

serve literally hundreds of veterans; he has been an invaluable asset to my office. I, as well as hundreds of Cleveland's veterans and their families, are indebted to Dan for his professionalism, compassion, and dedication.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dan Cicora, on the occasion of his retirement, for over twenty-eight years of service to the veterans of Cuyahoga County. I wish him only the best as he begins to write a new and exciting chapter in his life. May others in our community draw inspiration from his example.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BELLA
RUSSELL

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's most deserving citizens, Mrs. Bella Russell who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on January 1, 2008. Mrs. Russell resides in Warren County within my Congressional District and is the grandmother of our friend and colleague, Congressman ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN.

Although Mrs. Russell was born in the County of Warren, she moved to Camden, NJ as a young child where she attended the public schools. In later years, Mrs. Russell married John Wesley Russell and through this marriage, three children were born. She is now the matriarch of this wonderful family with 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great grandchildren.

From the State of New Jersey, the family relocated to North Carolina where they acquired a 200-acre farm. While Mr. Russell operated the farm, Mrs. Russell dedicated much of her time as a homemaker and occasionally assisted on the farm. She was also very actively engaged in her community and served as 4-H Club Leader for more than 10 years.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Russell has dedicated 70-faithful years of her life as a member of Russell Union RZUA Church. She has served as Church Mother for 50 years and took great pride in organizing church clubs and groups.

Madam Speaker, over her lifetime, Mrs. Russell has lived through some of the most significant historical periods of our time. Like so many of the great historical monuments she has stood the test of time and has survived Reconstruction; lynching; World War I; the Great Depression; World War II; the period of segregation; the Civil Rights Movement; Voting Rights Movement; School Desegregation and other momentous times. She is indeed a walking history reference and we take great pride in recognizing her for being blessed with such longevity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Bella Russell, a most deserving American.

COMMENDING THE STATEMENT OF
VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE AT
HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOBEL
PEACE PRIZE IN OSLO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, last October, the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was bestowed on a man who has dedicated his life to making this planet a more livable place for all of us and future generations. Vice President Al Gore has steadfastly served the people of the United States and the citizens of the world in his life's work, and I commend him for his leadership, foresight, and dedication in addressing the crisis of climate change.

For our part, and under the visionary leadership of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congress has taken a serious, groundbreaking step towards reducing our country's dangerous dependence on foreign oil by passing the Energy Independence and Security Act, which today became law. I am proud to have authored the international provisions, and could not be more proud of my colleagues for supporting a forward-looking piece of legislation that meets the tremendous challenge of combating climate change head-on. At long last, we are making a meaningful investment in new technologies that will yield clean, renewable energy.

Vice President Gore's Nobel acceptance speech last week in Oslo, Norway epitomizes the way in which he has been able to lead by example on this crucial topic. His words of truth and clarion call to action inspire us all to take care of this Earth we call home, and I am honored to enter his eloquent speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Al Gore. Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Honorable members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

I have a purpose here today. It is a purpose I have tried to serve for many years. I have prayed that God would show me a way to accomplish it.

Sometimes, without warning, the future knocks on our door with a precious and painful vision of what might be. One hundred and nineteen years ago, a wealthy inventor read his own obituary, mistakenly published years before his death. Wrongly believing the inventor had just died, a newspaper printed a harsh judgment of his life's work, unfairly labeling him "the Merchant of Death" because of his invention—dynamite. Shaken by this condemnation, the inventor made a fateful choice to serve the cause of peace.

Seven years later, Alfred Nobel created this prize and the others that bear his name.

Seven years ago tomorrow, I read my own political obituary in a judgment that seemed to me harsh and mistaken—if not premature. But that unwelcome verdict also brought a precious if painful gift: an opportunity to search for fresh new ways to serve my purpose.

Unexpectedly, that quest has brought me here. Even though I fear my words cannot match this moment, I pray what I am feeling in my heart will be communicated clearly enough that those who hear me will say, "We must act."

The distinguished scientists with whom it is the greatest honor of my life to share this award have laid before us a choice between two different futures—a choice that to my

ears echoes the words of an ancient prophet: "Life or death, blessings or curses. Therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

We, the human species, are confronting a planetary emergency—a threat to the survival of our civilization that is gathering ominous and destructive potential even as we gather here. But there is hopeful news as well: we have the ability to solve this crisis and avoid the worst—though not all—of its consequences, if we act boldly, decisively and quickly.

However, despite a growing number of honorable exceptions, too many of the world's leaders are still best described in the words Winston Churchill applied to those who ignored Adolf Hitler's threat: "They go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent."

So today, we dumped another 70 million tons of global-warming pollution into the thin shell of atmosphere surrounding our planet, as if it were an open sewer. And tomorrow, we will dump a slightly larger amount, with the cumulative concentrations now trapping more and more heat from the sun.

As a result, the earth has a fever. And the fever is rising. The experts have told us it is not a passing affliction that will heal by itself. We asked for a second opinion. And a third. And a fourth. And the consistent conclusion, restated with increasing alarm, is that something basic is wrong.

We are what is wrong, and we must make it right.

Last September 21, as the Northern Hemisphere tilted away from the sun, scientists reported with unprecedented distress that the North Polar ice cap is "falling off a cliff." One study estimated that it could be completely gone during summer in less than 22 years. Another new study, to be presented by U.S. Navy researchers later this week, warns it could happen in as little as 7 years.

Seven years from now.

In the last few months, it has been harder and harder to misinterpret the signs that our world is spinning out of kilter. Major cities in North and South America, Asia and Australia are nearly out of water due to massive droughts and melting glaciers. Desperate farmers are losing their livelihoods. Peoples in the frozen Arctic and on low-lying Pacific islands are planning evacuations of places they have long called home. Unprecedented wildfires have forced a half million people from their homes in one country and caused a national emergency that almost brought down the government in another. Climate refugees have migrated into areas already inhabited by people with different cultures, religions, and traditions, increasing the potential for conflict. Stronger storms in the Pacific and Atlantic have threatened whole cities. Millions have been displaced by massive flooding in South Asia, Mexico, and 18 countries in Africa. As temperature extremes have increased, tens of thousands have lost their lives. We are recklessly burning and clearing our forests and driving more and more species into extinction. The very web of life on which we depend is being ripped and frayed.

We never intended to cause all this destruction, just as Alfred Nobel never intended that dynamite be used for waging war. He had hoped his invention would promote human progress. We shared that same worthy goal when we began burning massive quantities of coal, then oil and methane.

Even in Nobel's time, there were a few warnings of the likely consequences. One of the very first winners of the Prize in chemistry worried that, "We are evaporating our