

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