

10 years at the Meadows school teaching AP Physics and coaching the girls basketball team.

John Milburn is a wonderful teacher, athlete, and citizen. I am honored to join his wife Christine, his students at Meadows and Boulder City High School, and all Nevadans in congratulating him on his exceptional career.

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES  
ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, we will somberly celebrate the lives of a new generation of fallen heroes and honor American soldiers who paid the ultimate price in battle. We can only offer our gratitude as a small measure of comfort to the families of the young American men and women who will not be returning home from Afghanistan or Iraq.

Like those Americans before them, these brave men and women heeded our Nation's call to duty and followed their Commander-in-Chief's orders to go to battle, willingly and dutifully. They sacrificed their lives in wars and conflicts that their comrades are still fighting today.

As we pay tribute to the lost soldiers, we hope for the safe return of the men and women still on the battlefield, overseas and in hostile territory. To serve their country, they left behind families and loved ones, jobs and communities. But like millions of American soldiers through the years, they will be back on U.S. soil soon enough.

It is our duty to live up to the promises that we made to each and every one of those soldiers and to every veteran who served his or her nation. Unfortunately, the painful truth is veterans' critical needs are being ignored each day. It is shameful that 200,000 veterans must wait 6 months or more for their first appointment at a VA medical facility. It is disgraceful that the current Republican budget calls for cutting veterans' health care by \$6.2 billion over the next ten years. It is unpatriotic to burden our retired soldiers and their families with extra costs for prescription drugs and doctor visits.

Is this what our soldiers have to look forward to? A litany of broken promises? Congress and the President must keep their promises to the nation's veterans and make adequate investments in veterans' health care. Because of President Bush's budget priorities and tax breaks for millionaires, veterans will continue to suffer the consequences. Democrats have offered a plan to roll back health care cost increases imposed by the Bush Administration and the Republican Congress, expand health care access for veterans and educational opportunities for reservists, and provide cash bonuses to soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, families of those killed on active duty would receive higher benefits under the Democratic proposal.

Our brave men and women have met all kinds of threats and have defeated unspeakable dangers, but they must not be forced to fight for what is rightfully theirs here at home. Our veterans may be gone from the military, but they must not be forgotten.

RURAL AFRICA AND THE KYOTO  
PROTOCOL

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, as someone who has visited rural Africa, I was fascinated by the testimony of Dr. John Christy at a recent hearing I chaired on the Kyoto Protocol. Dr. Christy, who is the Alabama State Climatologist, worked as a missionary to Kenya in the 1970's. He observed the great hardships faced by rural men and women living in villages without electricity.

Dr. Christy noted that, "With only three to five acres on the family shamba, every square inch was utilized for food production and living space, so the search for fuel was a daily chore for the women and young girls. I would see them daily set out to the edge of the nearest forest, usually several miles away, to cut down wet, green trees, chop the branches into suitable lengths, tie them into 80 pound bundles and load them on their backs for the trek home. Many of these women were either pregnant or carrying babies in blankets tied in front of them."

He further observed, "The typical home was a mud-walled, thatched-roof structure. Smoke from the cooking fire fueled by undried wood was especially irritating to breathe as one entered the home. The fine particles and toxic emissions from these in-house, open fires assured serious lung and eye diseases for a lifetime."

Dr. Christy concludes by stating, "Providing energy from sources other than biomass (wood and dung), such as coal-produced electricity, would bring longer and better lives to the people of the developing world and greater opportunity for the preservation of their natural ecosystems. Let me assure you, notwithstanding the views of extreme environmentalists, that Africans do indeed want a higher standard of living. They want to live longer and healthier with less burden bearing and with more opportunities to advance. New sources of affordable, accessible energy would set them down the road of achieving such aspirations."

The Kyoto Protocol and other efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions have potential to substantially increase human pain and suffering in undeveloped countries while doing very little to stop the destruction of forests. I encourage climate policy makers from wealthy counties to carefully read the following letter from Dr. Christy and avoid the unintended consequences that cause pain and suffering to rural people in developing countries.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
IN HUNTSVILLE,  
Huntsville, AL, May 22, 2003.

Hon. RICHARD POMBO,  
Chairman, House Committee on Resources,  
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN POMBO: It was a pleasure participating in your 13 May 2003 hearing regarding the Kyoto Protocol. As you requested, I am happy to provide this letter to clarify and expand on your question during the hearing about how my experiences working and living in Africa affect my insights into the issue of global warming.

After graduating from college in 1973 I applied for service as a missionary to Kenya. I

was appointed to a position as "Science Master" at the Baptist High School in Nyeri, meaning I taught the physics and chemistry courses to African students from mostly rural areas. Baptist High was a boarding school, so many of our students came from homes several miles away. On weekends I would travel to the surrounding small villages to meet the students' families and speak in their churches. Nyeri was a small, upcountry town about 90 miles north of Nairobi. Most of the people in this area lived on small "shambas", 3 to 5 acre farms on which maize and other foods were grown. At 6000+ feet elevation, some days and most nights were quite cool, requiring energy for warmth as well as cooking and light. There was no electricity in these rural homes.

With only 3 to 5 acres on the family shamba, every square inch was utilized for food production and living space, so the search for fuel was a daily chore for the women and young girls. I would see them daily set out to the edge of the nearest forest, usually several miles away, to cut down wet, green trees, chop the branches into suitable lengths, tie them into 80 pound bundles and load them on their backs for the trek home. Many of these women were either pregnant or carrying small babies in blankets tied in front of them. They would bend forward almost 90 degrees so as to balance the wood and maintain forward momentum without falling. Older women developed a characteristic sway-back from years of burden bearing as they hauled not only wood, but food to and from the markets and water from a creek to the home.

The typical home was a mud-walled, thatched-roof structure. Smoke from the cooking fire fueled by undried wood was especially irritating to breathe as one entered the home. The fine particles and toxic emissions from these in-house, open fires assured serious lung and eye diseases for a lifetime. And, keeping such fires fueled and burning required a major amount of time, preventing the people from engaging in other less environmentally damaging pursuits.

When the Arab Oil Embargo hit in October 1973, the price of fuel rose dramatically. Oil's scarcity caused petrol (gasoline) stations to close on weekends. What little advanced infrastructure already in place that depended on oil was rendered intermittent or ineffective. For example, taxi prices increased so that the typical African could not afford the desperately needed trip to the town hospital; rumors spread that driving with the headlights on wasted fuel, so night automobile accidents soared; electric power to the few essential institutions which needed it often failed. To people already living on the edge of existence, any perturbation in energy costs was enough to cause significant distress. The poorest people suffered the most with the rising energy costs as what little dependency they had was now out of reach.

I've always believed that establishing a series of coal-fired power plants in countries such as Kenya (with simple electrification to the villages) would be the best advancement for the African people and the African environment. An electric light bulb, a microwave oven and a small heater in each home would make a dramatic difference in the overall standard of living. No longer would a major portion of time be spent on gathering inefficient and toxic fuel. The serious health problems of hauling heavy loads and lung poisoning would be much reduced. Women would be freed to engage in activities of greater productivity and advancement. Light on demand would allow for more learning to take place and other activities to be completed. Electricity would also foster a more efficient transfer of important information from radio or television. And finally, the