

Nevertheless, many of our Nation's leaders continue to ignore and deny the science of climate change. President Trump has nominated several individuals to oversee environmental regulations, despite their alarming lack of expertise. Federal agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture have suppressed climate science while carrying out crucial environmental research. And the Trump administration has advanced a policy agenda that unravels critical environmental protections.

Right now, we need to be doing everything possible to protect our planet, not make it more vulnerable.

Experts tell us that we have a short and critical window for action before the climate crisis becomes far more dire. According to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we have 10 years to reduce global carbon emissions by 45 percent, or the Earth's ecosystems will likely begin to collapse. That will mean even greater sea-level rise, more high tide flooding, more devastating hurricanes, more and faster-spreading wildfires, and more global infectious diseases.

It is vital that we listen to experts and take steps to curb the development of climate change before it is too late.

The second lesson: We must work with the international community to tackle this crisis. Much of President Trump's foreign policy seems to rest on the assumption that the United States can become stronger through isolation. But the spread of COVID-19 makes it painfully clear that we are part of a global community and that there are certain threats that we will either overcome together or succumb together.

Climate change is one such threat. The United States is the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gas. Our failure to improve our environmental practices will have enormous impact on the rest of the world. Likewise, America's long-term security depends on other countries' efforts to protect the environment.

For example, as climate change continues, the number and severity of natural disasters in the United States will increase, which will take a substantial toll on our economy. A report that I requested from the Government Accountability Office shows that the 14 climate disasters in 2018 cost the U.S. at least \$91 billion in damage. And today, taxpayer spending on Federal disaster relief in the U.S. is almost ten times what it was three decades ago.

We need help from our friends around the world in order to avoid these repercussions of climate change. And if we ask for help, we had better be prepared to do our part, too.

It is, therefore, extremely disappointing that President Trump is finalizing the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, which we joined alongside more than 190 other countries in 2016. Parties to the agreement committed to lowering

carbon emissions with investment in clean and renewable energy sources, placing them at the forefront of the fight against climate change. Our Nation's retreat from this agreement undermines our global credibility and leadership and threatens devastating environmental consequences.

I led the U.S. congressional delegation to the conference where the parties originally adopted the Paris Agreement; therefore, I could not stand by and watch that important work be undone. So I introduced a bipartisan resolution expressing support for the agreement and calling on the U.S. to continue working with the global community to address the causes and effects of climate change. It will be up to leaders at the local, State, and national level to ensure that the United States pulls our weight in this worldwide effort.

The third lesson: Meaningful progress is within reach if Americans commit to urgent and bold action. Though it pains me to see the suffering that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing, I have been proud to watch communities across the country make the adjustments required to slow the spread of the virus and keep each other safe. People are staying home, teleworking, helping their kids learn remotely, and isolating from friends and family. Health workers, first responders, and other essential employees are inspiring us with their bravery and dedication. And in Congress, we are working in a bipartisan fashion to pass major legislation that will help us weather this storm.

The resilience of the American people in the face of this public health emergency gives me faith that we can similarly pull together to combat climate change if we recognize it for the life-threatening emergency that it is. After all, the World Health Organization predicts that climate change will kill an additional 241,000 people per year by 2030, and the World Bank estimates that, by 2050, it will force more than 140 million people out of their homes.

The good news is that, unlike with COVID-19, the adaptations that will help us tackle climate change will also create jobs and stimulate our economy. The U.S. clean energy economy employs more than 3.3 million workers, a number that has been on the rise for the last 5 years. Furthermore, producing renewable energy is cheaper in the long run than continuing to rely on coal. By 2025, almost every existing coal plant in the country will cost more to operate than building replacement wind and solar plants nearby. And crucially, energy efficient infrastructure will strengthen communities by lowering the cost of utilities, improving residents' health, and increasing economic development.

For my part, I will keep working as a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to advocate for laws that protect Americans

by protecting our planet. This Congress, I was able to get the first ever climate title included in the surface transportation reauthorization bill in order to reduce vehicular emissions, the single largest source of U.S. carbon pollution. I have also cosponsored bills that will lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and increase the development of renewable energy technologies by supporting the wind and solar industries.

As always, I will continue to defend the vital wetlands and marshes of the Chesapeake Bay. As climate change causes severe weather patterns to increase, these ecosystems will act as pollution filters and buffers from storm surge and flooding, minimizing the damage to Marylanders' homes and businesses. The Chesapeake Bay restoration program is a model for the local, State, and Federal cooperation that we need to reach our environmental goals. I am confident that we can address the climate crisis as a whole in an equally collaborative manner.

Now is the time for an "all hands on deck" approach. Just as we have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans must urgently work together, on Earth Day and every day, to slow the causes and consequences of climate change. If we do things right, then perhaps on the 100th anniversary of Earth Day, someone will be standing here, thanking her predecessors for protecting the Earth and looking forward to many more golden anniversaries on our beautiful home planet.

TRIBUTE TO THE BOUSTANY FAMILY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to tell the hopeful story of the Boustany family, Lebanese immigrants who arrived in Providence, RI, 100 years ago next month. The family's history exemplifies the extraordinary contributions that generations of immigrants have made to American life.

The Boustany family's journey began in Deir al-Qamar, Lebanon, a village southeast of Beirut. Life in Lebanon was difficult in those days. The people of Deir al-Qamar had seen it all: war, famine, pandemics, and even swarms of locusts. Michel and Yahout Boustany lost eight children to difficulties in childbirth and illnesses, and a ninth was tragically kidnapped. The surviving members of the grief-stricken family resolved to leave their native country to start a new life in a land of opportunity.

Getting to America wouldn't be without heartbreaking setbacks. The departure was delayed 6 long years due to World War I. Sadly, Michel passed away unexpectedly not long before the family was to make the voyage. Yahout, and two of her sons, Francis, age 11, and Frem, age 17, resolved to carry on with the plan to emigrate.

The Boustany family left for the first leg of the journey from Beirut on a

Fabre Line steamship bound for Marseille, France. In Marseille, they boarded Fabre Lines' SS *Providence* on its maiden voyage to Providence, RI.

The family landed at the Port of Providence in June 1920. According to an article printed the following month in Providence Magazine, the SS *Providence* was welcomed by Rhode Islanders with great fanfare, as it was the largest steamship that had ever traveled up Narragansett Bay. From there, the family boarded a train to Lafayette, LA, where Yahout's two oldest children had already settled.

The Boustany family thrived in America. The children grew up, started families, and became successful entrepreneurs and respected leaders in their community. The first generations passed along their Catholic faith and an exceptional work ethic to their children and grandchildren who would go on to find success of their own in many pursuits. Members of the family have become civic leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and so on. Among them is Vicki Kennedy, an accomplished lawyer and the widow of a giant of the Senate, Ted Kennedy. Vicki is a dear friend to many of us in this Chamber. Dr. Charles Boustany, a retired heart surgeon and former Congressman from Louisiana, is also one of the family.

June 17, 2020 marks 100 years to the day members of the Boustany family first set foot in Providence. Prior to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, their descendants had been planning to travel to Rhode Island to celebrate the centennial of their family's beginning in America. Now, they are considering other ways to mark the anniversary remotely as a family. The Boustany family represents the very best of us: hard-working, generous, and community-minded. I wish them well as they celebrate this joyful occasion.

REMEMBERING ROSHELL “MIKE” ANDERSON

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Mr. Rosshell “Mike” Anderson, acclaimed journalist for 36 years with the Milwaukee-based television station, WISN-12.

Mike was born in Bogalusa, LA, in 1952 and raised in New Orleans. New Orleans' rich musical culture inspired Mike's life-long passion for R&B that landed him twice on the R&B soul charts in the 1970s with “Snake out of Green Grass” and “Grapevine will Lie Sometimes.” His musical accomplishments continued into the early 1990s and helped spawn a unique brand of journalistic storytelling.

Mike attended Louisiana State University and the Career Academy School of Broadcast Journalism in Atlanta, GA. He started his career as a disc jockey in various Atlanta radio stations in 1970 and got his start in television in Seattle, WA, in 1979. When Mike took the job at WISN in Milwaukee in 1981, he planned to stay 3

years. He retired from the station 36 years later in 2017.

Mike's journalism career spanned nearly four decades and six U.S. Presidencies. He was proud to have interviewed Richard Nixon, George Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. But Mike's most powerful work involved telling powerful and moving stories about the Milwaukee community. He is perhaps best known for his two award-winning documentaries on inner-city violence, “Children in the Line of Fire” and “Solutions to Violence.”

Five years after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, Mike returned to his home city to cover the city's devastation and its slow process of rehabilitation. Through his interviews with local residents, Mike found stories of hope, resilience, and many sobering reminders that much work was left to be done. As always, Mike brought his unique style of warmth, kindness, and optimism to even the darkest issues and events.

After breaking racial and class barriers, he mentored other journalists of color and worked to celebrate their success through his work with the Wisconsin Black Media Association and Milwaukee's annual Black Excellence Awards.

Mike's straightforward style and commitment to fairness led to a deep sense of trust on the part of his viewers. He will long be remembered for telling the stories of Milwaukee honestly and with a deep connection to the community.

Mike Anderson's most lasting legacy, however, is that he was beloved by the Milwaukee community for not only being a great reporter people could trust, he was a good person whose kindness will be missed.

REMEMBERING EUGENE KANE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Eugene Albert Kane, a renowned, passionate, and fearless journalist who for more than 30 years spoke truth to power and forced his readers to confront the uncomfortable realities of racism and injustice in Milwaukee, in Wisconsin, and in America.

Eugene was born to Eugene Albert Kane, Sr., and Hattie (Freeman) Kane. He grew up in North Philadelphia and graduated from Temple University where he majored in journalism and minored in Black studies. In 1984, Eugene moved to Milwaukee to take a job with the Milwaukee Journal, the precursor to today's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. There, he wrote what would become a very well-known column, “Raising Kane.” The title's insinuation of stirring the pot and causing what civil rights icon Congressman JOHN LEWIS has termed “good trouble,” was indeed, intentional.

His early personal experiences with discrimination shaped his passion for equality and his need to speak publicly about racism. His grandfather, seri-

ously ill with pneumonia, died after being turned away from hospital emergency rooms because of the color of his skin. As a teenager attending a mostly White school, Eugene remembered a fellow student he considered a friend, who taunted and berated him with vile racist insults. Racism followed him into his professional life as well. He recounted times when it was next to impossible to obtain interviews from people in mostly White settings and was even falsely accused of being part of a pickpocket scheme while covering the Green Bay Packers in 1997 during Super Bowl XXXI in New Orleans. These experiences and others inspired him to give voice to the systematic racism saw and the lack of economic opportunities facing African Americans in Milwaukee and the country. Rather than shying away from the unvarnished truth of racism and social injustice in America, he walked right towards it, pen and notebook in hand.

As a Black journalist who elevated the voice of Black Milwaukee in a column read predominantly by a White audience, Eugene's work garnered irritation as well as praise. Even a fellow Wisconsin journalist wondered out loud why the Journal Sentinel would “give this guy a soap box?” He took hateful responses to his column in stride, viewing them as proof his words were landing exactly where they needed to. In fact, he took pride in motivating people to care enough about an issue to disagree with him.

A greater number of readers and colleagues, however, were motivated to praise his work. In 2014, he was inducted into both the Wisconsin Media Hall of Fame and the Milwaukee Press Club Hall of Fame. In 1992, he was awarded the Knight Fellowship at Stanford University. He also received national recognition, winning first place for Best General Column from the Society of Professional Journalists in 2000 and two first-place National Headliner Awards for Best Local Interest Column in 2001 and 2003.

His accomplishments and contributions went beyond the written word. He hosted “Black Nouveau” on Milwaukee Public Television from 2002-2006, taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Marquette University, and served as president of the Wisconsin Black Media Association in 2002.

I am forever grateful that Eugene shared his important perspective throughout his long, storied career. Each step of the way he demonstrated the courage to tell the truth and shine a light on the injustices that were more comfortably left unspoken. This is a true testament to the value he served Wisconsin as a journalist.

Eugene was a vital and honest voice for the Milwaukee community. Call him an agitator if you must. I don't believe he would have it any other way. He said and wrote and needed to be heard and read. Eugene Kane will be missed by so many, but what he said and the words of wisdom he wrote will