

attack shortly after the Normandy invasion, later received the Medal of Honor for his heroics at Normandy. In this photo is his cross in Normandy's cemetery.

Today, we express our gratitude to the Greatest Generation of Americans who defied danger and fearlessly fought for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, where does America get such people? They were the young breed, the rare breed, the American breed, who took to the treacherous beaches of Normandy under the leadership of a remarkable man who stood tall to lead his troops into battle on the longest day, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the tallest warrior.

And that's just the way it is.

SMART SECURITY: BY HELPING PEOPLE, WE HELP OURSELVES

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, a bipartisan group of Members convened a panel discussion on Capitol Hill. Actually, it was an informal hearing about the Afghanistan war. One of the speakers was Lieutenant Colonel Danny Davis who, after two tours in Afghanistan, has courageously come forward, speaking truth to power with his assessment of the situation on the ground and his belief that the war is wrong.

I wish more of my colleagues had been there to hear what Lieutenant Colonel Davis had to say. He talked about the arrogance and stubbornness that allows our country to continue this military occupation long after it's proven futile. He discussed the strain and stress we put on our Armed Forces. And, as he explained, the Taliban are stronger now than they were. Push them down, he said, and they pop up in another area.

After the most powerful military surge in the history of civilization, we still haven't been able to keep them down. This shouldn't be a major revelation. When will we learn? We are emboldening the very radical forces that we're trying to defeat.

It's common sense that thousands and thousands of occupying U.S. troops will breed and do breed resentment and drive the Afghan people straight into the arms of the Taliban. Every additional day that we keep boots on the ground in Afghanistan is another day that the Taliban wins over more recruits and poses a greater threat to our safety and our interests.

Here's a novel idea, Mr. Speaker. How about we win over the Afghan people instead of alienating them and giving them common cause with insurgents? How about we move to implement a SMART security agenda where war is the very last resort?

Under SMART Security, we would emphasize diplomacy and development. We would seek peaceful conflict resolu-

tion instead of military force. And instead of launching drone attacks on troubled nations half a world away, SMART Security would have us empowering and investing in the people who live there. And why? Because it's the right thing to do. Absolutely. But also because the goodwill it engenders works to our benefit because, by helping people, we help ourselves.

The foundation of SMART Security is the recognition that killing more people will not make us safer, that it will undermine our national security instead of contributing to it. But if we help send Afghan girls to school, if we help Afghan women get proper prenatal care, if we help Afghanistan rebuild its infrastructure and its economy, these are the things that will advance in our interests, and our security will be better off.

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A more Democratic, more prosperous Afghanistan is one where the extremists can't get a toehold, where the Taliban can't exploit and feed off people's desperation. And by the way, Mr. Speaker, we can do SMART Security at a fraction of the cost of our current approach—pennies on the dollar.

Humanitarian aid is a lot more cost effective than weapons systems and military occupation. The current Afghanistan policy has been given a chance to work, and it has failed spectacularly. The time for patience, after more than a decade of war, has long since come and gone.

As a matter of moral decency, fiscal sanity, and common sense, it's time now to bring our troops home.

FLEXIBLE PERMITTING SYSTEM WORKS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the people I work for, the people of Texas 22, were disrespected once again yesterday by Dr. Al Armendariz, the former Region 6 EPA Administrator, a region that includes my home State of Texas.

After losing his job a few weeks ago because he advocated using Roman tactics like crucifixion to beat down America's producers of fossil fuel energy, Dr. Armendariz finally accepted an invitation to testify today before the House Energy and Power Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Late yesterday, Dr. Armendariz informed the committee that he had changed his mind. He can no longer come. He couldn't come—I don't know why he couldn't come. It wasn't weather. I checked. I flew up from Texas last night, yesterday morning, no problems. I checked Dallas-Fort Worth, nothing. Nine American Airlines flights out of Dallas-Fort Worth—where Dr. Armendariz lives—flew here yesterday into Reagan National. None of them were delayed. Why couldn't he come?

He chose not to come because he could not defend his actions to his employer, the people of Texas 22, the district I represent and the people of Region 6. He could not defend interfering with Texas's flexible permitting system to minimize the emissions from our farmers and power plants of nitrous oxide and sulfur oxide.

Texas's flexible permitting system works. Those emissions have been cut double the national average in Texas. That's why we're the fastest growing State in America. That's a great testament to how they work. You cannot grow more than any State in America, add industry, and have a reduction that doubles the national average. We did that, and yet Dr. Armendariz threw that out. He could not defend jamming Texas into the cross-state air pollution rule just this past summer. Immediately after he did that, without being notified, we should have gotten at least 1½ year notification, we got a 6 month notification. Because of that, the largest power producer in my home State, which was using coal for power production, said: I'm going to have to shut down two power plants.

Reason prevailed, and that rule got kicked down the road. But again, it wasn't because what Dr. Armendariz did. He wanted to punish Texas.

And most importantly, he could not defend this email, which he leaked to radical environmental groups announcing that EPA was dropping the hammer on a producer of American fossil fuels in the Barnett shale plate. What he was concerned about was contamination of water in two wells, two houses there near this oil and gas recovery fossil plate. The problem: he was worried about water contamination. He sent this out, and I will read it to you:

Hi, everybody. We're about to make a lot of news. The first story has already been printed. There'll be an official press release in a few minutes. Also, time to TiVo Channel 8. Bug David for more info.

That was coming from the regional administrator. A couple of other points:

Thank you for helping to educate me on the public's perspective of these issues, and thank you all for your continued support and friendship.

These aren't the public. The people of Texas 22 I represent are the public. But look what he sent out. Again, he sent this out to the radical environmentalists, taking their marching orders. Here is the response from one of them:

Texas sheriff, yee haw! Hats off to new sheriff and his deputies.

Texas does not need a new sheriff and new deputies. We need a regional administrator that wants to strike a commonsense balance between a growing State and clean air and clean water.

The American people were fooled in November of 2008. With the help of Dr. Armendariz, they won't be fooled again.