

For two centuries, Georgetown has been a pillar of Brown County.

Annually, Georgetown hosts the Brown County Fair for neighbors to come together and celebrate life in Southern Ohio.

Georgetown is also the hometown of one of our nation's greatest generals and our 18th president, Ulysses S. Grant. Visitors come to Georgetown each year to tour Grant's boyhood home and schoolhouse, which are National Historic Landmarks.

Georgetown continues to foster some of the best people Ohio has to offer. I am proud to be the representative in Congress for the good citizens of Georgetown, Ohio.

Congratulations to all of Georgetown and her residents, past and present, on this historic occasion, and may they look forward with optimism to the next 200 years.

WORLD SCIENTISTS WARNING TO HUMANITY: A SECOND NOTICE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, climate change is an existential threat to all of humanity, and it is essential that we start acting—now—to stop and reverse the destructive effects of climate change.

In 2017, Oregon State University Professor Dr. William Ripple published “World Scientists’ Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice,” which has been endorsed by more than 15,000 scientists from 184 countries. He outlined the irrefutable proof of the damage climate change has caused over the last twenty-five years. He also provided effective steps we can take to combat climate change.

I urge my colleagues to read his report and take action before it is too late.

THE SCIENTISTS’ WARNING TO HUMANITY: A SECOND NOTICE

(By William J. Ripple, Christopher Wolf, Mauro Galetti, Thomas M. Newsome, Mohammed Alamgir, Eileen Crist, Mahmoud I. Mahmoud, William F. Laurance, and 15,364 scientist signatories from 184 countries.)

[Affiliations: Global Trophic Cascades Program, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, USA. Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Departamento de Ecologia, 13506-900 Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil. Centre for Integrative Ecology, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia.(Burwood Campus). Desert Ecology Research Group, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney, New South Wales 2006, Australia. Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Chittagong, Chittagong 4331, Bangladesh. Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061. ICT/Geographic Information Systems Unit, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), PMB 145, CBD, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria. Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science, and College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University, Cairns, Queensland 4878, Australia.]

Twenty-five years ago, the Union of Concerned Scientists and more than 1,500 scientists, including the majority of living

Nobel laureates in the sciences, penned the 1992 “Scientists’ Warning to Humanity” (see supplemental material). These scientists called on humankind to curtail environmental destruction and cautioned “a great change in our stewardship of the Earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided.” In their manifesto, they showed that humans were on a collision course with the natural world. They expressed concern about current, impending, or potential damage on planet Earth involving ozone depletion, freshwater availability, marine fishery collapses, ocean dead zones, forest loss, biodiversity destruction, climate change, and continued human population growth. They proclaimed that fundamental changes are urgently needed to avoid the consequences our present course would bring.

The authors of the 1992 declaration feared humanity was pushing the Earth’s ecosystems beyond their capacity to support the web of life. They described how we are fast approaching the many limits of what the planet can tolerate without substantial and irreversible harm. They pleaded that we stabilize the human population, describing how our large numbers—swelled by another 2 billion people since 1992, a 35% increase—exert stresses on the Earth that can overwhelm other efforts to realize a sustainable future (Crist et al. 2017). They implored that we cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and phase out fossil fuels, staunch deforestation, and reverse the trend of collapsing biodiversity.

On the 25th anniversary of their call, we look back at their warning and evaluate the human response by exploring available time-series data. Since 1992, with the exception of stabilizing the stratospheric ozone layer, humanity has failed to make sufficient progress in generally solving these foreseen environmental challenges and, alarmingly, most of them are getting far worse (Figure 1, supplemental table S1). Especially troubling is the probability of catastrophic climate change due to rising GHGs from burning fossil fuels (Hansen et al. 2013), deforestation (Malhi et al. 2008), and agricultural production, particularly from farming ruminants for meat consumption (Ripple et al. 2014). Moreover, we have unleashed a mass extinction event, the sixth in roughly 540 million years, wherein many current life forms could be annihilated or at least committed to extinction by the end of this century.

Humanity is now being given a second notice as illustrated by these alarming trends (Figure 1). We are jeopardizing our future by not reigning in our intense but highly uneven material consumption and by not perceiving continued rapid population growth as a primary driver behind many ecological and even societal threats (Crist et al. 2017). By failing to adequately promote family planning, implement carbon taxes, incentivize renewable energy, and set aside substantial swaths of habitat in well-protected reserves, humanity is not taking the urgent steps needed to safeguard our imperiled biosphere.

As most political leaders respond to pressure; scientists, media influencers, and lay citizens must insist that their governments take immediate action, as a moral imperative to current and future generations of human and other life. With a groundswell of organized grassroots efforts, dogged opposition can be overwhelmed and political leaders compelled to do the right thing. It is also time to re-examine and change our individual behaviours, including limiting our own reproduction (to replacement level, at most) and drastically diminishing our consumption of fossil fuels, meat, and other resources.

The rapid global decline in ozone-depleting substances shows that we can make positive

change when we act decisively. We have also made advancements in reducing extreme poverty and hunger. Other notable progress (which does not yet show up in the global datasets in Figure 1) includes: the rapid decline in fertility rates in some regions attributable to investments in girls’ and women’s education, the promising decline in the rate of deforestation in parts of the Amazon (which might still be reversed), and the rapid growth in the renewable-energy sector. We have learned much since 1992, but the advancement of urgently needed changes in environmental policy and human behavior is still far from sufficient.

Sustainability transitions come about in diverse ways and all require civil-society pressure and evidence-based advocacy, political leadership, and a solid understanding of policy instruments, markets and other drivers. A dozen examples of diverse and effective steps humanity can take to transition to sustainability include: 1) prioritizing the enactment of connected reserves for a significant proportion of the world’s terrestrial and marine habitats, 2) maintaining nature’s ecosystem services by halting conversion of forests, grasslands, and other native habitats; 3) rewilding regions with native species, especially apex predators, to repair damaged ecosystems; 4) developing and adopting adequate policy instruments to redress the current poaching crisis and the exploitation and trade of threatened species; 5) reducing food waste through education and better infrastructure; 6) promoting dietary shift towards mostly plant-based foods; 7) further reducing fertility rates by ensuring women have access to education, family-planning services, especially where such resources are still lacking; 8) increasing outdoor nature education for children; 9) developing progressive tax incentives for reducing overconsumption; 10) reducing the consumption rate of raw commodities by banning planned obsolescence of goods; 11) devising and promoting new green technologies and massively adopting renewable energy sources; and 12) estimating a scientifically defensible, sustainable human population size for the long-term while rallying nations and leaders to support that vital goal.

To prevent widespread misery and catastrophic biodiversity loss, humanity must practice a more environmentally sustainable alternative to business-as-usual. This prescription was well articulated by the world’s leading scientists twenty-five years ago, but in most respects, we have not heeded their warning. It is about to be too late to shift course away from our failing trajectory, and time is running out. We must recognize, in our day-to-day lives and in our governing institutions, that the Earth with all its life is our only home.

IN MEMORY OF DANIEL DEL CASTILLO

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory Daniel del Castillo, a dedicated public servant from the state of Minnesota who passed away suddenly on May 8, 2019.

Daniel joined the State Department in 2008 and served his country with distinction in several different capacities all over the globe. He served at the embassies in Kathmandu and Cairo, as a Political Advisor to U.S. Africa

Command, and at the National Security Council before joining Secretary of State's Executive Secretariat in the summer of 2017. As part of secretariat staff, he advanced travels for the Secretary of State to Manila, Beijing, Doha, Mexico City, Brasilia, and Paris, among other places.

Daniel dedicated his life to his country and his loss will be felt deeply at the State Department. To his coworkers, Daniel was thoughtful and intelligent. They could always rely on his calm demeanor and valuable insight into policy and the State Department's role in the world.

Daniel was a husband, son, and friend. He is survived by his wife Renae Ask; his mother Marcia del Castillo; his two older sisters Deborah and Michele del Castillo; nieces Isabella and Cezanne; nephews Giovanni and Alessandro; and two great-nephews, Hayden and Hudson. My prayers are with them as they mourn his loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE,
LEGACY, AND SERVICE OF MR.
RICHARD GENAL

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life, legacy, and service of Mr. Richard Genal.

Mr. Genal graduated from Appleton High School in 1959. Feeling the call to serve his country, he enlisted in the United States Army. Under the buddy program, he completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After further training at Fort Ord, California, he began active duty on June 22, 1959 as a construction draftsman.

Mr. Genal served many assignments in the U.S. during his time on active duty, including stations at Fort Belvoir and Fort Lee in Virginia. On July 23, 1960 he married Mary Lou Gerth, and they had two children, Eugene and Rene. While in service, he was diagnosed with myxedema and discharged with a 10 percent disability rating on August 8, 1962.

Following Mr. Genal's discharge, he furthered his education and graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering with a master's degree. After successful careers with Master Lock in Milwaukee and Nu-Line Industries in Suring, Mr. Genal retired from being an engineer and started enjoying life on the golf course.

Even though Mr. Genal removed the uniform, his service did not end. Mr. Genal was involved in many veteran organizations. Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin, an organization with a mission to foster a sense of support, pride, and enthusiasm among veterans in Oconto County, became his passion. Before his death, Mr. Genal started plans for a flag memorial at Riverside Park in Suring. To honor Richard's legacy, Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Wisconsin will carry out his mission and see the memorial through fruition.

On April 23, 2019, Richard Lee Genal of Suring, Wisconsin left our lives to be with his heavenly Father and family.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Genal's selfless service to our country. His love for his country, veterans and

community will always be remembered. I offer my sincerest condolences to his family.

HONORING DR. JOSÉ SIMÓN VILLA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. José Simón Villa, an educator, philanthropist, and leader.

Dr. Villa is a proud native of San Juan, Texas. José became the first in his family to graduate from college when he earned his bachelors degree from the University of Oregon. Dr. Villa went on to complete his Ph.D. in educational administration at the Ohio State University. His dissertation research focused on the educational aspirations and opportunities of migrant youth and children. Dr. Villa served many years in higher education at Ohio State as the Assistant Vice Provost for the Office of Minority Affairs, Director of the College Assistant Migrant Program, and Program Coordinator for Hispanic Affairs. Additionally, he has served as Program Consultant for the U.S. Department of Education and as an Educational Consultant and State Director of Migrant Education for the Ohio Department of Education.

Furthermore, Dr. José Simón Villa has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (ECMHSP) for the past five years. The ECMHSP is the largest Migrant and Seasonal Head Start provider in the country with 38 centers across the area from Lake Okeechobee in Florida to Lake Erie in Pennsylvania. It is a non-profit organization that advocates for farm worker communities and provides quality Head Start services to young children. Under the leadership of Dr. Simón Villa, the ECMHSP has helped over 10,000 children and has expanded further into Florida to include Palmetto and Jennings.

Madam Speaker, Dr. José Simón Villa has worked tirelessly to give migrant families and children the opportunities they need to succeed. He serves as both a light in our community and as a generous leader. It is an honor to represent a dedicated and selfless individual who has greatly impacted the educational journey of thousands of children across the United States. I wish Dr. Villa the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
ROGER CLECKLEY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant and dear friend, Roger Cleckley. Roger is a man driven by faith, duty and honor. He has spent most of his career in public service and all of us are the beneficiaries of his tremendous commitment to building a better community, state and nation.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "everybody can be great . . . because anybody

can serve . . . you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." By that definition, Roger Cleckley is among the greatest among us.

Roger is a native of the Cope-Cordova community of Orangeburg County, South Carolina. He was the third of four children born to Solomon and Celia Mae Cleckley. He attended G.W. Carver High School and Voorhees College both in Denmark, South Carolina. He has also earned a Certificate of Leadership Training from the University of South Carolina.

He began his commitment to service by joining the United States Army. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam as a combat infantryman. His distinguished service earned him numerous awards and medals. After two years on active duty, Roger received an honorable discharge with the rank of Sergeant (E-5).

A veteran of the Civil Rights Movement, Roger never shies away from standing up for what he believes is right. After returning from Vietnam and a year in Washington, D.C., he took a job with Tepeck Industries in St. Matthews, South Carolina, and quickly discovered that racial injustice in his home state were still prevalent. He fought against these injustices in his workplace, which ultimately resulted in his dismissal from the company.

Undeterred, Roger found work selling insurance at the A.L. Williams Insurance Company and became active in the NAACP. In 1986, he felt the call to public service and ran for Orangeburg County Auditor. His hard-won victory made him the first African American elected to serve in this capacity in South Carolina since the post-Reconstruction era. When I offered for Congress in 1992, Roger and his wife hosted my maiden community event in their home and he became my Orangeburg County Chairman. When Roger retired he held the distinction as the longest serving local elected official in Orangeburg County.

Over the years, Roger has tirelessly worked for his church and community and has been a relentless voice for the voiceless. He is presently Chairman of the Forfeited Land Commission, Secretary of the Orangeburg County Fiscal Education Commission, and Chairperson of the County Democratic Party Nominations Committee.

Roger has held many positions in the African Methodist Episcopal Church from Sunday School, Steward Board, Class Leader, and the Lay Organization. He is currently the outgoing Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President, which comprises the entire state of South Carolina.

His wife, Bessie Idella Cleckley, has been his partner and soul mate for fifty years. She has always been a tremendous source of encouragement to him as he served the people of South Carolina. They are the parents of sons, Roger "Al," Adrian, and Kendrick, and the grandparents of five.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and sincere gratitude to Mr. Roger Cleckley on the occasion of his retirement. His extraordinary work has had a profound impact on all who have been touched by his selfless service. I believe he exemplifies the sentiment found in Matthew 25:23, "well done, my good and faithful servant," and I offer my best wishes as he embarks on this new phase of his life.