

many cases, they find disease early before they can become metastatic and cancerous and spread.

Today, many doctors are playing catch-up as they seek to safely provide care to their patients. As I said, the work continues.

I urge Americans: Talk to your doctors and schedule the lifesaving screenings that can definitely make a difference in your healthcare.

As we continue to combat the coronavirus crisis and its many ramifications, I thank our medical teams for their unwavering dedication to American patients. Despite the obstacles we face, together, we can improve Americans' access to the quality healthcare and, together, we can save lives.

□ 0930

RECOGNIZING TOM SEAVER

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest baseball players to ever play the game, "Tom Terrific" Seaver, a member of the Miracle Memorable Mets championship season in 1969 that won the World Series. He passed away peacefully earlier this month.

A native of my hometown, Fresno, California, that has had a lot of terrific baseball players, no one ever played the game any better than Tom Terrific. He was a graduate of Fresno High and Fresno City College. During that time, he became a first-round draft pick in 1966. But in between that time, he served in the United States Marine Corps.

Of the many seasons that he played in baseball, he had 12 All-Star appearances, won multiple Cy Young Awards, and was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame when he first became available on a near-unanimous decision—a gifted and once-in-a-lifetime player.

As I said, he served honorably in the Marine Corps.

Last year, he retired from public life after being diagnosed with dementia. His passing has been a terrible loss for the community of Fresno and all baseball fans across the country.

Please join me in celebrating the life and career of one good person, Tom Seaver.

DEVASTATING CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to draw attention to the devastating wildfires burning in the West, throughout Washington, Oregon, and California, and other Western States, and, more precisely, this fire, the Creek fire, that is burning near my district in the central Sierra Nevada.

Let me first salute the incredible men and women, the firefighters, the first responders, all of those volunteers who are doing their best, over 14,000 of them throughout California, and many more throughout Western States. They

are putting their lives on the line trying to protect us and trying to protect our forests.

Last Friday, I toured the devastation firsthand and spent 6 hours in the southern perimeter of the Creek fire in the Shaver and Huntington Lake areas. I witnessed the devastating damage that has been done, not only in this picture that is illustrated here, but the many homes that have been lost, as you see here, 1400-degree tornado firestorms that literally melted homes, such as this one here, and many, many other structures.

This summer alone, clearly, has indicated that the numbers of fires that we see, not only in California, but throughout the West, are growing both in quantity and the scope of the devastation. This summer alone, with record heat and extreme conditions made worse by climate change, California has experienced 6 of the largest 20 wildfires in its history—and, sadly, most of those wildfires are still burning.

In the foothills in the high Sierra Nevada outside my home in Fresno, California, the Creek fire continues to grow, and we only have, as of today, about 15 percent containment. But that is similar not only in California but Oregon and Washington and other States, and it is making the air quality something that you have to see to understand and believe. When I left Monday, the air index was 304.

So, what must we do?

We must learn the lessons from these devastating fires, these wildfires. And I think, first of all, it requires much better forest management. We have tried to make changes within the U.S. Forest Service, but much more needs to be done in terms of resources to better manage our forest.

We also must do better land management planning. We have hundreds and thousands of people in the last 30 years living where they didn't live before, and it requires better land use planning.

And, finally, we must address the issues of climate change. When we have extended draught periods and dry conditions, the beetle bark and other factors play into a situation which, in California, from Lassen down to Lake Isabella, we have over 100 million dead trees, and that creates the fuel that adds to the problem.

These are among the lessons that we must learn to better manage our forests for future generations to come.

TREES ARE TRULY AMAZING

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the trees, the forest they call home, and all Americans who live near there.

In the words of the poet Joyce Kilmer:

I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the Earth's sweet flowing breast.
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leaf-filled arms to pray.
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair.
Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who's intimately lived with rain.
Poems are made by folks like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Mr. Speaker, trees are truly amazing. Through the remarkable process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide. They store the carbon in the wood, and they release the oxygen back for us to breathe. Trees provide us with clean air.

But just as important as clean air, trees provide us with clean water. Their roots hold the soil together, and as water percolates through, they clean the water.

Forests also provide wildlife habitat. They provide us places for outdoor recreation. Trees provide amazing green building products, like mass timber. Trees provide packaging for shipping. And let us not forget where toilet paper comes from.

No wonder trees are so admired, as they should be. However, our beloved trees and forests in the West have a different image today, one not of grandeur and amazing beauty, but one of fuel in an apocalyptic inferno that is killing people, destroying homes and property, and leaving barren landscapes below and choking smoke above.

Mr. Speaker, unlike the mythical Ents of middle-earth in the "Lord of the Rings," our trees cannot speak for themselves. I don't claim to be Dr. Seuss' Lorax, but if trees could talk, I believe they would be crying out: Hey, humans, stop loving us to death. Hey, humans, we need some relief, and you are supposed to be taking care of us. Hey, Congress, you are killing us, and if we die, you die. Please work together and apply your husbandry skills to give us a chance. When trees win, humans win.

Mr. Speaker, even as the climate changes and fire threats increase in the West, there is hope if we will just do the right thing. That right thing is forest management, and it looks different on different sites.

Here is an example of how it looks in my home State of Arkansas. This is the Felsenthal National Wildlife Management area. You can see an unmanaged forest, the control site. You see the thick underbrush, the midstory and the understory that is too thick. You see the simple management practices of thinning out the understory, doing controlled burns, and at the bottom you see what a beautiful, healthy forest looks like.

Here is an example of how it looks in California. This is an aerial shot from the devastating Camp fire near Paradise. This red hatched area, that is where the fire burned. This dark red line, that is where the fire was stopped.

You can see this little band right here. That was actually a firebreak

that was put in place by a private forestry company to stop the spread of fire onto their land because public lands are so mismanaged.

Here is what that firebreak looked like. It was a thinned area where the fire came in from this direction. It went down to the ground, and firemen were actually able to put it out and save the forest on the other side.

That is what sound forest management looks like. This is not clear-cutting. It is commonsense, science-based management that works.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to act—not after the election, not the next Congress, but now. In the Trillion Trees Act, we have outlined policies to implement the most basic forest management practices to the four most critical areas:

The wildland urban interface where fire can start, but where breaks can be created and we can thin;

Energy transportation corridors. We know fires can start from electric arcs;

Transportation corridors, where trains and cars can create sparks and where more humans are near the forest;

And last but not least, in critical watersheds where the damage is felt long after the fires are out.

For the sake of our forests, our environment, and all Americans, I urge Congress to act. Pass the Trillion Trees Act, and let's be the good stewards that the trees deserve.

STAND UP FOR SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we woke up this morning to another 1,000 souls lost to coronavirus and the Western States are ablaze. Our most powerful weapon for combating these threats is rigorous, unbiased science. And yet this administration continues to suppress and misrepresent the work of our Federal scientists.

HHS officials appear to be tampering with public health bulletins to suit their political narrative. EPA is misrepresenting its own analysts' work to absolve polluters. And just yesterday, the President claimed that science doesn't know about the impacts of climate change.

If science doesn't know, who does?

This cannot go on. My committee has been fighting back. Among other initiatives, we have passed the Scientific Integrity Act to make sure that Federal science is not distorted by politics or special interests, no matter who is in the White House.

As we work to make this bill a law, I commend all of our Federal scientists who remain objective, exacting, and transparent in their research: Don't quit. Continue to stand up to scientific integrity. Your country needs you. We all do.

□ 0945

HONORING HEALTHCARE HEROES AND FRONTLINE WORKERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our valiant frontline workers and healthcare heroes who have taken care of their neighbors and saved countless lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes nurses, doctors, pharmacists, grocery store workers, truck drivers, and anyone who has risen to the occasion to help others during these unprecedented times.

In particular, Jane Spence, Larisa Barnes, Bobbie Sumner, Amanda King, and Lynn Reynolds have exemplified remarkable selflessness and courage as they work to save lives in the Southeast Georgia Health System.

Throughout my time in Georgia's First Congressional District, I have visited and met countless heroes serving at Saint Joseph's Candler Hospital, Liberty Regional Medical Center, Clinch Memorial Hospital, Memorial Health Center in Savannah, Wayne Memorial Center, and Winn Army Medical Hospital. This has allowed me to gain insight into the daily sacrifices they make and their commitment to serving their communities.

Doctors and nurses who serve at our Veterans Affairs Health Systems are deserving of recognition for their outstanding work, as well.

In addition to our healthcare heroes, I also want to honor leaders and local businesses in our communities.

Individuals like Tom and Rita Boland converted their Island Drapes and Upholstery business to manufacture thousands of face masks a week.

I was also encouraged to see the local nonprofits in Georgia's First Congressional District rise up to address the many challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the Computers for a Cause movement was formed thanks to the beautiful work of United Way of Coastal Georgia, Keep Golden Isles Beautiful, Communities in Schools, and Coastal Outreach partnering with Coastal Computer Consulting to gather and donate computers for children who don't have access to one.

This allowed countless children to continue their education when schools were closed. These folks were working day in and day out risking their own health and safety and spending time away from their families and friends to serve us.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the work that they do to make America great, and I am honored to call them my friends and neighbors.

HONORING PRESTON G. EXLEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Mr. Preston Exley of Springfield, Georgia, who passed away at the age of 81 on September 10.

Mr. Exley was a selfless leader in every area of his life who was loved by many.

Mr. Exley worked for the Savannah Sugar Refinery for 40 years and retired in 1997.

Preston loved the Lord, and his life was a testament to that. Preston was an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and served in a variety of roles, including Sunday school superintendent, president of the Men's Group, and a member of the Church Council.

Preston was committed to serving his country through his service with the Georgia Army National Guard for 23 years, and he retired as a captain.

Preston was also dedicated to improving education in his community during his time serving on the Effingham County School Board from 1980 until 1994, and he later went on to serve as Effingham County Chief Magistrate Judge for 12 years.

Included in his long list of pursuits, Preston was a farmer for many years in his home place in Clio.

Impressively, Preston was past president of the Effingham County Young Farmers, a member of the County Board of Directors, and served as the Springfield Chapter President.

Preston was also a loyal family man, who prioritized his family above all else.

I am thankful for the selfless life Preston lived, and I know his legacy will continue in Springfield for years to come. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and all who knew him during these challenging times.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Lord, merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon those throughout our country who are suffering so much, more each day. Keep safe the firefighters out West. Keep safe those who are responding to the destruction of Hurricane Sally on the Gulf Coast. Listen to the cries of those who have lost so much as a result of these natural disasters, even as the COVID pandemic wreaks its havoc in our communities.