

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

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

109TH AIRLIFT BUZZ ALDRIN EVACUATION

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

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

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

PEARL HARBOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DROUGHT: HUMAN IMPACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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