

Who can forget the courageous first responders running up the stairs of burning buildings—with total disregard for their own safety—saving some at the expense of their own lives.

On the morning of 9/11, I got a mere glimpse—I say again a glimpse—into the sense of horror suffered by the victim's families when I couldn't reach my own brother Tom—an American Airlines 757 Captain who often piloted Flight 11 from Logan to LA, the flight that crashed into the North Tower.

Stuck in traffic within sight of the burning Pentagon, cell phones were all but gridlocked. At noon, I got through. He and his flight attendant wife Sandy were safe but were in anguish because they knew the pilots and crew on board Flight 11.

For the families of the victims—and I got to know and work with several including Kathy Wisniewski who lost her husband and today works on my staff, the Jersey Girls and Theresa Velardi, the news that day was absolutely devastating.

Both then—and now 16 years later—words are still inadequate to convey our empathy for those who died and for the victim's families.

For many, their faith in God has helped them survive and overcome.

Yet for 16 years, the families have had to endure their loss and a broken heart.

Which reminds me of that haunting song in *Les Misérables* after one of the main characters loses many of his friends in a battle at a barricade:

There's a grief that can't be spoken  
There's a pain goes on and on;  
Empty chairs and empty tables . . .  
Where my friends will meet no more . . .

Yes, empty chairs and empty tables in New Jersey and elsewhere but those chairs and tables are not empty in heaven.

Yesterday, I attended a 9/11 memorial in Colts Neck, New Jersey. Theresa Velardi, who lost her dad, Paul James Furtmato, on September 11, was eloquent in her moving statement, which I include in the RECORD:

I have not spoken at a memorial like this before, so I hope you will all bear with me as I try to get through this. First, I want to thank Lillian for giving me the opportunity to speak today. I would like to thank everyone who takes care of this memorial and the township of Colts Neck for providing me with a place to come to remember and to be with my Dad. And I also want to thank all of you for coming out today and always keeping the families and first responders of 9/11 in your hearts and your prayers.

My father, Paul James Furtmato, was an institutional sales trader and a Vice-President at Cantor Fitzgerald. He was taken away from me 16 years ago and my entire family dynamic was changed. I remember waking up morning after morning watching my mother fight back her tears and try her best to raise 3 children on her own. I remember waking up every day after the twin towers crashed wondering, “does this mean Dad is really never coming home?” I remember being a Girl Scout in Colts Neck and having to skip Father-Daughter dances because my father was murdered. I remember hoping and praying, even years later, that my Dad would come walking through the door one day and that this was all a really horrible dream.

But it wasn't a dream. And my family would be changed forever. The entire country would be changed forever. You don't remember much from when you were 6, but you never forget the feeling of losing a fa-

ther. You never forget the pain, the devastation, or the confusion. And it wasn't just my family. Families from around the country lost loved ones. There was true devastation felt all around after the twin towers fell. The country went into a state of shock.

But shortly thereafter, something incredible happened. We came together. We united with those around us and worked towards repairing New York City, repairing broken families, and repairing the damage in our hearts. In this country, we support each other. In Monmouth County, we support each other. And in my hometown Colts Neck, we support each other. This community picked each other up off the ground. I remember Cedar Drive Middle School teachers and Conover Road Elementary School teachers showing up at my house days after with food and condolences. All types of Colts Neck residents showed up at my door to lend my mom the support and prayers she truly needed.

As devastating as 9/11 was for my family and for our entire community, it reminded all of us to help each other and look out for one another. It reminded us that no matter how bad things may get, there is always a better tomorrow. No matter what age we are or what troubles we face, we can overcome. We can fight through it and we can work together to rebuild.

My father's life was taken from him at 37 years old. My mother lost her husband, her soul mate after spending 17 years with him. She was left with heartbreak and three children at impressionable ages. Yet she continued to wake up every morning to provide and to care for her children. She refused to let the hatred of others consume her own heart and mind. I grew up watching a woman never give up and I knew I wanted to follow in her footsteps.

I am 22 years old. I'm a college graduate from Fordham University with a double degree in Philosophy and Political Science. I run an office as the Executive Director at the Monmouth County Republican Committee. I am working towards my J.D. at Seton Hall Law School on the weekends. I live on my own and I try my very best to balance everything going on in my life. I strive every single day to make my Father proud in Heaven. When life becomes overwhelming or stressful or it all just feels like too much, I come here and I sit right on that bench with Paul James Furtmato's name on it. I sit here with my Father beside me. Just this past week, my world felt like it was caving in. But I came here and I sat with my Dad. I prayed I was making him proud in Heaven and I promised him yet again that I will continue to work hard every single day to be the best daughter I can be no matter what life throws my way.

At times, life gets difficult. I have seen that and experienced that first hand. We see heartbreak and disasters like the storms passing through Texas and Florida just this past week. The only thing we can do when life hits us hard is overcome. We have to reflect on tragedies like 9/11 and allow them to help us grow.

#### REINFORCING EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 8, 2017*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this vital agreement brokered be-

tween the President and Congressional leaders. This is a must pass bill to bring much-needed relief to those devastated by Hurricane Harvey and those who will be hit by Hurricane Irma. Indeed, it allows for a short-term extension of the debt ceiling to avoid default and keeps our government functional at a time of natural disaster and ongoing crisis.

Thank you to the President and our Leadership for pulling the nation back from the brink again. I hope that it will bring a return to bipartisan compromise and regular order. We must move away from the destabilizing cycle of moving from one manufactured crisis to the next, with no adopted budget for FY 2018 resulting in arbitrary spending allocations passed down from the Majority's Leadership.

Congress should provide the American people with a 2018 final budget to assure a government funded at a level that provides stability and security.

Let's put politics aside and pass this bill. Then, let us embark on bipartisan negotiations to develop a new budget agreement which allows for adequate caps for both defense and non-defense spending.

I urge my colleagues to support this package for the benefit of our nation.

NEW YORK TIMES OP-ED BY GOVERNOR CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2017*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman wrote recently in The New York Times about “the dangerous political turn of an agency that is supposed to be guided by science.”

Governor Whitman, a Republican who served as EPA Administrator under President George W. Bush, has a stark warning about the direction the Agency is taking under President Donald Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt: “Policy should always be rooted in unbiased science. The EPA is too important to treat like a reality TV show. People's lives and our country's resources are at stake.”

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the entirety of Governor Whitman's op-ed in The New York Times, “How Not to Run the E.P.A.”:

I have been worried about how the Environmental Protection Agency would be run ever since President Trump appointed Scott Pruitt, the former attorney general of Oklahoma, to oversee it. The past few months have confirmed my fears. The agency created by a Republican president 47 years ago to protect the environment and public health may end up doing neither under Mr. Pruitt's direction.

As a Republican appointed by President George W. Bush to run the agency, I can hardly be written off as part of the liberal resistance to the new administration. But the evidence is abundant of the dangerous political turn of an agency that is supposed to be guided by science.

The E.P.A.'s recent attack on a reporter for The Associated Press and the installation of a political appointee to ferret out grants containing “the double C-word” are only the latest manifestations of my fears, which

mounted with Mr. Pruitt's swift and legally questionable repeals of E.P.A. regulations—actions that pose real and lasting threats to the nation's land, air, water and public health.

All of that is bad enough. But Mr. Pruitt recently unveiled a plan that amounts to a slow-rolling catastrophe in the making: the creation of an antagonistic “red team” of dissenting scientists to challenge the conclusions reached by thousands of scientists over decades of research on climate change. It will serve only to confuse the public and sets a deeply troubling precedent for policy-making at the E.P.A.

The red-team approach makes sense in the military and in consumer and technology companies, where assumptions about enemy strategy or a competitor's plans are rooted in unknowable human choices. But the basic physics of the climate are well understood. Burning fossil fuels emits carbon dioxide. And carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere. There is no debate about that. The link is as certain as the link between smoking and cancer.

A broad consensus of scientists also warn of the influence of the warming climate on extreme weather events. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the enormous wildfires in the Western United States and widespread flooding from monsoons in Southeast Asia are potent reminders of the cost of ignoring climate science.

As a Republican like Mr. Pruitt, I too embrace the promise of the free market and worry about the perils of overregulation. But decisions must be based on reliable science. The red team begins with his politically preferred conclusion that climate change isn't a problem, and it will seek evidence to justify that position. That's the opposite of how science works. True science follows the evidence. The critical tests of peer review and replication ensure that the consensus is sound. Government bases policy on those results. This applies to liberals and conservatives alike.

There are two sides, at least, to most political questions, and a politician's impulse may be to believe that the same holds true for science. Certainly, there are disputes in science. But on the question of climate change, the divide is stark. On one side is the overwhelming consensus of thousands of scientists at universities, research centers and the government who publish in peer-reviewed literature, are cited regularly by fellow scientists and are certain that humans are contributing to climate change.

On the other side is a tiny minority of contrarians who publish very little by comparison, are rarely cited in the scientific literature and are often funded by fossil fuel interests, and whose books are published, most often, by special interest groups. That Mr. Pruitt seeks to use the power of the E.P.A. to elevate those who have already lost the argument is shameful, and the only outcome will be that the public will know less about the science of climate change than before.

The red-team idea is a waste of the government's time, energy and resources, and a slap in the face to fiscal responsibility and responsible governance. Sending scientists on a wild-goose chase so that Mr. Pruitt, Rick Perry, the energy secretary, who has endorsed this approach, and President Trump can avoid acknowledging and acting on the reality of climate change is simply unjustifiable. And truly, it ignores and distracts from the real imperative: developing solutions that create good jobs, grow our economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Policy should always be rooted in unbiased science. The E.P.A. is too important to treat

like a reality TV show. People's lives and our country's resources are at stake. Mr. Pruitt should respect his duty to the agency's mission, end the red team and call on his agency's scientists to educate him. No doubt they're willing and eager to impart the knowledge they've dedicated their lives to understanding.

If this project goes forward, it should be treated for what it is: a shameful attempt to confuse the public into accepting the false premise that there is no need to regulate fossil fuels.

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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY FIRST LIEUTENANT (1LT) DONALD CLAYTON CARWILE

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**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army First Lieutenant (1LT) Donald Clayton Carwile who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on August 15, 2008, during Operation Enduring Freedom. 1LT Carwile was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. 1LT Carwile was killed when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb and then attacked by insurgents with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Army Private First Class (PFC) Paul E. Conlon, Jr. of Somerville, Massachusetts was also killed.

1LT Carwile enlisted in the Army shortly after he graduated from Lafayette High School. Following a three-year enlistment, he returned home to his family after the death of his stepmother. During that time, he served as a police officer at the Batesville Police Department and later, at the Oxford Police Department. While he was working in law enforcement, 1LT Carwile earned his degree in criminal justice at the University of Mississippi.

In 2006, 1LT Carwile re-enlisted in the Army and qualified for Officer Candidate School, where he was commissioned as an infantry officer. He was assigned as a platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division. His wife, Jennifer, was asked about her husband's experience in the Army by the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal. “He cared so much about the men in his platoon,” Jennifer said. “He always said his first goal was to bring his men home, and his second, only after that, was to come home himself.”

In 2016, the House and the Senate approved legislation I introduced to honor 1LT Carwile. H.R. 5309, designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 McElroy Drive in Oxford, Mississippi as the Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Carwile Post Office Building. Family, friends, emergency responders, and local officials came to the dedication ceremony held in April 2017.

1LT Carwile distinguished himself as a leader in the Army which earned him many awards. He received the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Global War on

Terrorism Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

1LT Carwile is survived by his wife, Jennifer; two daughters, Avery Claire and Elizabeth Reese; and his parents, Dennis and Judy Carwile.

1LT Carwile is a hero. We will never forget his sacrifice to protect our freedoms in this great nation. It is important to honor notable Mississippians who are willing and proud to pay that price. Everyone who passes through the doors of the post office will be reminded of a soldier who loved his country.

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IN MEMORY OF GENE SULLIVAN

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**HON. ERIC A. “RICK” CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2017*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a great man from my home state of Arkansas, Gene Sullivan. But I want to admit that have struggled to come up with the right words because Gene had achieved excellence in areas that are difficult to describe adequately. First, Gene loved his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and was a shining light to all with whom he came into contact. There are countless stories of Gene, without seeking attention, taking time out of his busy schedule to visit those who had fallen ill, offering financial help to someone in need, or lending whatever type of helping hand that was needed.

The list of water resource projects that benefited from Gene's steady hand is far too long to list. However, just recognition was bestowed upon him last year when the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts inducted Gene into the Hall of Fame.

Finally, Gene was known for being an optimist. Keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that this could be the single biggest understatement ever made before Congress. A mutual friend once commented that it would be hard to fathom a more tireless optimist. There is no doubt in my mind that Gene derived his indefatigable optimism from his personal relationship with, and faith in, Christ. If there is one thing in life about which I have no doubt, it is that when Gene arrived at the Pearly Gates of Heaven, he was greeted with, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

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IN RECOGNITION OF MR. VICTOR TYNES

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**HON. MARK WALKER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2017*

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent on his 102nd birthday—Dr. Victor Tynes from Guilford County. I am honored to acknowledge this joyous milestone, filled with memories and experiences. I am grateful for the opportunity to thank Dr. Tynes for his military service. A United States Army veteran of World War II, Dr. Tynes served our country with honor. Furthermore, Dr. Tynes is a great ambassador of his alma mater, North Carolina A&T University. A member of the class of 1940, Dr. Tynes