

discredited in scientific circles. Projections of future carbon emissions—which drive temperature model conclusions—have been proven to be based on political decisions that, by the end of the century, countries like Bangladesh will be as wealthy, or wealthier, than the United States.

A world renowned scientist has just resigned from the IPCC because it is too politicized, saying that the IPCC plans to make claims that contradict scientific understanding. Increasingly, it appears that the scientific case for catastrophic global warming is a house of cards that will soon come tumbling down.

Despite this, there are still some who choose to ignore science.

After I spoke about this last week, Duke Energy CEO Paul Anderson advocated a tax on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. In doing so, the company has seemingly bought into the spurious notion that the science is settled. But perhaps it is not. Unfortunately, to some global warming advocates, the science is irrelevant.

As Myron Ebell of the competitive Enterprise Institute says:

Duke Energy has now admitted that the costs will be significant. But the fact is it will only be expensive for their competitors. Nuclear plants don't emit carbon dioxide and Duke is already one-third nuclear generation. Moreover, the company has announced plans to build even more nuclear plants, giving it an even bigger competitive edge.

This is a lot of scientific stuff. I have said several times since I became chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee that the first thing we did was study this because it was assumed that global warming is taking place and anthropogenic gases are causing it, methane and CO₂, only to find out that is not the case. Virtually all the science since 1999 has refuted these assertions. I think we have an obligation to recognize these far-left environmentalist extremist groups are huge contributors to campaigns and they have a lot of political power, but in the long run we have to be more concerned about America than we are about political campaigns.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on September 30, 2004, I had the pleasure to announce that Senator GORDON SMITH was the latest recipient of the Senate's Golden Gavel Award, marking his 100th hour of presiding over the Senate.

The Golden Gavel Award has long served as a symbol of appreciation for the time that Senators contribute to presiding over the Senate—a privileged and important duty. Since the 1960s, Senators who preside for 100 hours have been recognized with this coveted award.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend our sincere appreciation to Senator SMITH for presiding during the 108th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG FERTIG

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated member of the Senate family, Doug Fertig, Human Resources Director of the Senate Sergeant at Arms office, who passed away on April 2, 2005, at the age of 54.

Doug Fertig came to the Sergeant at Arms in 1996 facing a formidable challenge to standardize processes, establish pay bands and job classifications and a leave accountability system to comply with the Congressional Accountability Act. Doug Fertig's dedication, knowledge and compassion to the Senate Sergeant at Arms organization turned the Human Resources Department into the professional organization it is today.

Doug Fertig was born in Columbus, OH, received his B.A. from Oberlin College in 1972, and held Masters Degrees from Stanford University and Ohio State University. Doug Fertig was a dedicated family man who was very proud of his wife Susan, daughter Emily, and son Andrew. He was passionate about education and any sport involving Ohio State University.

During his tenure with the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Doug Fertig was faced with many challenges, including anthrax in October 2001 and ricin in February 2004.

Because of Doug's experience and calm demeanor, the challenges of relocating the Human Resources operation and continuing to serve the Senate community were met with calm leadership and competent direction and stability.

Today we honor Doug for his dedication to the Senate, his love for his family, his compassion for the staff in the Human Resources department and the Senate Sergeant at Arms organization. His passing leaves the Senate community with a profound sense of loss. I hope it is of comfort to his family that so many people share their loss at this sad time.

TRIBUTE TO TOM STONEBURNER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the life and work of Tom

Stoneburner, a Nevada labor leader who passed away on February 21, 2005.

A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Tom served as a deputy sheriff in Mono County, CA, before moving to Nevada in 1969. During his 36 years in Nevada, he became one of the most effective labor leaders in the State, fighting tirelessly on behalf of the working people of Nevada. As a casino security guard, he successfully organized union elections for guards at two Reno hotel casinos and later went on to serve as president of the United Plant Guard Workers.

Tom was dedicated to helping all of Nevada's workers. That is why in 1997 he formed the Alliance for Workers Rights, an organization expressly committed to advocating on behalf of workers in Nevada who had no union representation. Through his leadership of this organization, Tom successfully lobbied for strengthened State safety protections after several workers died in industrial accidents in 1998 and 2001.

His passion and determination in protecting the rights of Nevada's workers belied the soft-spoken and mild-mannered nature that many close to him have recalled since his passing. Tom's example has undoubtedly inspired many others who will carry on his work, including his wife Kathy who will continue his important work at the Alliance for Worker's Rights.

Mr. President, please join me in recognizing Tom Stoneburner's contributions to Nevada workers and in sending condolences to Tom's family for their loss.

THE DEATH OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, with the passing of Pope John Paul II, I take this opportunity to pay homage to one of the great spiritual leaders of our time. He was a truly gifted religious leader who touched people all over the world: young and old, rich and poor, the powerful and the underprivileged, Catholics and non-Catholics.

Pope John Paul II defied political labels and was constant in his beliefs. For him, defending life included opposing capital punishment and recourse to war as well as opposing abortion. Defending families meant a commitment to faith and moral uprightness, but it also meant standing up for just wages and a social safety net. These beliefs and convictions made him a respected leader all over the world.

One of John Paul's strengths was reaching out to young adults. World Youth Day was established by the Pope on Palm Sunday, 1984. He invited the Youth of Rome to celebrate the Holy Year of Redemption with him at Saint Peter's Square. It was a great success. Building upon this success and its popularity, the Pope held this worldwide event every 3 years.

Over the last 20 years, millions of young people from hundreds of countries have participated in World Youth

Day. One young woman who attended said that young people loved the Pope because the Pope loved them: "People think that teenagers and young people are just out there and reckless, but he didn't see it that way. He said, 'You are the future and I love you for that.'"

The world is now mourning the death of Pope John Paul II. In parishes from the Americas to Europe to Africa to Asia, millions are paying tribute to a leader whose central message was love, respect, faith and responsibility to our fellow man. That example is his legacy, and regardless of our individual faiths, it is an example for all of us of how to live and relate to our neighbors. May God grant Pope John Paul II eternal rest and peace, and we thank him for a life lived in the service of people everywhere.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUCCESSFUL SALK POLIO VACCINE TRIALS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate an historic event that changed the world. Fifty years ago today, Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., director of the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center and founding chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, announced that the Salk polio vaccine was "safe, effective, and potent."

That announcement marked the culmination of the most comprehensive field trials ever conducted, unprecedented in scope and magnitude. In the early 1950s, Dr. Jonas Salk, a postdoctoral student of Dr. Francis at the University of Michigan, developed a promising vaccine against poliomyelitis in his laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Salk returned to the University of Michigan to work with his longtime mentor, Dr. Francis, who led the year-long field trials demonstrating that "the vaccine works." More than 300,000 individuals participated in the work of the trials, including 20,000 physicians and public health officers, 40,000 registered nurses, 14,000 school principals, and 200,000 volunteers. More than 100 statisticians and epidemiologists tabulated data from the approximately 1.8 million children across the United States, Canada, and Finland who were involved in the trial. These brave children, who stepped forward to receive a shot not knowing if it would be the real vaccine or a placebo or whether it would be safe or harmful, are now affectionately known as polio pioneers.

While we rarely consider the possibility of contracting polio today, let me remind you that for generations polio was one of the most feared childhood diseases. Poliomyelitis, a neuromuscular disease also known as infantile paralysis, is caused by the polio virus. The virus invades nerve cells in the spinal cord, resulting in weakness or paralysis of the limbs and muscles.

Prior to the successful work of Drs. Salk and Thomas, no one knew how to prevent polio, and there was no cure for the disease. Hot weather in late summer was "polio season," bringing on a rash of new cases of paralytic polio each year. In 1916, a devastating epidemic struck New York, killing 9,000 people and leaving 27,000 disabled. For the next 40 years, not a summer passed without an epidemic occurring somewhere in the U.S. In the 1940s and 1950s, the number of cases reported in the U.S. ranged from 40,000 to 60,000 each year. The warmer months of the year were termed "nightmare summers of quarantine and contagion." President Roosevelt, who suffered personally from the effects of polio, founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, now called the March of Dimes, and called upon millions of private citizens to donate dimes to fund the foundation's work to fight polio. Today, polio has been nearly eradicated.

Fifty years ago this morning, before more than 500 scientists, physicians, and reporters at Rackham Auditorium in Ann Arbor, Dr. Francis told an anxious world of parents that the Salk vaccine had been proven to be effective in preventing polio. Please join me in honoring the success of Drs. Francis and Salk in combating this devastating disease.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF BASKETBALL WITHOUT BORDERS

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I commend the efforts of Basketball without Borders, an initiative that promotes friendship, understanding, and healthy living for young people around the world.

Today, the National Basketball Association, NBA, and the International Basketball Federation, FIBA, announced that Basketball without Borders will hold four instructional camps in the coming year. For the first time, Basketball without Borders will be staged on four continents: North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. It will feature professional basketball players from diverse backgrounds, including China's Yao Ming, Argentina's Manu Ginobili, Germany's Dirk Nowitzki, and Congo's Dikembe Mutombo.

The Basketball without Borders initiative is more than an opportunity for children to meet their favorite players and learn basketball skills. It is also a chance for them to learn important lessons about the world in which they live.

In addition to basketball instruction, the children who participate in Basketball without Borders will learn about HIV/AIDS prevention, the importance of education, and ways to lead a healthier life. They will also have the opportunity to meet children whose ethnicities, backgrounds, and cultures are different from their own.

I also applaud the NBA and FIBA for the charitable efforts that are part of the Basketball without Borders initiative. As part of this year's program, the NBA will be conducting several auctions on its website, with the proceeds funding community improvement efforts worldwide, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

As public figures, professional athletes can send a strong message by serving as role models both on and off the playing field. It is my hope that the players who are taking part in Basketball without Borders will inspire basketball fans around the world to take a closer look at ways they can extend a hand of friendship to diverse communities around the globe. I salute the athletes who are participating in this worthy venture, as well as all those whose hard work has made this initiative possible.●

TRIBUTE TO RALPH STURGES, CHIEF OF THE MOHEGAN TRIBE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I honor Ralph Sturges, Chief of the Mohegan Tribe. On April 13, Chief Sturges will receive the Citizen of the Year award from the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut.

Chief Sturges is known throughout southeastern Connecticut for his leadership, his community involvement, and his humility. Even as he has risen in the ranks of the Mohegan Tribe, from serving as a member of the Tribal Council in the 1980s to becoming lifetime chief in 1991, he has never lost a sense of who he is or what he stands for.

Born in 1918, Ralph Sturges served in our armed forces during the World War II as a security and intelligence officer. He went on to work for the Philadelphia Legal Aid Society and the Salvation Army, as well as the Legnos Boat Company.

Chief Sturges was renowned for his skills as a craftsman, particularly as a sculptor of traditional Mohegan cultural symbols. Among his many works were a whale sculpture donated to Governor Ella Grasso and the carving of a base for the headstone of the Mohegan chief Samuel Uncas.

When Ralph Sturges was elected lifetime chief of the Mohegan Tribe, as he puts it, he "didn't have a telephone and didn't have an office." He devoted a great deal of time and energy over the coming decade to the cause of securing federal recognition for the Mohegans—a goal that was realized on March 7, 1994.

Today, the Mohegan Tribe stands as a remarkable success story. So much of this success is due to the efforts and dedication of Ralph Sturges, as well as countless others who worked with him over the years.

Chief Sturges is an outstanding citizen, a respected leader, and a devoted member of the Mohegan tribe. He has forged strong bonds between his tribe and the State of Connecticut, as well