

Pennsylvania exceeded the national average.

Mental health professionals, advocacy organizations, survivors, and allies take this month to combat the stigma of discussing mental health and connect those with suicidal thoughts to a network of professional resources.

If you think a loved one is struggling with depression or ideation, just ask. People in need can often feel relieved when someone asks about their well-being in a caring way. Acknowledging and discussing their thoughts may be the first step in reducing risk.

I encourage anyone who is struggling with thoughts of suicide to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

Madam Speaker, let's keep the conversation going year-round. We can all play an important role in prevention.

RECOGNIZING POW/MIA SOLDIERS

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

Mr. GUEST. Since World War II, 138,103 American soldiers have been listed as prisoners of war, and 83,114 American soldiers have been listed as missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day was created to honor the sacrifice of the men and women who were imprisoned during wartime and to remember those brave soldiers who never returned to American soil.

Today, we thank our heavenly Father for returning home those American soldiers who found themselves confined on foreign soil, and we bow our heads in prayer and remembrance of those still missing.

I ask the Members of this body and American citizens everywhere to include these soldiers, their families, and their communities in your prayers and to join me in thanks for the freedoms and liberties we enjoy every day because of their sacrifice.

COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE WITH AGGRESSIVE ACTION AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TLAIB). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by saying that the issue of climate change is very personal to me. I have a 5- and a 7-year-old at home, and like any parent, there is a lot that I worry about for their future. One of the things I worry most about is the planet that we are going to leave behind for them and for their future children.

The path we are on right now leads to a grim future for our planet. We have burned fossil fuels like coal and oil at unsustainable rates, releasing extraordinary amounts of greenhouse gas

emissions into the air. We have destroyed forests and other carbon sinks around the world that previously absorbed some of those emissions.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a collection of 1,300 independent scientific experts from countries all over the world, concluded there is a more than 95 percent probability that human activities over the past 50 years have warmed our planet.

As a result, the last 5 years were the hottest ever recorded, according to the Trump administration's own weather and space agencies. Over the past century, average global temperatures have increased steadily. Sixteen of the last 17 years have been the warmest ever recorded by human observations.

In my home State of California, the indicators of our rapidly changing climate are unmistakable. Our summers are hotter, our droughts are more severe, and our land is drier, creating fuel for year-round wildfires that have wiped out entire communities.

According to the Trump administration's own report on climate change compiled by more than 300 experts across 13 Federal agencies, the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country and will become increasingly devastating over a short period of time.

The President would be well served to read the report of his own agencies.

We are having more frequent and extreme weather, like hurricanes and floods. We are experiencing sea-level rise and coastal erosion. Our national security agencies have warned us that unless we take aggressive action to combat climate change, we will see a deterioration in global stability caused by food and water insecurity, worsening public health, economic distress, and damage to military infrastructure as a result of sea-level rise and more extreme storms.

Climate change is a defining issue of our time. If we don't take bold action to address this crisis now, our children and grandchildren will suffer the worst consequences.

Unfortunately, this President and many in the Trump administration are content with inaction or worse. In fact, some refuse to admit climate change is real, instead pushing policies that would exacerbate the problem, catering to the fossil fuel industry and corporate polluters at the expense of our air, land, and water.

While we should be taking aggressive action to combat climate change and pushing countries around the world to do the same, the White House gladly surrenders our standing as a global leader.

My colleagues and I are here to say that we will lead. We will continue to fight for action. My colleagues that you will hear from, they are leading right now.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL), my friend from California's 25th District.

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, I am both a millennial and one of the youngest Members of Congress. I joined Congress at a moment when communities from California to the Bahamas are enduring the effects of climate change. In my own community, we are experiencing lengthening fire seasons and longer droughts.

As the climate crisis grows, those of us who have refused money from Big Oil and who will be the ones who have to live with the effects of climate change have to take it upon ourselves to fight for our generation and the generations to come.

Tomorrow, young people across the world will begin a week of climate action with the Global Climate Strike. We may not have made this mess, but we will fight to clean it up.

That is why I sent a letter to Donald Trump, along with 110 of my fellow Members of Congress, to call for a renegotiated NAFTA deal that meaningfully addresses the climate crisis. From moderates to progressives, we are coming together to call for binding climate standards and a recommitment to the Paris climate agreement in the updated NAFTA.

So far, that is not what Trump has in mind. The current NAFTA 2.0 deal that Trump negotiated with Mexico and Canada fails to mention climate change.

We cannot afford to pass another trade deal that is on the wrong side of our historic fight to tackle climate change.

With 76 percent of Americans now saying that climate change is a crisis or a major problem, it is common sense that our trade deals should support, not undermine, climate action. In fact, this is a longstanding demand, one that leading environmental organizations, labor-environment coalitions, climate economists, and Members of Congress have been elevating over the last 2 years of NAFTA talks.

The fact of the matter is that the climate crisis threatens our communities and our future every single day. While we are fighting to tackle the crisis, we are seeing corporate polluters pad the pockets of too many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to protect their bottom lines. I see colleagues in both Chambers of Congress who won't have to deal with the repercussions of their actions bargaining with my future and the future of generations to come.

This cycle must end now. It is past time for rhetoric and empty promises. We need new policies that offer real solutions to the climate crisis. That doesn't include just H.R. 9, which, to be honest, has very little chance of being taken up in the Senate. It also has to include our trade policies.

The reality is that this moment is too important to throw away. This is an unprecedented opportunity to put our money where our mouth is on climate. We should ensure that any renegotiated NAFTA prioritizes climate

by including binding climate standards and getting a guarantee from Trump himself that the United States will remain a member of the most universal and basic worldwide climate agreement for our health, for our safety, for our future, and for the people.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative HILL, and I very much appreciate her leadership.

Over the next several days, the eyes of the world will turn to the climate crisis with the Youth Global Strike for Climate set to take place in over 150 countries just before the United Nations holds a Climate Action Summit in New York City.

While millions of people across the globe call for action on climate change and world leaders come together to show how they will honor their commitment to the Paris Agreement, it is safe to say that the White House won't step up to lead, let alone take any meaningful action. Instead, the Trump administration is pulling us out of the Paris Agreement, which nearly 200 countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe and all in between have signed.

Where President Obama created a leading role for the United States on the world stage, the Trump administration has retreated.

The U.N. Secretary General has called on all leaders to come to the Climate Action Summit with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent over the next decade and to net zero emissions by 2050.

The United States has an important opportunity to show leadership and to push other countries to follow us, and that is how we should evaluate all of these measures, on the basis of followership. That requires that we lead.

That is critically important, the work that we do. The amount of collective action that will be needed must start with leadership from the United States. That is the only way we are going to combat the climate crisis.

I was very proud to help introduce, among other bills, the Climate Action Now Act, the first major climate change legislation that we had in the 116th Congress, in fact, that we have had for a number of years in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would prohibit the administration from withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement and would also call on the President to develop and make public a plan for how the Nation will meet the pollution reduction goals in the Paris Agreement.

The bill isn't just about staying in Paris. It is about creating good-paying, green jobs right here in America. It is about public health. It is about protecting our air. It is about protecting our water. It is about defending our national security from the threats that

climate change poses. It is about again leading in the world.

That is how the United States should be leading. We should set the example.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), my friend.

□ 1815

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN) so much for yielding.

Madam Speaker, 12 years, we are told that we have 12 years to limit the effects of climate change on our planet and ensure a better world for our children, our grandchildren, and future generations to come—12 years.

I mean, it really seems like a long time, but now scientists are saying that the actions we take in the next 18 months will determine our ability to meet our climate goals by 2030.

In 18 months, we will experience two more winters and another summer, each bringing with them more extreme weather and more catastrophic natural disasters. The stakes are so high.

Less predictable climates produce lower crop yields, drive up the costs of healthy food; meanwhile, extreme weather events and heat waves resulting from a changing climate may worsen a growing array of public health problems like waterborne diseases, asthma, mental illness, heart disease, stroke, and more.

In Wisconsin, from where I hail, we still remember the deadly chill of the polar vortex this past winter, matched only in intensity by the summer's record-setting heat, heavy downpours, and flooding. Our storm in July produced severe enough damage that several counties across Wisconsin received Federal disaster relief funding.

But do you know what, Madam Speaker? Disaster funding can help rebuild communities, but it cannot prevent them from being torn apart by climate change.

As we debate which urgent actions must be taken within the next 18 months to prevent further decay of our climate, we must work not only to support a swift transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, but also to fortify our communities.

The fact is climate change has a disparate impact on low-income and minority communities. Indeed, these communities are already disproportionately impacted by other environmental hazards, and we are just piling on.

Air pollution from both stationary and mobile sources are a primary source of environmental health risks, particularly in urban areas. Low-income, high-minority population communities, which unfortunately are highly segregated, tend to be closer to industrial sources of pollution, including chemical plants, steel mills, oil refineries, peak load power plants, and hazardous waste incinerators.

One study found that Blacks, the poor, and people with low educational

attainment were substantially more likely to live within 1 mile of a polluting facility, and that within urban areas, racial disparities were particularly evident in the Midwest and the West.

As it pertains to our warming climate, another study found that, as urban areas heat up, so-called urban heat islands, low-income and high-minority communities will boast higher heat indexes during extreme heat events, thereby compounding the already dire and deadly impacts that heat waves have on urban populations. Or, just to put it bluntly, the urban poor in dozens of large U.S. cities will actually experience more heat than the wealthy simply by virtue of where they live.

With climate change, extreme heat is expected to become more common and more severe for the poor and already vulnerable communities. This will likely result in increases in heat-related illnesses, including cardiovascular and respiratory complications, kidney disease, and can be especially harmful to outdoor workers, children, our elderly, and low-income households.

It is also worth mentioning that these communities, which already suffer resource deficits, cannot simply relocate out of flood zones. They also face challenges adopting new clean energy technologies.

Now, while this administration continues to fiddle when it comes to taking the threat of climate change seriously and exercising leadership, while they ignore the admonition of science that if we don't do something within the next 18 months we may not be able to reverse these impacts within 12 years, I will tell you something. In June, my city of Milwaukee announced a comprehensive action-based plan to meet the U.S.' commitment under the Paris climate accord, despite what this administration is doing. We are moving forth to create green infrastructure and to create jobs.

In August, our Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers, signed an executive order aimed at eliminating the use of carbon-based fuel in Wisconsin by 2050. We also created a diverse task force comprised of city and county officials that will chart a path to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent of 2015 levels by 2030 and eliminate them altogether by 2050, a goal which I wholeheartedly support.

But let's just keep this real, Madam Speaker. While actions by State and local officials are welcome and necessary, we know they can't do it alone. On such a vital issue, the Federal Government should not lead from behind. The Federal Government cannot be missing in action and absent from the table, and it will be absolutely critical for them to ensure that we protect and help the most vulnerable populations so that they have access to adequate healthcare, clean drinking water, healthy food, quality air, and affordable housing.

But leading from behind is exactly what this administration is doing. Besides pulling out of the Paris climate accord without any plan or alternative for addressing climate change, this administration has moved to roll back the Obama era Clean Power Plan and other efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions.

We must not only make sure that we recognize the disparate impacts of climate change as we act, but we must also bring our most at-risk citizens to the table and educate them and discuss the actions that we will take together to address climate change.

We need to do right by our fellow human beings and by our beloved shared planet and protect ourselves and our planet against the threats we face today and in the future. Even if this administration wants to turn its back, this House must not. We must continue to pass legislation that will help us meaningfully address climate change.

Twelve years from now? Eighteen months from now? How about right now?

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MOORE for those powerful words.

Madam Speaker, I also want to address something that has been in the news, and that is the President's announcement yesterday that he will revoke California's waiver under the Federal Clean Air Act to set its own auto emissions standards. This is something, as a native southern Californian, that is near and dear to my heart.

So many southern Californians have had to endure poor air quality over the years, and this, honestly, is something that has never been partisan. Since the late 1960s, California has been able to set its own air quality standards, because the standards that we set when Ronald Reagan was Governor of California in the late 1960s exactly preceded those standards set by the Federal Government.

Clean air is not a partisan issue. This is absolutely ridiculous that the administration would want to go after California once again in this manner.

So another thing to refute are the claims made by the President about vehicle safety and cost—completely baseless. Fuel-efficient cars meet the same exact safety standards as any other passenger vehicle and have proven to be more cost-effective. The auto manufacturers want to accelerate the transition to more electric vehicles, more sustainable vehicles.

Everybody wants California to be able to have its own standards, with two exceptions: President Trump and Big Oil. Those are the only two exceptions. So it is pretty clear to see whose direction the President is taking when it comes to this decision.

We also need to acknowledge that his decision here flies in the face of established climate science. Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in our country. The science

tells us that greenhouse gas emissions are driving climate change, so we should be doing everything we can to reduce those emissions from transportation.

The Clean Air Act clearly gives California the authority to set its own emission standards, and this authority has been repeatedly confirmed by the courts, the Congress, and previous administrations, Republicans and Democrats alike.

Again, this is not a partisan issue. Even the auto companies want to see this happen.

So why are we still here? Why are we fighting over this ridiculous assumption by the President that he can roll back five decades of progress for cleaner air in California?

We are not going to let it stand. I will do everything in my power as a Member of Congress, as I know my colleagues will, and California will prevail.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), my friend and the Representative from California's Second District.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, from the Representative of the northernmost district on the coast of California, I really do want to thank my friend from southern California for yielding to me. San Diego and Orange Counties are so well-served by his intelligent, principled leadership, and especially on this issue, this existential crisis that we are trying to confront of global climate change. The gentleman's leadership on this issue has certainly been noted.

Madam Speaker, our leader, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, did a very unusual thing in reaching out and choosing a freshman Member of Congress, and it is because of Mr. LEVIN's background and clarity on these issues that she put him on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, where I am proud to serve with him. So I thank the gentleman so much for that leadership.

And, Madam Speaker, he is doing more than that. He is putting great bills into the hopper. He is leading this debate this evening. So we are well served with Mr. LEVIN's leadership in southern California.

Now, one of the previous speakers mentioned that we are gathered here on the eve of this global climate strike tomorrow. Tens of thousands of students all over the United States, 800 different sites, are working in harmony with 156 other countries where young people are doing the same thing worldwide. This is a week of action.

These are high school kids, and even younger in some cases. They understand what is at stake here. The part of their message that I think we really need to hear is that we don't have time.

There is an extreme urgency to confront this crisis, and they understand that the longer we wait, the harder it is going to be to preserve a livable future for their generation. Of course, if we wait too long, it is game over.

They are scared, and they ought to be scared. We all ought to be scared about the fact that we are running out of time to address this crisis.

Yesterday, I had a chance to sit down with a few of these young leaders. I am super grateful that four of those that Chairman GRIJALVA and I met with for a couple of hours were from Sonoma County in my district. So I want to thank Olivia, Kate, Christian, and Jonah. They were from the National Children's Campaign and also Schools for Climate Action. They came all the way to Washington, D.C., to make sure that the country heard their story.

That story, of course, involves the terrible firestorm of October 2017 that the folks in the North Bay had to live through. These young people had their lives uprooted and impacted in profound ways, and it helped sharpen their climate activism. They brought that story to a very important, urgent conversation that Chairman GRIJALVA and I were part of yesterday.

More and more people like them are living the very real impacts that climate change is having right now. This is not some abstract thing in the future. It is happening now, and it is going to get worse as we go forward, especially if we don't act.

So this message of urgency, clearly the public understands it. Congressman LEVIN and I were just in the Cloakroom, and MSNBC showed a brand-new poll that shows that 65 percent, I believe, of the American people understand this is a crisis.

It is not just an important issue. It is a crisis.

□ 1830

The public gets it. The rest of the world gets it. In fact, on Monday, the nations of the world will gather in New York to map out the next steps on climate action. They will be building on the Paris climate agreement. They will be working together to figure out how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent over the next decade.

But if the American people get it and all of these young people all over the world get it, it is fair to ask: Where is American leadership right now? Where is this administration right now? Unfortunately, Mr. LEVIN alluded to the worst of it: this fight over California's clean car authority. They are trying to take us backward in the wrong direction. We just don't have time for that if we are serious about this crisis.

Mr. LEVIN talked about the fact that our authority under the Clean Air Act goes back to 1967. I think it was a Governor named Ronald Reagan, actually, who got us started on this critical authority. It has been so successful. California has used it to protect clean air over 50 times.

Madam Speaker, I would ask Congressman LEVIN if he knows how many of those times, the 50 times that we have used that Clean Air Act authority, how many of those were revoked?

Zero. It has never been revoked. It has always been upheld, and it has been wildly successful in helping California improve air quality, reduce smog, and improve public health. We have added jobs and the economy has continued to grow.

We have been able to do all this in a way that helped stimulate the auto industry, to innovate, and to bring new and very desirable models of vehicles to market that wouldn't be there if it weren't for California's leadership on clean car standards, and, of course, more than a dozen other States that have followed suit and joined us as clean car States.

What President Trump is trying to do is absolutely unprecedented in American history and it is legally dubious. He is wrong on the law and he is wrong on the policy. It is the most serious assault on State authority and on public health that you could imagine. And yet, with this administration, hey, it is just another day in the Trump White House, unfortunately.

This House, of course, the people's House, gets it. We have already started to take action. We are working to block the Trump administration's worst climate rollbacks.

Just last week, a bipartisan majority of this House voted to approve my bill to protect the Arctic refuge from this crazy "drill everywhere" mandate that they put into the Republican tax scam in 2017. We also passed bills to protect the Pacific, Atlantic, and Florida Gulf Coasts from these plans to do more offshore drilling. These are important steps in the fight to confront the climate crisis.

And, of course, there was H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, which would block President Trump's attempt to take us out of the Paris climate agreement.

Let's keep working together in the people's House. Let's keep working with this energized, motivated, incredibly passionate new generation of leaders that we are seeing all over the country and all over the world.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman LEVIN for his leadership.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman HUFFMAN for his friendship, for his mentorship, and for all the work that he does. He is a true environmental champion. I am really, really grateful to call him a friend. We have got a lot of work to do.

I think it is really important that, as we think about this issue, we begin to address some of the myths and the misconceptions that are out there. One of the biggest that I hear from my friends across the aisle is that we cannot combat climate change without destroying our economy, when exactly the opposite is true.

If we invest in the clean energy jobs of the future, we will see incredible economic growth and we will protect the environment at the same time. Nowhere has that been more true in the

United States than in our State of California, where I am proud to tell you that we have the most clean-energy jobs in the United States.

If you look at this chart, there are over 500,000 jobs in the clean tech sector. I am proud to have come from the clean tech sector. I am proud to have started a trade association in Orange County, California, which historically has been seen as one of the most conservative places in the United States. We created a booming clean tech industry that is growing stronger than ever before. The same is true in San Diego County, where we have some of the leading clean energy companies in the United States. We can protect the environment and we can grow the clean tech economy at the same time.

In California, it has never been a partisan issue. When we passed AB 32 in 2006, Arnold Schwarzenegger was the Governor, Republican Governor. Then when we passed cap and trade, we had nine Republican legislators who helped get that passed in the California legislature.

Governor Schwarzenegger and those Republican legislators at the time understood that if we made climate change a primary focus, if we reduced greenhouse gas emissions, that not only was it the right thing to do for our State and for the planet, but it was the right thing to do for our economy. That is exactly what has happened.

My friend, Marshall Burke, is a researcher at Stanford University, my alma mater. He has studied the costs of action on climate change, but, more importantly, the costs of inaction. There is an inherent cost to doing nothing. My friends across the aisle always like to tell you about the cost of doing something. They will say bold and aggressive measures will cost too much. Well, Mr. Speaker, the costs of inaction are even greater.

My friend, Marshall Burke, has said that if we don't take substantial action to mitigate the climate crisis, it will cost the U.S. economy \$25 trillion to \$35 trillion over the coming decades. That is with a T: \$25 trillion to \$35 trillion.

The good news is that we can take the steps we need to in order to act. We can combat the climate crisis, and we can create those clean energy jobs.

I have introduced bipartisan legislation to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by promoting development of renewable energy on public lands.

We can expand those technologies that grow our economy and protect the environment by extending important tax credits like the solar investment tax credit, which drives job creation, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and helps level the playing field for clean energy. And we need it for things like battery storage, as well.

I have introduced legislation that presents an ambitious plan for transitioning the United States to 100 percent zero-emission vehicles, which will also have an enormous health benefit to the United States of America.

According to a 2016 report issued by the American Lung Association, transitioning to zero-emission vehicles would deliver \$33 billion in total health and climate savings by 2050. The 90 percent reduction in the pollution that causes smog and soot would translate to 195,000 fewer lost work days, 96,000 fewer asthma attacks, and 2,200 fewer premature deaths.

And I have introduced legislation, as well, to expand electric vehicle charging on public lands across the United States and convert National Park Service and United States Forest Service fleets to zero-emission vehicles.

This commitment will also help the United States lead the world in developing and manufacturing innovative zero-emission vehicle technology.

Since California first instituted a zero-emission vehicle requirement in 1990, the overall economy has flourished, cutting-edge companies like Tesla have generated billions of dollars in economic activity for our State, and leading automotive companies across the country and the world have done everything they can to invest in the cleaner technology of the future zero-emission vehicles.

Alternatively, if we fail to act, if American car companies don't lead, and if we don't have a supportive Federal Government helping them to lead the way in these zero-emission vehicles of the future, we will allow other countries to take the lead. China, India, and nations in Europe will reap the economic rewards that should be staying right here in the United States of America. We will find ourselves purchasing foreign vehicles that should have been made right here in the USA.

Many of my colleagues are doing great work. They have introduced or passed legislation that addresses the climate crisis in many different ways and promotes the clean energy jobs of the future. You just heard from a few of them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wrap up here by pointing out one more key fact. The American people overwhelmingly support aggressive action to combat climate change.

Public opinion polling shows that the majority of Americans say that it must be addressed, and it has got to be addressed now. The majority of Americans overwhelmingly believe this is a crisis, and they are right to believe that.

Unfortunately, our President right now calls climate change a hoax. He says that it was brought on by China to undermine American economic competitiveness. He is not willing to listen to the science. He should listen to the scientists from his own agencies. He should just take the half hour necessary to even read the executive summary from his own scientists' report. That is all I would ask.

He should think about climate change when he makes appointments. Unfortunately, he has been appointing climate science deniers like William

Happer, a gentleman who once said that if the plants could vote, they would vote for coal. He said that more CO₂ in the atmosphere is a good thing. This is a person advising the President of the United States on climate science.

And it is not that the administration is too close to the oil and coal industry, it is that they are the oil and coal industry. It is literally a revolving door between 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, those coal companies, and those oil companies. The American people demand better than that.

This complete rejection of established science is dangerous, and it is irresponsible.

It is dangerous and irresponsible for the White House to pressure the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, into supporting the President's false claims about Hurricane Dorian. You don't see any Sharpies on this chart.

It is dangerous and it is irresponsible that the White House refuses to accept climate science and act on it. It is dangerous. It is irresponsible. We must embrace science. We must embrace facts.

As I said in the beginning of this, this is about our children and our grandchildren. I am thinking today about my own two children: my daughter, Elizabeth, who is 5, and my son, Jonathan, who is 7. Maybe my wonderful wife, Chrissy, will cue up C-SPAN and play this for them.

My son, who is 7, just started second grade. We have 12 years. By the time my son is ready to graduate high school, according to the best science, we better have gotten this crisis figured out or we are going to have irreparable damage as a result. It is on us.

When I am done with my service in the House of Representatives, which I hope comes many years from now, I want to be able to look back, as I know so many of my colleagues do, and know that we gave it everything we had to try to address what we believe is the most pressing issue facing the United States of America and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL PREADMORE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the city of Melvindale and the city of Dearborn Fire Department Captain Michael Preadmore, who, today, retires after 23 years of service. He knows safety doesn't take a day off, so he maintained a perfect attendance record since becoming a firefighter in 1996. He has also received such awards as the Fire Chief Life Saving Award and the department Medal of Valor Award for his bravery in the line of duty.

Please join me in saluting Captain Preadmore in wishing him a happy retirement.

HONORING GENERAL MOTORS WORKERS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand with the United Automobile Workers by honoring General Motors workers on day 4 of their strike.

This is Grayson Riley Poland, a child of a General Motors worker. She is only 5 years old. She periodically gets treatment for her cerebral palsy that keeps her legs from scissoring due to her muscles tightening up. Her next treatment, Mr. Speaker, is on October 1. Her father is on strike right now and worried about whether or not he has healthcare coverage anymore.

Mr. Speaker, the General Motors CEO makes \$22 million, 281 times the median income of their workers. Yet, workers are being asked to pay more for healthcare.

General Motors workers gave up so much to keep the company afloat. They didn't abandon GM during their toughest time, but now they are asking for fair wages and coverage for their healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I am urging my colleagues and the country to join me in solidarity with them today.

□ 1845

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), my friend.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for leading this discussion about climate. What I really love about so many of our freshman Members, like Congressman LEVIN, is that they say how urgent the need is right now to act, a sense of urgency.

I am on the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, and we had a hearing yesterday. We had nice people testifying, but we still heard, particularly from our Republican colleagues, that it is a decision between jobs and a clean environment. Are you kidding me?

We have known about this crisis, which it is, for decades. We knew about it even in the Johnson administration, long ago.

We have had this debate about jobs and environment as if you have to pick one or the other. As Representative LEVIN went over and over, about how good for the economy, how good for workers, how good the jobs are, we are now wasting time in addressing this problem. It was really frustrating to me that we continue to go over this.

In the meantime, the forests are burning in California. The fields are flooding in Illinois, where I am from. The hurricanes are destroying islands, Florida, and all up and down the coast—except for Alabama, not really.

It is really so important that we are listening to the children. Yesterday, we had this amazing young woman, Greta Thunberg, who is from Sweden. She is 16 years old, but she is also a veteran fighting worldwide, an international figure calling for us to act.

This is one of the things that she said yesterday when she was here in Washington. This is Greta, now 16 years old, who said: "Please, save your praise. We don't want it. Don't invite us here to just tell us how inspiring we are without actually doing anything about it, because it doesn't lead to anything."

Greta is fierce, but she is not the only one. I am hoping that I am going to be able to get home in time to my district to join my grandson outside of his school tomorrow afternoon at one of the demonstrations, the many demonstrations that are going to be taking place across the country on climate where young people are telling us: We can't wait. This is our century. This is our time. We are going to take the lead.

I think it is our job now to follow them. There is a court suit right now where 21 young people have sued the Government of the United States of America for violating their constitutional rights by ignoring this issue of climate and the crisis that we are creating.

Our species is in danger. Every species living on Earth today is in danger. This is truly a matter of life and death.

We already are seeing climate refugees, people who can't live in places because they can't grow crops anymore. We are seeing the spreading of the Sahara desert. We are seeing the Amazon rainforest burning. Every fifth breath that every person takes on Earth is because of the oxygen that comes out of the rainforest in the Amazon.

What are we doing? We are still debating this. We are still talking. We are having conversations about it and way too little action.

I am really happy that, last week, we passed a bill, at least in the House, to stop offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean, in the Pacific Ocean, and in the Gulf. I am really happy that we are trying to reverse the drilling in ANWR up in Alaska.

But we have to do big things. We have to take action together with countries around the world.

We have to listen to the children. They are begging us. They are acting, and they are speaking out. All we really need to do is follow.

Again, I thank Representative LEVIN and so many of the freshmen who have come here to the Congress and said: This is urgent. We can't wait anymore. We can't dawdle anymore. We must act.

I really appreciate the opportunity to come down here today.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for coming.

It is a great honor to sit on the new Select Committee on the Climate Crisis under the chair, KATHY CASTOR from Florida. I serve with many other great Members, and we have an honest dialogue about the action that we are going to need to take to combat this crisis.

Of course, I thank our great Speaker NANCY PELOSI for creating that select committee as part of the 116th Congress.

Governor Jay Inslee said: "We're the first generation to feel the sting of climate change, and we're the last who can do something about it."

I couldn't agree more with Representative SCHAKOWSKY. We have to

listen to the children, our own children and the children we see here in Washington. When we go back home to our districts, we have to listen to those voices. We have to make those changes. They are counting on us.

In these walls, right here, they are counting on the 435 people who are so honored to serve as United States Representatives to get this right for future generations.

I am honored to be one of those Members trying to fight the good fight. We have so much work to do.

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

ACT NOW ON IMMIGRATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TLAIB). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

HONORING WINTON W. CARTER ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, on September 30, 2019, northeast Florida will help Winton Carter celebrate his 100th birthday.

The year Mr. Carter was born, World War I formally ended with the Treaty of Versailles, alcohol was officially illegal with the formal start of Prohibition, and Boston's Babe Ruth was traded to the New York Yankees at the end of the season.

Even more amazing is the life Mr. Carter has led serving our country.

Mr. Carter received a Purple Heart after being wounded by shrapnel in his thigh while under continuous fire, fighting the Japanese on the island of Saipan in World War II. He was there for the famous raising of the American flag on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima. Mr. Carter also later fought in the Korean war.

After 22 years in the military, he retired as a Marine master sergeant and served a total of 40 years in government service, which included recruiting future Marine heroes.

Mr. Carter is a widower, having celebrated 60 years of marriage to his wife, Norma Jean. He is the father of two, and he loves to talk about the Lord.

Therefore, it is on this day, September 19, that I proudly acknowledge Mr. Winton W. Carter on the House floor, and I ask you to join me in wishing him an early happy birthday.

OBSERVING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor those who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action, as well as their families, in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

We are forever indebted to those who sacrificed everything so that we may enjoy the freedoms granted to us by the Constitution.

“You are not forgotten.” This is a central phrase of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. It is our job as a na-

tion to stand behind those who are currently serving, those who have served, and those who have never returned from service who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Through international relationships, many of those who have fallen have been returned back to our country and to their families, and we will continue to do the search and return our MIA soldiers. It is our responsibility as a nation to never forget or quit searching for the men and women who paid that ultimate price. We must continue to honor them in the years to come.

HONORING FIRST RESPONDER JOHN LANKENAU

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor one of my constituents, John Lankenau.

As the anniversary of 9/11 just passed, we must always remember those who we have lost and honor the heroes who sacrificed their lives for others.

On September 11, 2001, Mr. Lankenau was assigned as a hazardous material specialist in Albany, New York. On that tragic day, as the second plane flew into the towers, Mr. Lankenau was requested to respond to New York City to assist first responders at Ground Zero.

Upon arrival, Mr. Lankenau was requested by name to conduct the first hazard surveys of Ground Zero. He worked until early morning, taking air and soil samples on the wreckage site.

Mr. Lankenau remembered how dangerous it was, maneuvering through the wreckage and fearing that there was a possibility that one of the adjacent buildings could collapse, causing more fatalities.

He spent the next couple of weeks going back and forth from home, continuing to assess the hazards and the conditions at Ground Zero.

It is my greatest pleasure to represent men like Mr. John Lankenau in the United States Congress. I commend him and the rest of the first responders on 9/11 for their character, their courage, and their commitment to serving others. I thank them, these true heroes, for their service.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ON ITS RANKING

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I would like to highlight my alma mater, the University of Florida, which I represent in Florida's District Three.

The University of Florida, under the guidance of its president, Dr. Kent Fuchs, has again risen in the U.S. News and World Report rankings to number seven among all public universities in the United States. This is the third year in the row the University of Florida has advanced in that ranking.

The University of Florida incorporates all health disciplines, is one of the largest engineering schools in the country, and has a top-rated veterinarian school, which I graduated from in 1983.

It is just one of the few schools in the Nation to have won major sports team national championships and titles in football, basketball, and baseball.

I guess that is why it is great to be a Florida Gator.

Madam Speaker, I would like to talk about another crisis that has not been dealt with on this House floor, and that crisis is the immigration crisis we have.

We hear a lot about the climate crisis. Crises are the things that are happening right now that we must respond to. But so many of the things that we face in Congress are issues that may be a crisis for some along the border, or some who are being advanced by people coming into the country illegally, but if Congress were to act, these crises would go away.

There is time to deal with climate change, and there is time to deal with the crisis on the border, but we must act.

I have a photo here from June 2014, when my colleagues on the other side said there was a crisis, and it was under President Barack Obama. This is still going on at the border. I look at these people, and they look like people who want opportunity. They are coming to this country.

I have this other photo, and there are families, women, children, husbands. They look like people who are wanting to come into this country for opportunity.

Congress has failed, and it has not just failed this Nation, but it failed these people in the policies that we don't have because of political divide.

We talk about how we want to fix the crisis on climate change, but we don't come together on that. We want to talk about the immigration crisis, but we don't come together on it because it becomes a wedge and a tool that people use in politics for the next election.

They say, well, they are against that, and that is why you have to vote me back in.

That happens on immigration. That is why immigration doesn't get fixed. I am convinced of that.

□ 1900

So we have proposed a guest worker program that will solve probably about 90 percent, what our estimates are, of the people who are coming across our southwest border.

I think we are all in agreement that the people coming across our southwest border are not the rocket scientists; they are not the engineers; they are not the health professionals. They are the people who are working in the lower skills—agriculture, hospitality, and construction—but yet they are so needed in this country because, without them, this country won't work. We can't grow the fruits and vegetables, and we can't build the buildings.

So what we have proposed is a guest worker program. If you would picture a banner, Madam Speaker, “Guest Worker Program.”

And understand, it is not immigration reform, because “immigration,” if we use that word up here, they part.