

this restrictive language. Think about the opportunities available to us to allow the Corps of Engineers to do its job right based on the latest information available to us. This does not speak well of the ability of Congress to prepare for the future. It makes the job of the Army Corps of Engineers much harder, and it makes it less likely that we are going to give people the benefit that they need from the various things that the Corps constructs and plans.

□ 1015

TSGT VIRGIL POE, UNITED STATES ARMY: CHARTER MEMBER OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, born in the 1920s, he grew up in the Depression of the 1930s, poor, like more most rural American children. Fresh vegetables were grown in the family garden behind the small frame house. His mother made sandwiches for school out of homemade bread. Store-bought bread was for the rich.

He grew up belonging to the Boy Scouts, playing the trumpet in the high school band, and he went to church on almost all Sundays. In 1944, this 18-year-old country boy, who had never been more than 50 miles from home, quickly found himself going through basic training at the United States Army at Camp Wolters in Camp Wolters, Texas.

After that, he rode a train with hundreds of other young teenagers—American males—to New York City for the ocean trip on a cramped Liberty ship to fight in the great World War II. While crossing the Atlantic, he witnessed another Liberty ship next to his that was sunk by a German U-boat.

As a soldier in the Seventh Army, he went from France to survive the Battle of the Bulge and through the cities of Aachen, Stuttgart, Cologne, and Bonn. As a teenager, he saw the brutal concentration camps of the Nazis and saw the victims. He saw incredible numbers of other teenage Americans buried in graves throughout Europe. A solemn monument to those soldiers is at Normandy.

After Germany surrendered, he was ordered back to Fort Hood, Texas. He was being reequipped for the invasion of Japan. Then Japan surrendered. It was there he met Mom at a Wednesday night prayer meeting service. My mom was a Red Cross volunteer in WWII.

Until a few years ago, this GI—my dad—would never talk about World War II. He still won't say much, but he does say frequently that the heroes are the ones who are buried today in Europe.

After the war was over, he opened a DX service station, where he pumped gas, sold tires, fixed cars, and began a family. Deciding he wanted to go to

college, he moved to west Texas and enrolled in a small Christian college named Abilene Christian College.

He and his wife and two small children lived in an old, converted Army barracks with other such families. He supported us by working nights at the KRBC radio station and by climbing telephone poles for Ma Bell, which was later called Southwestern Bell.

He finished college, became an engineer, and worked 40-plus years for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Houston, Texas. He turned down a promotion and a transfer to New York City because it was not Texas and he didn't want to raise his family in New York.

Dad instilled in my sister and me the values of being a neighbor to everybody, of loving the USA, of loving our heritage, and of always doing the right thing to all people.

He still gets mad at the media. He flies Old Glory on holidays. He goes to church on Sunday, and he takes Mom out to eat on Friday nights. He stands in the front yard and talks to his neighbors, and he can still fix anything.

He can still mow his own grass even though he is 90 years of age. He has a strong opinion on politics and world events. He gives plenty of advice to everybody, including a lot of advice to me. He has two computers in his home office. He sends emails to hundreds of his buddies all over the world.

Dad and Mom still live in Houston, Texas, where I grew up.

So today, Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day and honor the fallen warriors of all wars, we also honor all who fought in the great World War II and who got to come home. We honor my dad, but also other American warriors.

My dad was one of those individuals of the Greatest Generation. He is the best man I ever met, and he certainly is a charter member of the Greatest Generation. So I hope I turn out like him, Tech Sergeant Virgil Poe, United States Army, good man, good father. That is enough for one life.

And that is just the way it is.

TOP TEN ABUSES OF THE "SELECT INVESTIGATIVE PANEL" REPUBLICANS

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday 181 Democrats wrote to Speaker RYAN to ask the Republican Select Panel to Attack Women's Health—that is what we call it—to be shut down.

From the outset, this investigation has been a political weapon to punish women, doctors, and scientific researchers, not an objective, fair-minded, or fact-based search for the truth.

Here are the top 10 reasons to shut down this partisan panel immediately:

One: The select panel is a waste of taxpayer money.

Republicans are wasting taxpayer dollars in their chasing of inflammatory allegations of anti-abortion extremists.

Three Republican-led House committees, 12 States, and one grand jury have already investigated charges that Planned Parenthood was selling fetal tissue for a profit. None found any evidence of wrongdoing.

Two: The select panel is an attack on women's rights.

Republicans are using the panel as part of their campaign to deny women access to legal reproductive health services, including abortions—the panel comes at a time when Republicans have voted repeatedly to defund Planned Parenthood, which provides health services to over 3 million American women and men each year—to eliminate family planning services, and to restrict access to abortion.

Three: The select panel is harming scientific research.

Republicans are using the panel to intimidate scientists into stopping legal fetal tissue research on treatment for cures for diseases and conditions that afflict millions of Americans, including multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and spinal cord injuries. Some medical research outfits have already been canceled.

Four: The select panel is just partisan politics.

Republicans are conducting an unfair, one-sided, and partisan campaign. They refuse to put indicted video maker David Daleiden under oath, who made those highly edited tapes against Planned Parenthood, while issuing subpoenas and demanding sworn testimony from law-abiding researchers and doctors.

Republicans have suppressed facts that contradict their preferred partisan narratives. For example, they refused to hear directly from tissue procurement companies while they publicly accused them of misconduct based on misleading and inaccurate staff-created exhibits that lacked any sourcing or foundational information.

Five: The select panel is a McCarthy-like witch hunt:

Mirroring the bullying behavior of Senator Joe McCarthy, Republicans are demanding that universities and clinics name names of their researchers, graduate students, lab technicians, clinic personnel, and doctors. When Democrat JERRY NADLER asked Chair BLACKBURN to explain why she needs to amass this database of names, she responded: No, sir. I am not going to do that.

Six: The select panel threatens innocent lives.

Republicans are putting researchers and doctors at risk by publicly naming them as targets of their investigation and creating a database of names.

On May 11, Republicans issued a press release that publicly named a physician who had already been the

target and the subject of violence by anti-abortion extremists. That physician was never contacted to voluntarily provide information before he received a subpoena.

Seven: The select panel is dangerous. Republicans are refusing to protect confidentiality despite known risks and tragedies, such as the murders of three people at the Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood women's health clinic. That murderer echoed the words of our Republican chairman of the select committee.

The killer used words like "no more baby body parts." Even after they promised to protect confidentiality, the committee said: We will not assure that witnesses' names or any of the other names used in the deposition will remain private.

Eight: The select panel is an abuse of power.

Republicans are abusing congressional subpoena power. The overwhelming majority of their unilateral subpoenas—30 of 36—have been sent without any effort to obtain voluntary compliance.

We should provide physicians, medical researchers, and others with an opportunity for them to provide information voluntarily. A subpoena should not be the first contact they have with Congress.

Nine: The select panel excludes Democrats.

Republicans have consistently refused to work with Democratic panel members. They have refused to discuss or to even give Democrats copies of their unilateral subpoenas until after they have been served, which is in violation of the House.

Ten: The select panel bullies witnesses they don't like.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to end this panel right now.

THANK YOU, SENATOR BROWN

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Senator Dave Brown for serving in the Minnesota State Senate.

Senator Brown represents an area located in Minnesota's Sixth District, and I have enjoyed working with him on a variety of issues that are important to our constituents.

Senator Brown has worked on policy solutions in the fields related to commerce, education, and finance. However, his main area of expertise has been in promoting Minnesota energy.

Our district is home to the Sherco coal-fired power plant, which is responsible for hundreds of jobs as well as the abundance of energy it provides. During a time when Sherco's future was unclear and unstable, Senator Brown was a voice of reason that helped many to keep the plant open, allowing many Minnesotans to keep their jobs.

Thank you, Dave, for the work you have done for our community and for

Minnesota. I will miss working with you, but we wish you the best of luck in your next endeavor.

THANK YOU, SENATOR PEDERSON

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Senator John Pederson for his dedicated service to the St. Cloud area residents over the past 6 years.

John Pederson was born and raised in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District and first served on the St. Cloud City Council in 2007. After 4 years on the City Council, John ran and won his seat in the Minnesota State Senate.

Throughout his time in the Minnesota legislature, Senator Pederson has shown his expertise in a variety of areas, but none more than in transportation. Like me, Senator Pederson understands that an intense focus on transportation in Minnesota's Sixth is crucial to relieving congestion, improving safety, increasing mobility, and fostering economic development in our State.

John, thank you for your time in serving the people of our great State.

THANK YOU, SENATOR ORTMAN

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Senator Julianne Ortman for her years of dedicated service in the Minnesota Senate.

Following her time in practicing law and as a county commissioner, Julianne Ortman was first elected to the Minnesota Senate in 2002. Her talent quickly became apparent as she rose to various leadership positions.

Senator Ortman served as an assistant minority leader during the 2007–2008 legislative session. During the 2011–2012 session, she served as deputy majority leader and as chairwoman of the Senate Tax Committee.

Of the many issues Senator Ortman championed, taxes, transportation, judiciary, and public safety were among her highest priorities. During her time as chairwoman of the Senate Tax Committee, the State government had a \$5 billion deficit, which it eventually managed to eliminate without raising taxes on hardworking Minnesotans, evidence of Senator Ortman's strong leadership.

Thank you, Julianne, for your service and for all that you have done for Minnesota. Thank you for your leadership.

THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Senator Alice Johnson for her dedication and service to the people of Minnesota.

Alice Johnson began her career as a public servant in the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1986. She served for 14 years before taking a brief break from the Minnesota legislature.

Alice again ran for office in 2012 and has served in the Minnesota Senate for the past 4 years, where she has served as vice chair for both the Education Finance and Policy Committees. After an incredible 18 years in public service, Senator JOHNSON deserves her well-earned retirement.

Thank you, Alice, for the time you have spent in working tirelessly on behalf of Minnesotans and in working to end the gridlock in politics. It is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU, REPRESENTATIVE SANDERS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my friend, Representative Tim Sanders, for the incredible work that he has done while serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Representative Sanders has served in the legislature for four terms, during which he has held various leadership positions. In the 2014 election, he was nominated to the position of assistant majority leader and has also served as chair of the Government Operations and Elections Committee.

I got to know Tim personally during my own time in the State legislature and have an enormous amount of respect for him. He has been a successful and passionate legislator, proven by the fact that a substantial number of his bills have actually been signed into law.

Thank you, Tim, for your service to our community and to our State. I know that you will continue to accomplish great things. I wish you nothing but happiness as you spend more time with Farrah and the kids.

□ 1030

TAMMY LAMBERT'S STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, West Virginians are struggling right now. Our State's unemployment rate is one of the highest in the Nation. Our coal mines are closing, and so are our schools and mom-and-pop businesses throughout our State.

There is a lot of uncertainty. Families are wondering how they will make ends meet without our coal jobs.

Tammy Lambert is from Raleigh County, and her family is one of those who are worried about her family's future. Her son-in-law is considering moving out of the State just to find work; her daughter doesn't know if she will have the money to finish college; and her husband's mine has gone through periods of being idled. She is a West Virginia coal voice. Here is what she said:

"My daughter has worked hard to get this far and was just beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Now, she may not be able to ever get that degree.

"It is a shame when young people who try can't get ahead. It is even sadder when a man who has worked as a coal miner for 36 years can't feel secure in his job."

What our families need is not just hope; they need jobs that give them a good paycheck.

We can make that happen in several ways. We can diversify our State's