great economic power.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in my hand is a book, "Congress: The Chester County Line" written by Wayne C. Woodward. A portion of the foreword reads as follows: "From

the very beginning of our great Nation and the first American Congress, Chester Countians have served their southeast Pennsylvania constituents in the United States House of Representatives. Not all have been nationally known leaders or internationally renowned legislators, but, by and large, Congressmen from Chester County have played a major role in American history." That was written by Richard T. Schulze, member of the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1975 to 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Congressman JOE PITTS, who has served Chester County, Lancaster County, and Berks County with tremendous distinction for the past two decades. Whether it was his legislative focus and advocacy involving religious liberty, life, health care, land conservation, or focusing on those issues at the most local level, JOE PITTS' legacy and achievements as a legislator will prove lasting in the history of Chester County and this Congress.

My predecessor, Jim Gerlach, serving in the neighboring Sixth Congressional District, commented: "I had the good fortune of working with JOE from my first years as a State legislator in the PA house all the way through my last year in Congress. During those 24 years, JOE PITTS was a steady and committed voice for conservative principles and policies that are the bedrock of our economy and society. He cared deeply about his constituents and country, and he always voted for what he believed was best for both. In short, he was a principled leader who worked hard every day to do the right thing, and his leadership will be missed."

JOE PITTS' predecessor in Congress, occupying what is commonly referred to as "the Pennsylvania Dutch seat," Congressman Bob Walker, commented: "JOE PITTS has distinguished himself and the district he represents with his congressional service. He has become an acknowledged leader in healthcare policy, and his human rights work has won worldwide claim. I have been proud to call him my congressman for the past 20 years, and wish JOE and Ginny the very best in the years ahead."

This book, "Congress: The Chester County Line," was written in 1992. There will be a day when a second book about the history of Congress and Chester County will be written. We don't know who will write it, but we do know there will be a chapter on the service of Jim Gerlach and on the service of Bob Walker; and there will also be a very long chapter, rich in content, on the contributions that JOE PITTS has played in American history for the betterment of this country, for the betterment of Chester County, Berks County, and Lancaster County.

Congressman PITTS, I wish you the very best as you retire, and a long and healthy retirement to you and your family. God bless you.

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FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE BOB DOLD

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress, as I suspect when most new Members come to Congress, you tend to look around for those Members who you can take a little something from to improve yourself and to see what they do and also what they don't do.

Congressman BOB DOLD is finishing his second term. I would like Mr. DOLD to know that I have taken a great deal from him. I find him to be a very honorable man and a friend who has served with purpose, a positive attitude, and is partisan-free. He is a great example of how to serve in this body effectively, with distinction, and with a great attitude.

I wish Congressman DOLD the very best in all his future endeavors.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE RICHARD HANNA

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, RICHARD HANNA, serving New York's 22nd Congressional District, is retiring. I want to commend Congressman HANNA on his thoughtfulness, independence, and courage of convictions. I find him to be a great example of how to serve in this body honorably, and I wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE MIKE
FITZPATRICK

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Congressman MIKE FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District is retiring. His brother, Brian, has big shoes to fill to serve in MIKE's place.

When I came to Congress, one thing that you would always hear in political circles is that MIKE FITZPATRICK, while serving in Congress, never stopped being a Bucks County Commissioner. What that really means is, while he came down here to focus on Washington and issues important to this country, he never stopped spending time in Bucks County, serving the district with distinction.

I wish MIKE FITZPATRICK the very best in retirement and thank him for his mentorship during my first year in Congress.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT AARON TOBLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler, an Albany native and La Salle Institute of Troy graduate who was recently selected for the Outstanding Airman of the Year award by the United States Air Force.

The Air Force provides this recognition to top enlisted Airmen for their unique individual achievements in leadership, job performance, significant self-improvement, and community involvement.

Sergeant Tobler is a fine example of the best the capital region, the Air