

In another study, Timoney analyzed data from government and industry sources that revealed strong evidence of chemical contamination in the Athabasca River. Specifically, the levels of known cancer-causing chemicals were as high as in industrial zones in the United States. Elevated levels of mercury and other heavy metals were also present. A government report from the Regional Aquatics Monitoring Program determined that more than seven percent of river fish showed growth abnormalities, which Timoney says is "high."

AN EXPANDING THREAT

There is every reason to believe this problem will only worsen. According to Environmental Defense Canada, tar sands tailings ponds already have a surface area of 50 square miles, twice the size of Manhattan. These contaminated tailings ponds have already leaked into the nearby waterways, and projections are they will triple in size.

This spells more trouble for wildlife, especially migrating birds. According to Colleen Cassady St. Clair and Robert Ronconi from the University of Alberta's Faculty of Science, "spring migration is a particular problem in northeastern Alberta, when the warm-water waste from oil sands mines are the only open water—the natural bodies are still frozen. When waterfowl land in these ponds, they may ingest oil and their plumage may become oiled with waste bitumen, potentially preventing birds from flying or leading to lost insulation and death from hypothermia."

Even though there has been very little study of the effects of tar sands development on wildlife, the indications are that this development is releasing a potentially devastating onslaught on Canadian and internationally-migrating animals. As ecologist Timoney put it: "The effects of these pollutants on ecosystem and public health deserve immediate and systematic study. Projected tripling of tar sands activities over the next decade may result in unacceptably large and unforeseen impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem function, and public health. The attention of the world's scientific community is urgently needed."

ADMINISTRATION MISSING IN ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is missing in action on American border security. Our ineffective border security plan seems to be one of compassionate disinterest or catch them if you can.

Last week there was not another violent incident at the border near El Paso, Texas. This time a lone Border Patrol agent spotted a group of Mexican nationals crossing the border illegally. The agent was able to apprehend one of the illegals, but four illegals began assaulting the sole law enforcement officer with rocks. His life was in danger, and he defended himself. One of the assailants was killed, however; an assailant with a long criminal history of smuggling.

Our law enforcement agents have the moral and legal right to defend them-

selves, and they have the right to defend the American border.

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The Mexican military showed up at the scene, however. They pointed their rifles at the American law enforcement agents. So what did they do? Did they stand their ground? Did they protect the sovereignty of the United States of America? No. Our Border Patrol agents retreated. They fled. And why? Because the Federal Government doesn't back up the Border Patrol.

The government hangs them out to dry. Just ask Border Patrol agents Ramos and Compean. Washington only gives lip service to securing the border. The government tells our Border Patrol to go down there on the border and kind of pretend to enforce the law. They don't receive the support they need to secure the border. They don't get the necessary manpower or the necessary equipment. They don't receive the necessary moral support from the government. The government doesn't back up their right to protect themselves when their lives are in danger. The Federal Government, Mr. Speaker, is missing in action.

But right on cue, Mexican President Calderon arrogantly demanded an apology from the shooting. But Calderon didn't apologize for the shooting of Robert Krentz, the Arizona rancher who was murdered in America on his own property by a Mexican criminal alien.

Calderon didn't apologize for the execution-style murder of Border Patrol agent Robert Rosas in Campo, California. Calderon didn't apologize when Senior Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar was murdered in America, run down and run over by a Mexican narcoterrorist drug smuggler in a Humvee.

Where's Calderon's outrage over the Americans being killed all the time in America by illegals from Mexico? Where's Calderon's apology for the criminal alien murderer of Houston Police Officer Rodney Johnson? Officer Johnson was a 12-year veteran of the Houston police force. He was married, had five kids, and Officer Johnson was shot four times execution-style by a Mexican illegal with a criminal record when he was stopped for speeding.

Where was Calderon when Houston Police Officer Gary Gryder was killed by an illegal in 2008? Or when Houston Police Officer Henry Canales was murdered by an illegal just last year? Americans are frequently killed in America by Mexican illegals. And why doesn't our government demand an apology about these homicides? Why doesn't our government demand compensation from Mexico for the homicides their illegals commit in the United States?

And where's the State Department? Where's the outrage, the concern when it's an American that loses their life,

cost their lives by the actions of illegals from Mexico? Where's that demand for an apology? And where's the administration? Missing in action, that's where.

Where's your outrage, Mr. President? The President should be on the American side of the border, doing what's best for America. And why don't we protect our own? How hard would it be for the President of the United States just to say, Don't cross the American border without permission? Why doesn't he say that? Doesn't he believe those words?

Mexican criminals think they can come over here and do as they please and nobody's going to really do anything about it. And they're right. Did we send our Attorney General out to demand answers when Border Patrol agent Rosas was shot execution-style last year? Where was the Attorney General? Missing in action.

And American citizens and peace officers are losing their lives because the government is missing in action. Seems like our government is more interested in what Mr. Calderon thinks than the American people. Mr. Calderon should take care of his own lawless country and Mr. Obama should take care of our borders. The administration, this administration, is not the first to be ineffective in border security, but it certainly should be the last.

And that's just the way it is.

THE LONGEST WAR IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the war in Afghanistan is now 104 months old, passing Vietnam, to make it the longest war in United States history. And as it reaches this dubious milestone, it's hard to imagine things going much worse. The much-hyped military campaign in Kandahar is now way behind schedule, with the Secretary of Defense saying it's more important to get it done right than to get it done quickly.

That kind of plea might have worked 80 months ago, Mr. Speaker, but do they not see the irony or the disconnect in preaching patience about a war that is now the longest the Nation has ever fought? Do they not see that the American people, who have given a thousand or more of their best young people and a quarter of a trillion dollars to this war, are long past the point where they are willing to cut some slack and take a wait-and-see approach?

And if that's not bad enough, it turns out the campaign we thought we had just finished in Marja never really took in the first place. What seemed to be a quick and decisive military triumph turned out to be an illusion. The

Taliban hadn't been crushed; they had gone into hiding, laying low for a while, taking part in the opium harvest, and regaining their bearings, so to speak. Now the Taliban is back, with a campaign of violence and intimidation, planting bombs, attacking marines, and terrorizing the population. As one report in *The Washington Post* put it, "They still own the night."

General McChrystal promised to have a ready-made so-called "government in a box" prepared to take over in Marja, but inside that box was a district governor considered hapless by most, who has been outfitted by the marines with a fancily furnished tent, who seems more fond of afternoon naps than in doing the hard work of governing.

And the national government that is supposed to be our partner, the repository of our hopes and confidence, the leader of the regime that is supposed to pick up where U.S. troops leave off in providing stability and security, well, his heart doesn't seem to be in the mission. Just a few weeks after being wined and dined by his American hosts during a state visit, President Karzai is wondering aloud whether the United States and NATO can get the job done.

My concern, Mr. Speaker, is that with each setback and each delay pressure will build to extend the timetable for troop deployment, our troops getting out of Afghanistan. This would be the wrong lesson to learn. What's needed is not more time, but a different policy. Every day that we continue this military campaign will contribute to the chaos in Afghanistan. More time and more troops can only exacerbate the problem. They cannot solve it.

I don't think I can describe the war any better than did *New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert. He said: "It's just a mind-numbing, soul-chilling, body-destroying slog, month after month, and year after pointless year."

Mr. Speaker, it's time to end the slog. It's time to end the longest war in American history. It's past time to bring our troops home.

DISMAY WITH DOD GENERAL COUNSEL REGARDING RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my sincere dismay with the letter from Jeh Johnson, general counsel of the Department of Defense, to Senator CARL LEVIN, declaring the DOD opposition to Senate bill 504, legislation to rename the Department of the Navy as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps. In his letter Mr. Johnson states: "The renaming of the Department is unnecessary and would incur additional expense of sev-

eral hundred thousand dollars a year over the next several years."

In response to my letter, the CBO report actually states that "the bill would have very little effect on most U.S. Naval or Marine Corps installations. The cost of implementing this bill would be less than \$500,000 a year over the next several years from appropriated funds. And enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues." So therefore it would not have an impact, Mr. Speaker.

With that said, I would like to ask Mr. Johnson, Do you think that our men and women of the United States Marine Corps are worth this small monetary amount? Have they not earned the right to be recognized and respected?

Mr. Speaker, it is a joke for DOD to be concerned about such a small monetary amount considering the money that has been and is continuing to be wasted by the Department of Defense. An audit conducted by the Department of Defense IG revealed that the Federal Government failed to substantiate the disbursements of at least \$7.8 billion of \$8.2 billion spent for goods and services in Iraq. I would think Mr. Johnson should be more focused on serious money issues such as these instead of focusing his efforts on opposing the recognition that our marines truly deserve.

Our marines have fought alongside the Navy for many years, and if they are truly viewed as one fighting team, they should receive equal recognition. This bill is not meant to take anything away from the Navy. It does not demand any special concessions for the Marine Corps. It simply adds three words to the name. I am baffled as to why Mr. Johnson felt the need to interject into this matter now, when it has been ongoing for the past 10 years. We have the support of a record 425 Members of the House of Representatives and 80 Members of the Senate. The numbers alone should speak volumes.

And, Mr. Speaker, before I close, I want people to see this young marine who gave his life for this country. The family received posthumously the Silver Star medal that he earned by giving his life for this country. This is an official copy. And it says the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., with the Navy flag. That's all it has at the heading, Mr. Speaker. Nothing about the Marine Corps in the heading, but Navy.

If this bill should become law, what it would say is what you see now, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, Navy flag, Marine flag, present the Silver Star posthumously to this man's family.

Mr. Speaker, with that I would like to close as I always do, because our men and women, as Ms. WOOLSEY said, they are over there fighting, giving their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and

I would ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, please bless their families, and, God, please bless the House and Senate that we will do right in the eyes of God.

And, dear God, I ask three times, please God, continue to bless this country. And, God, please always remember that we care that you look after us so that we will do what's right for your people. God, continue to bless America.

RESPONSE TO LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have a huge problem in our country that we haven't come to terms with, long-term unemployment. The number of Americans who have been jobless for over 6 months has hit the highest level ever recorded. I recently read an article that highlighted one of the long-term unemployed Americans. Her name is Cindy Paoletti. For 23 years she worked in the corporate accounting division of J.P. Morgan Chase in upstate New York. In December 2007, Ms. Paoletti was let go in a wave of layoffs that eventually shuttered the entire Syracuse operations center. Her job went to India.

She started collecting unemployment benefits and severance while searching for a job. In her own words, Cindy says, "I apply for everything out there." Now that she's about to run out of benefits, she has started taking money out of her IRA. She doesn't have health insurance, and she faces the daily fear of losing her home. I hear similar stories from all over the country. Jobless Americans are desperately looking for work, but there just aren't enough jobs to go around yet.

Last week, I conducted a hearing in my subcommittee to discuss long-term unemployment problems. Here are a few of the facts highlighted at the hearing: nearly 50 percent of the unemployed haven't been able to find a job for more than 6 months, the highest number ever recorded, which goes back to 1948. More than 10 million jobs must be created to restore the labor market to its pre-recession level.

This huge jobs hole, created by 8 years of gross economic mismanagement under the Bush administration, has left five unemployed workers competing for every available job. In responding to these record rates of long-term unemployment, our first priority must be to maintain the current emergency Federal unemployment programs that have lapsed 2 weeks ago. People have been waiting for 2 weeks.

The House passed an extension on these programs a long time ago, but the Senate has yet to clear the legislation. If the Senate fails to continue