

Ocean acidification threatens everything from the tiny plankton to form the foundation of marine food webs, to the larger shellfish that we all enjoy. These impacts will not only hurt our ocean ecosystems and environment, but they will significantly hurt our economy as well.

The oceans support one in every six American jobs; so without healthy oceans, we stand to lose a lot of American jobs and economic opportunities, not to mention the cultural, ecological, and recreational losses to our coastal communities.

In my district, there is a diverse array of fishermen, scientists, and non-governmental organizations who are all seriously concerned about this issue. They are coming together to find ways to better understand and mitigate the effects of ocean acidification on key fisheries and ecosystems.

While the initial costs may be felt locally, the long-term costs of ocean acidification will be felt around this globe. We simply can't afford to continue ignoring this critical problem. While we certainly must cut the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change and ocean acidification, we must also prepare for the inevitable impacts.

That is why I am working with my colleagues to find bipartisan solutions to increase our understanding of ocean acidification and to develop adaptation strategies.

That means supporting efforts to increase research and to monitor a better understanding of the problem, and it means coordinating and planning on a local level to prepare communities for changing coastal landscape. That means forming strategic partnerships to increase our capacity to find creative solutions.

There are many things we can do to help, but there is one thing we must all agree upon: inaction is not an option.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to help prepare our communities and our economy from the impacts of climate change. We cannot afford to sit on our hands and do nothing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in taking action to save our oceans to combat global climate change.

#### JOSH HARDY'S STRUGGLE WITH CANCER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a story of hardship and compassion. Josh Hardy, a young boy from Fredericksburg, Virginia, survived a battle with cancer when he was just 9 months old. Today, at the age of 7, he is currently suffering from a life-threatening infection acquired during his cancer treatment at St. Jude Children's Hospital.

A pharmaceutical company, Chimerix, produces the medication

Josh's doctors believe could help save his life. Unfortunately, the drug was still in trial testing, and the company has been unable to provide access due to the number of requests for the drug and the rate of its production in the testing stage.

Physicians at St. Jude's Hospital and members of Josh's family pleaded for Josh to obtain access to the drug. Last Friday, Matt Hardy, Josh's uncle, of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, a constituent of mine, contacted my office to request our support in seeing if the drug could get approved.

Josh's story has become widely known across the country. Yesterday, Chimerix agreed to provide Josh access to their environmental antiviral drug for his treatment. This small business should be commended for their compassion and making tough decisions. We hope they can continue with expedience to bring their product to market in order to help others like Josh.

Mr. Speaker, through these tough times, our thoughts and prayers remain with Josh, his family, and the countless individuals committed to making lives better through cutting edge medical research.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell a story of a 17-year-old Catholic school girl from the Seattle suburbs whose dreams to join the Marine Corps were destroyed by a sexual predator.

The girl's recruiter, after discussing sexual harassment policy with her, decided to give her a big hug, then lifted her on his lap and fondled her breasts. He then tried to get her to perform oral sex on him at another visit to the Marine recruiting office; and on a third occasion, he had her fondle his genitals while the girl was riding in his car.

She told the King County District Attorney's Office that she felt pressured into the sexual contact to get a position within the Corps.

While King County investigators found the girl's claims to be credible, the recruiter's chain of command within the Marine Corps did not and returned him to his job after a brief suspension, while the high school student was denied justice and denied the job of her dreams.

Just Google "Marines sex scandal," and you will find this article and several other scandalous stories about soldiers who hold these positions of trust.

These are exactly the type of stories that prompted Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to issue a directive last May to require the screening of sexual assault counselors, recruiters, and drill sergeants in all the services, looking for any criminal wrongdoing or unethical behavior.

It appears the Army took Secretary Hagel's directive seriously, as it

screened 20,000 soldiers, disqualified 588, and is moving to get rid of at least 79 soldiers in these sensitive posts for offenses that include sexual assault.

□ 1100

Between the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, however, only a handful of servicemembers were disqualified. The Navy, after screening more than 10,000 soldiers, first said it only disqualified five, but just yesterday, we learned that the number has skyrocketed as the Navy has actually disqualified 151 sailors from these positions of trust. The Air Force just revealed Tuesday it disqualified two soldiers after at first initially reporting none were disqualified, and the Marine Corps so far has disqualified absolutely no one.

We all know, without question, that sexual assault in the military is a crisis and that it is not simply limited to the Army. It appears to be quite clear that the services used widely divergent methodology in assessing the suitability for these servicemembers and that the different services interpreted Hagel's directive very differently. It is my understanding that one of the service's interpreted Hagel's directive so narrowly that it simply checked the civilian sexual predator registry. Hagel has, apparently, discussed with top brass in the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps the 588 disqualifications in the Army and whether the other services will pursue a follow-up review. He has reportedly stopped short, however, of issuing another directive.

I believe Secretary Hagel should issue a directive to rescreen the officers in the other services, and I sent him a letter Tuesday urging him to do so because choosing the wrong people for these positions of trust is a betrayal for our troops. The numbers of those disqualified, by the way, were not voluntarily made public. They continue almost weekly to be unearthed by an enterprising reporter at USA Today. The DOD also hasn't revealed what actions it has taken against those who were disqualified. The public has a right to know.

I do salute the Army for scrubbing what has been a cancerous culture, evidenced by the pending court-martial of Sergeant Gregory McQueen, whose job it was to help prevent sexual assault but who, instead, was allegedly running a prostitution ring at Fort Hood.

Until the Marine Corps, Air Force, and Navy follow the Army's path, however, I have little faith that the Department of Defense is capable of stamping out military sexual assault by weeding out sexual predators and other criminals in these highly important positions of trust.

#### WORLD WATER DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, on Capitol Hill, we are watching several hundred dedicated volunteers fan out to share their vision of the United States' providing leadership for safe drinking water and sanitation around the globe.

They will point out that, today, women will spend 200 million hours gathering water for their families—200 million hours that will not be spent farming or in economic enterprise, 200 million hours that will not be spent in school, 200 million hours that too often take them away from the village and put them at risk for physical sexual assault. They will be talking to our colleagues on Capitol Hill about some critical legislation that my colleague TED POE and I have introduced, H.R. 2901, the Paul Simon Water for the World Act, which will, in a deficit-neutral fashion, help refine the approach that the United States, the USAID, and the State Department take in providing water assistance around the globe.

I must say, this morning I heard, in an eloquent fashion, Congressman POE lay out the need, the vision, and the solution. I cannot say enough about the bipartisan leadership of my colleague from Texas. He points out that, as a Democrat from the Northwest, I don't have all that much in common with my Republican friend from Texas, but this is an area in which we are united. The United States must do all it can to prevent unnecessary disease and death from contaminated water, but it goes beyond issues of disease and sanitation.

Look at what has happened in Syria. Between 2006 and 2011, nearly 60 percent of Syria's landmass was ravaged by a severe drought. The water table was already too low because of irresponsible farming practices. It wiped out the livelihoods of almost a million Syrian farmers, and it created a massive population of drought refugees that flooded into the cities and added to the instability of that tragic country.

It did not cause the civil war, but the failure of the government to respond to the drought played a huge role in fueling the uprising, made possible by that sad, tragic consequence of events. Now the fourth largest city in Jordan is a refugee camp where men and women and children are fighting for survival and water as they cross the border to escape the violence. And this is a growing problem. The global population has now passed 7 billion people, and much of that growth has taken place in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, two regions of the world in greatest need when it comes to water and sanitation.

Mr. Speaker, we have within our capacity the ability to make a difference, and I am pleased to have worked with volunteers from coast to coast—from churches and rotary clubs and students—who are making a difference in their own communities. It is important for Congress to pass the Water for the World Act and to support the terrific

work of Congresswomen GRANGER and LOWEY, on the Appropriations Committee, that has protected and has actually enhanced a little bit this important money that the United States provides—a small amount in the overall scheme of things but one that has a tremendous impact on lives around the world.

I urge my colleagues to take the time to listen to these dedicated volunteers. They have a message we should take to heart and act upon.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Bless the Members of this assembly with the wisdom they need to conduct the Nation's business with an eye toward the benefit of all, especially those most in need.

Bless as well the citizens of Ukraine, whose Prime Minister visits the Congress today. May our Nation be a good friend to that nation during these turbulent times, and may peace prevail in that part of the world.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JAMES HENRY CULLEN

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Captain James Henry Cullen. Captain Cullen was born in my hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, on January 9, 1923, and died in Springfield, Virginia, on September 9 last year. He grew up in Price Hill, attended Elder High School, and was a graduate of Xavier University.

Captain Cullen led a distinguished life and an honorable one as a devoted husband and father and as an accomplished naval officer.

As executive officer of the USS *Gaudalcanal*, he oversaw the recovery of the *Apollo 9* space capsule in the Atlantic Ocean. He also served as director of operations, Pearl Harbor, and chief of staff Third Fleet, with responsibility for antisubmarine warfare in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and was awarded the Gold Star.

Captain Cullen epitomized the term "America's Greatest Generation." Our country has benefited greatly from his service, and as Americans, we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery for Captain Cullen will take place on March 24.

Well done, Captain Cullen, and may you rest in peace.

#### FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL

(Mr. BERA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to speak about a case the Supreme Court is going to hear in a week, the Hobby Lobby case.

As a doctor, I took an oath to provide my patients with the best medical advice possible and empower them to make the decisions that impact their lives and to put them in charge. Women should be free to make the health care decisions that work best for them and respect their own faith and personal circumstances.

Allowing bosses to pick and choose the health care their employees receive sets a very dangerous precedent that could have far-reaching consequences. That is why the Hobby Lobby case that will be argued before the Supreme Court later this month is so important.