

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

Force, and our Nation have to offer. In addition to his military service, he serves as a manager at the California Department of Social Services, mentors local youth, and is a regular blood donor.

I thank Staff Sergeant Tobler for his military and civilian service to our Nation. He and his colleagues are truly what has made, and continues to make, this country great.

109TH AIRLIFT BUZZ ALDRIN EVACUATION

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, last week, the National Science Foundation announced that the 109th Airlift Wing provided a humanitarian medical evacuation flight from Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in Antarctica to astronaut Buzz Aldrin, one of the first men to walk on the Moon.

As the Representative for New York's 20th Congressional District, I am, indeed, honored that we are home to Stratton Air National Guard Base, which hosts the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York. Their unit flies the world's only ski-equipped LC-130s, better known as Ski Birds.

The 109th continues a proud tradition of critical contributions that New York's capital region makes to our national security, our economy, and yes, our standing in the world. I am, indeed, proud of their unique service to this country and thank them for their continued support.

PEARL HARBOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago, the Imperial forces of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and other bases in Hawaii. This unforgivable act thrust our country into the war in the Pacific. On this day, 2,403 Americans died, 1,177 of them on the *Arizona*, and 1,178 were wounded.

Today, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, there will be services here in D.C., throughout the Nation, and particularly at Pearl Harbor. This is where Pearl Harbor, the symbol of World War II and the attack, is found. That, of course, is the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Designed by Alfred Preis, it was controversial when first unveiled because people could not understand the significance of it. They said it kind of looked like a squashed milk carton. But when you really understood what went behind it, it made sense.

The middle part that looks like it is sagging represented the defeat of December 7; however, the two proud, strong sides represented the victory that our country faced. Think about it. There is a portion of it that is open to the ocean. That is where leis like this were thrown in to honor those who were buried below.

In addition, there is a wall with the names of all those who perished. But there is another wall—and this is very significant—with the names of those

who survived the attack but chose to return to be buried with their colleagues. A Navy diver takes their ashes down and puts them on the USS *Arizona*. There are seven large windows on one side representing December 7. There are 21 windows altogether, representing a 21-gun salute.

When Mr. Preis designed it, he said he wanted the memorial to be everything to anybody as they looked at it, but, most importantly, he wanted it to be serene. You have to ask yourself: Why?

What very few know about Mr. Preis is, like the Japanese Americans, he was detained because he was Austrian. In Hawaii, there were internment camps, not only of Japanese Americans but of Germans of American descent, as well as Italians. Mr. Preis was one of them.

World War II created the Greatest Generation of all time, and we must never forget them. We must honor them. But we must always remember that ultimate sacrifice they made. They made it for all of us so we would appreciate and enjoy civil liberties.

Remember, in February of the following year is when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 putting Japanese Americans, whose only crime was that they were Japanese Americans, into internment camps. This group fought the fight to prove their loyalty to this country.

Let us not forget them, the Filipino World War II veterans who also served, and everyone who served in World War II. Let us not forget why they served and why they did that ultimate sacrifice. It was so that we would be the greatest country on this Earth and we would provide people with civil liberties.

So let us not, as we move forward, forget that. Let us not forget what it means to be a country that welcomes all and has protected the civil liberties. As we look and hear about things like the Muslim registry or building walls, would those brave men of the Greatest Generation really think they fought for that? Is that what they want this country to become? I contend that they do not.

On this day, Mr. Speaker, as we honor those who gave that ultimate sacrifice, let us not forget why we are the greatest country on the face of this Earth and why they are the Greatest Generation.

DROUGHT: HUMAN IMPACT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the real human impact that the drought has had on families across California's San Joaquin Valley. This drought has lasted for 6 years.

Tomorrow, the House will have an opportunity to vote on legislation that will help address the impacts of the drought and begin to repair a broken

water system that we have in California today. I hope more than anything that we can get the legislation across the finish line, but it seems that some of my colleagues in the House and the Senate remain unconvinced that a solution is necessary. I tell you that a solution is necessary and we are working on borrowed time.

I would like to take the opportunity to dispel that misconception. The picture next to me here is Mr. and Mrs. Cabrera from Madera, California. I represent these constituents. As you will notice, they look happy. The reason they look happy is because, when I had the pleasure of meeting with them that day, they found out that they had received a Federal resource grant to dig a new well in their backyard. Two years prior to that day, their well had gone completely dry.

For my colleagues who do not represent the rural constituencies across this country or in California, that means for 2 years the Cabrera family could not turn their faucet on to get water to bathe or cook. Instead, they went outside to haul buckets of water into their house. A 2,500-gallon tank in their backyard was where they got the water from. Some families are even less fortunate and had to have water trucked into their neighborhoods.

Also, pictured next to them is Juana Garcia. Juana lives in East Porterville. She was featured in a Fresno Bee story last year. Her family and 700 households in East Porterville have no water. This photo illustrates the delivery of nonpotable water to Ms. Garcia and her family. They walk to the local church several times a week so they can take a shower.

The Cabrera and Garcia families represent the faces of thousands of families throughout the Valley who don't have water and don't have a long-term plan to get water. They have been impacted.

Farmers, farm workers, and farm communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley have been impacted as well. Without water, hundreds and thousands of acres of productive ag land have gone fallow. That means they are not planted. Without planting, that means no jobs and no water. Unemployment, in many of these Valley farming communities, is in the double digits and at an all-time high.

While a California drought relief bill will not resolve every single challenge we face in the Valley and in California's broken water system, it will provide some relief to help these suffering families.

To my colleagues in California and elsewhere who think that the language in the WRDA bill is a poison pill, I say it is not. This is important to help solve the problems of the people in this Valley to ensure that more Valley families do not become the victims of polluted water and dry wells. This is not a poison pill. You should not look at it that way. It is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to support