

village and hauling game back down the mountains that he had shot. It is a good way to train in Alaska. That honor went to Sido Evans from Fairbanks, Riley's best friend. He called him a "mountain of a Koyukon man."

Riley has his sights on gold for next year's World Eskimo-Indian Olympics. It seems like when he wants something badly enough, he gets it, particularly now, since he has found his calling.

What is his calling, you ask? His calling is to be a role model for his people, especially the young people.

Stanley has overcome incredible odds to get to where he is now. That is the inspiration part I was talking about. He had some rough times as a youngster, and he has overcome them and is now an example for so many Alaskans in his community and beyond.

As is the case for too many children across my State and across the country, Stanley grew up in a single-parent household without a father around. That took its toll. When he was 12, he left Anaktuvuk Pass and got bounced around in the foster care system. He had almost 20 foster care parents, he said, until he emancipated at 16 years old.

Then, he started to succeed. He was able to get his GED, and he had enough internal drive that along the way he had some good-paying jobs, but then again he had setbacks, as happens in the life of our young people, whether in Alaska or across the country, when drugs and alcohol get in the way.

Finally, about 4 years ago, he looked in the mirror and didn't like the person staring back at him. He was unhealthy, unfit, and had gained all kinds of weight—over 400 pounds. He lacked a purpose. He packed up and moved back to Anaktuvuk Pass, intent, he said, on changing his life for the better and on becoming a positive role model for his community, especially the youth in his community. He started to do this. Slowly his mind cleared, his soul brightened, and he began to get in shape.

Now he spends his summers climbing the mountains around his village and hunting. He guesses he has climbed up about 1,000 miles this summer. The man is in shape. He has lost all kinds of weight, and he works as a tour guide and is an inspiration to so many members of his community, including his nephew Jacob, who is a talented basketball player and the light of Stanley's life. He said:

When you're with your community, it's easier to keep yourself together. You don't want to let those people [who you live with and are part of your community] down.

That is a great sentiment. Stanley is now a full-time student, and he is studying to be an Inupiak language and culture teacher. He wants the next generation to know where they came from and how strong they are and have pride in their culture and their heritage. He said:

I want them to know that even though you have had a hard upbringing, you can do anything [you set your mind to].

He is also an amazing chef, mixing the old and new in Alaska. For instance, one of his signature dishes is fettuccini Alfredo with muktuk—whale blubber. People should try that. I am sure it is really good. I look forward to it.

His next goal is to compete in the Arctic Winter Games, something he has been training for every day. In Alaska, we certainly are rooting for him.

Stanley, thank you for being an inspiration, especially among the young people, showing them that when you have hard times, you can get up, brush yourself off, set high goals and standards, and then achieve them. Thank you for being our Alaskan of the week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Wyoming.

#### AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, as the Presiding Officer knows, President Trump has called on Congress to take up major infrastructure legislation. Passing an infrastructure bill would create jobs, grow our economy, and help keep families safe. Water infrastructure is a key part of the President's call.

Drinking water systems, dams, levees, ports, reservoirs, and waste water systems matter to just about every community in the country. Infrastructure is an essential part of everyday life. Infrastructure brings water into our homes and protects us from flooding caused by catastrophic storms, like the one we had this past week on the east coast.

Many of these aging water systems are in need of significant attention. Several need to be repaired or fully replaced, while other, long-awaited projects need to get started. The time to upgrade our water infrastructure is now.

Last week, committee leaders from the Senate and the House of Representatives reached a deal of historic proportion on comprehensive water infrastructure legislation—now passed in the House and awaiting passage in the Senate. The name of the consensus bill is "America's Water Infrastructure Act." As the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I worked closely with Ranking Member CARPER, Infrastructure Subcommittee Chairman INHOFE, and Subcommittee Ranking Member CARDIN to reach this deal with the House. This is by far the most significant water infrastructure bill of this Congress and the most significant water infrastructure bill in decades. It is bipartisan, and it helps all 50 States.

The legislation does three big things: It grows the economy, it cuts Washington redtape, and it keeps communities safe. America's Water Infrastructure Act spurs economic growth by creating jobs and authorizing vital

projects. This bill authorizes projects that deepen nationally significant ports, maintain inland shipping lanes, upgrade aging dams, and increase water storage in the arid West. These projects ensure that American-made goods can be shipped from the heartland to the coast and around the world.

Access to a consistent water supply is key for America's ranchers and farmers. They expect that their water will be delivered when they need it. Ranchers and farmers will directly benefit from this legislation, as crumbling irrigation systems will receive badly needed maintenance.

In my home State of Wyoming and across the West, water storage is a serious issue. This consensus bill will increase storage capacity and expand water reservoirs, such as the Fontenelle Reservoir in Wyoming.

The legislation cuts redtape by making it easier to get projects through the Army Corps of Engineers' process. It will give State and local leaders an increased role in prioritizing which Army Corps projects are built. When a local partner takes over an Army Corps of Engineers flood control project, that non-Federal partner will no longer need to worry about obtaining new permits. The bill mandates that the Army Corps transfer its authority to the local partner so new permits—and the time required to get them—will no longer be necessary.

We have also included important language to help smaller rural communities leverage Federal dollars so they can complete needed infrastructure projects. Leveraging Federal resources is an important component of President Trump's infrastructure plan. Federal programs, such as the Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act, can give taxpayers the most bang for the buck. In the past, smaller rural communities have had trouble accessing these dollars. The language in our consensus bill will give these rural areas the chance to compete for these funds and be able to participate in this very successful program. Cutting redtape and increasing access to leveraging programs will help us get projects done faster, better, cheaper, and smarter.

Finally, the bipartisan agreement will help keep communities safe. The critical infrastructure projects included in this package will help prevent damaging flood waters by maintaining dams, levees, and beach fronts. It will also create a permanent program to prevent floods caused by ice jams like we saw in Worland, WY.

The legislation allows the Army Corps of Engineers to more effectively assist communities recovering from devastating storms and surging rivers.

This bill isn't just about flood prevention. It is the most significant drinking water legislation in decades. This bill invests in repairing aging drinking water systems. For the first time since 1996, Congress will authorize the Drinking Water State Revolving

Funds. These funds give States certainty that they can meet their drinking water needs.

The bill is also fiscally responsible. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said America's Water Infrastructure Act will authorize these important projects and reduce the deficit at the same time. America's Water Infrastructure Act has received broad bipartisan support from Democrats, Republicans, local governments, and stakeholders. It originally passed out of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee unanimously, by a vote of 21 to 0. After reaching this consensus agreement, the House of Representatives passed the updated bill unanimously by voice vote. Simply put, America's Water Infrastructure Act is good for the entire Nation.

President Trump called on Congress to pass major infrastructure legislation. America's Water Infrastructure Act answers that call. By reaching this bipartisan agreement, my home State of Wyoming and the Nation will see upgrades, reforms, and new initiatives that deliver on the President's commitment to rebuild our aging water system. Now is the time for the Senate to take up this important bill and send it to the President for his signature.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today disappointed and frustrated.

Once again, we passed an ill-advised continuing resolution to fund much of our government. Once again, folks, we have passed the buck. Once again, we have failed to do our job.

One of Congress's most essential roles is to fund a responsible government that runs efficiently and effectively. We have a duty to taxpayers to not just simply give a thumbs-up on spending their money but to debate and consider whether programs are working to serve their needs. Unfortunately, we have been negligent in this solemn duty. Like myself, Americans are tired of this shortsighted habit of kicking the can down the road.

How did we get to this point, you might be asking yourself. After all, we worked across the aisle in an open and collaborative way and found a path forward to fund our national defense and the vital Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. We recently passed a similar bill related to Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs.

As we have seen, a continuing resolution was attached to this legislation for the rest of the government, including our vital Department of Homeland Security. Worse, this continuing resolution doesn't fund the government fully until the end of the fiscal year. No, it simply punts the ball to Decem-

ber 7. That is it. We will be back here before Christmas, and if experience is any sort of guide, multiple times after that before we can get the government fully funded.

I ultimately chose to vote yes on this continuing resolution because of what it means for our national security and our servicemembers who risk their lives every day for our security. Also, the continuing resolution included the Violence Against Women Act, a bill I could not allow to lapse given that this bill provides services for our most vulnerable. VAWA addresses the scourge of domestic violence that is so prevalent in our communities—crimes that often hurt women and children the most, often requiring them to be displaced from the only homes they know.

I believe we can strengthen this act in several ways by addressing changing circumstances since its last reauthorization 5 years ago by tailoring its language to better fit the needs of our communities. There are provisions we need to change and to work on, but we are not afforded that opportunity.

Tying our Nation's security and the Violence Against Women Act to the CR made it both the carrot and the stick. We are leaving services and programs that the American people rely upon open to partisan delay and political gerrymandering.

The people of Iowa elected me to come to Washington to be their voice and to instill much needed fiscal responsibility. Rather than pushing, procrastinating, and postponing for another 3 months, we should buckle down and build upon the great progress we have made this year by getting the remaining appropriations bills across the finish line.

We should debate the Violence Against Women Act in regular order so we can strengthen it and provide protections for those who need it the most. There are items I support in this continuing resolution, but we need to do our job. We need to fund the government. If we don't take action now, we will be back here month after month, year after year, doing the exact same thing.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to bring attention to suicide prevention, an issue of tremendous importance to families and communities across Indiana and our country.

The Senate will be introducing a resolution very soon recognizing suicide

as a serious public health problem and expressing support for designation of September as National Suicide Prevention Month.

Every year, we lose nearly 45,000 Americans to suicide. It is the 10th leading cause of death in this country and second leading cause for those ages 15 to 34. Think about that for a moment: 45,000 lives every year, 123 lives every day, 1 life every 12 minutes.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention champions the message: "Be The Voice . . . Stop Suicide."

Whether we are Senators or family or friends or coworkers or even strangers, we can all play a role in helping to prevent suicide. We all must "be the voice."

So what is our voice?

Formally recognizing Suicide Prevention Month is a start, and I am proud to have cosponsored that resolution. Yet it can't just be about a day or a week or a month on which we pause to reflect. This is a heartbreaking challenge for our communities, and we must be working year-round and across the aisle—there are no Democrats or Republicans in this—to find the solutions that provide Americans with the help they need to get through their most trying times.

Over the past several years, Congress has found a number of bipartisan solutions to help address this tragic problem, but our work is far from done. There are still 45,000 Americans every year and their families and their friends who need our help. They need our action.

As I started my time in the Senate, I made it a focus to find bipartisan approaches to suicide prevention. In Indiana, suicide claims over 1,000 lives every year. That is one Hoosier lost every 8 hours. In 2013, my fellow Hoosier Jeff Sexton reached out to me to share the tragic story of his son Jake. Specialist Jacob Sexton, an Indiana National Guardsman, tragically took his own life in 2009 while on leave from a deployment to Afghanistan.

His story is far too familiar for Active, Guard, and Reserve servicemembers and for veterans as well. Despite representing less than 10 percent of the population, these Americans comprise almost 20 percent of the suicides. Their communities lose over 7,000 members every year as they struggle with the stresses of the military service that we as a nation and as a Congress ask of them.

So the question is, What can we do to help them and to prevent these tragedies?

Hoping to answer that question, the first bill I introduced in the Senate focused on suicide prevention in the military and in our veteran communities. Introduced in 2013 and signed into law in the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, my Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act addressed a critical gap in mental healthcare for our troops. All too often, many of our