

family cannot go indefinitely without pay, nor should they have to.

And he is absolutely right.

Kate of Chester, Connecticut:

I am a U.S. Department of Agriculture employee. I have been an employee of the USDA for 15 years at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

That is off the coast of Long Island Sound, where they do amazing research in terms of animal health and public health.

If there is not a resolution and end to this shutdown soon, my financial situation will force me to choose which bills to pay.

Robert of Stafford Springs, Connecticut, who actually works for a regional craft brewery:

I depend on the ATF, the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, to approve license applications, formulas and labels for beers—delicious beers, by the way—that we brew and sell. Every day that this passes without a shutdown ending is another potential day of lost sales.

Ethan of Niantic, Connecticut, who works at the Coast Guard Academy, where they are building the leaders of tomorrow for this country. He has been part of the faculty for the last 11 years.

Personally, without earning a paycheck, we will find paying for groceries, mortgage, utilities, childcare, and other essentials, nearly impossible. As the government shutdown lingers on, I become increasingly concerned how it will impact my family.

Brian Krampovitas, I met with him this morning in my office. He is one of the air traffic controllers at Bradley Field in Hartford, Connecticut. They have 40 employees who are working without pay, 10-hour shifts, making sure that the planes take off and land safely. And again, the stress level, because they have no support staff, is growing more and more intense for people who are doing incredibly important work, guaranteeing the safety of this country.

Again, just as a way of a recap, last week the new Congress was sworn in. Within 2 hours, we passed H.R. 21, which fully funded the American Government, which would have ended this shutdown last week, again, not with a wild spending bill but one that had already passed in the U.S. Senate with Republican votes.

All MITCH MCCONNELL has to do is bring up that bill, which they have already passed, send it to the President, and with the stroke of a pen, this would end today; and these people who, again, are doing the important work of the American people would not have to be going through the stress and aggravation while they are doing great work to protect our public safety, to represent our country overseas, and to make sure that we have leaders of the future through institutions like the Coast Guard Academy.

Again, we are going to hear a speech tonight. This thing apparently is going to continue to go on. It is unnecessary, it is pointless, and it is hurting the American economy and the American people.

Mr. President, sign H.R. 21.

We can have a debate about border security. There are some things that both sides will agree on in terms of making sure that we get more immigration judges to eliminate the asylum case backlog, to boost enforcement of port of entry where fentanyl and dangerous drugs are coming through; and we can have a serious debate about whether or not it is sensors and drones, boots on the ground to make sure that those areas that are more remote get more protection, but lengthening this shutdown and hurting people who have absolutely nothing to do with the southern border is pointless and hurting people and hurting the U.S. economy.

HONORING OFFICER JOSEPH SHINNERS

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of one of Utah's finest. Master Officer Joseph Shinners of the Provo Police Department was, tragically, killed on Saturday night in the line of duty.

At the time, he was responding to assist in the arrest of a dangerous fugitive with a history of violence towards citizens and police officers when he was struck by gunfire and died as a result of his injuries.

Joe leaves behind his loving wife, Kaylyn, and 1-year-old son, Logan.

Mr. Speaker, my heart aches every time an officer is killed in the line of duty, but this one is personal. When Joe made his decision to work for Provo PD, I was his mayor. In a very real way, I feel responsible for his training, his work at Provo City, and his safety. I am deeply saddened by this terrible news.

I stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I speak for the entire Provo community when I say that Joe is a true hero. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect us, and we owe him and his family our deepest gratitude.

The chief of the Provo Police Department, Richard Ferguson, described him as intelligent, honorable, hardworking, and one of his all-stars. Chief Ferguson described him as the officer you would like to show up at your door in your crucible moment.

He was born in Boston and graduated high school in Springfield. He grew up in a home that valued and respected public service, with his siblings serving as policemen and his father, a retired fire captain.

During his 3 years of service at the Provo Police Department, he worked mostly in Provo's thriving downtown and on the SWAT team. He also served on the bicycle patrol and as a field training officer.

Most importantly, he was a good man, husband, and father. One of his fellow officers remembered that there

was a time that he arrested someone and gave them a hug just as he was arrested to offer them comfort. That was the type of cop he was.

My wife, Sue, and I offer our deepest sympathy to Provo PD, the family and friends of Joe, and hope that they know we will never forget their sacrifice—especially to Kaylyn and Logan.

Our brave policemen and -women face serious potential danger every time they say good-bye to their families and leave their homes to go on patrol, and they know that it is possibly the last time they see them and it could be their final good-bye.

I take this moment to express my sincere appreciation to all of our Nation's first responders and police officers, but today, especially, to those of Provo City. We love you, respect you, and thank you.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY

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

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and the need for Federal election reform.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2016 and 2018 election cycles, we witnessed overt discrimination, disinformation, and intimidation tactics aimed at disenfranchising our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.

Individuals and organizations intentionally aimed to spread deceptive material regarding the time and place of elections, endorsements, and voter eligibility. Moreover, there were also explicit attempts to intimidate voters at the polls.

In my home, the Commonwealth of Virginia, there were reports of a man standing in front of a polling place holding a Trump sign with a barking German shepherd on the roof of his truck, and yet that man broke no laws.

Such efforts can interfere with one of our basic rights as Americans: the right to vote. As such, I am pleased that H.R. 1 includes language from a bill I introduced in the last Congress with then-Ranking Member NADLER, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act.

This language will prohibit the dissemination of false information regarding Federal elections and prevent efforts to hinder, interfere, or prevent a person from voting, registering to vote, or helping another person to vote or register to vote. We, as Americans, shall make it easier to vote, not harder, and this language will further that goal.

In the same vein, I am equally proud that another bill has been included in H.R. 1, the Election Day Holiday Act, which I reintroduced with Congresswoman ESHOO in the last Congress. As the title suggests, this bill would direct Federal agencies to treat election day as a holiday and urge private employers to do the same.

Going to the polls is among the most democratic of American traditions. Making election day a holiday would honor that tradition, while helping voters to continue it long into the future.

I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman SARBANES, for introducing this historic bill. I thank all of the many Members and stakeholders who have helped shape this bill and who have seen fit to support the measures I have described.

As the name indicates, this bill is for the people, and I look forward to the day when we do the people's work and pass it.

□ 1215

THE CRISIS ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, the crisis on our southern border is very real. When I took the oath to represent the big First District of Kansas, it became my responsibility to put our citizens and their security first. Without secure borders, we cannot ensure our Nation's safety, period.

We have tens of thousands of immigrants filling our entryways every month and, in result; drugs, criminals, and violence spilling into our country. I challenge all my colleagues that are denying this crisis exists to go and see our southern border firsthand, as I did, and it was quite an eye-opening moment.

Last year alone, there were 1.7 million pounds of narcotics—let me say that again—1.7 million pounds of narcotics seized by Customs and Border Patrol. Seventeen thousand adults with existing criminal records attempted to enter our southern border; that is over 40 per day.

But perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the most eye-opening of all, we are now averaging over 1,000 illegal and inadmissible people per day. That is in 1 day, over 1,000 people.

The \$5.7 billion the President is asking for is an investment of taxpayer dollars that will pay off for decades.

The fact that some of my colleagues are blatantly ignoring that walls along the border work is intellectually dishonest. According to DHS and U.S. Border Patrol, illegal trafficking has dropped more than 90 percent in places where walls and barriers were built.

It is embarrassing that, even with this evidence, my friends on the other side of the aisle shut down the government because this Congress cannot do its most basic duty to do its job and prioritize our country's safety by funding initiatives that we know for a fact work.

I agree, though, that we cannot stop at border security alone. It is crucial that we also address and fix our very broken immigration system and allow

hardworking migrants who want to work hard and raise their families in the United States to come.

There is a right way to do this. There is a win-win-win opportunity. There is a win for border security; there is a win for immigration policy overhaul; and there is a win to reopen the small portion of government which is closed.

I am continually frustrated by the narrative that we can't win for all American parties here in these negotiations. This is an opportune moment to quit kicking the can down the road and actually work together to couple border security priorities with long-term immigration fixes.

As we enter the 17th day of this government shutdown, I will continue to stand for a secure America and hope my colleagues choose an open government over open borders.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pause now in Your presence to acknowledge our dependence on You.

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House, who are settling into new spaces and committees here on Capitol Hill.

As the new session begins, help them and, indeed, help us all to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive and ready to serve You.

May all that is done this day be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Watkins) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WATKINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE G.K. BUTTERFIELD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable G.K. BUTTERFIELD, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 7, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: On January 4, 2019, you designated me to administer the oath of office to Representative-elect WALTER B. JONES of the Third District of the State of North Carolina pursuant to House Resolution 22, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

Under such designation, I have the honor to report that on January 4, 2019 at Farmville, North Carolina, I administered the oath of office to Mr. JONES. Mr. JONES took the oath prescribed by 5 U.S.C. 3331. I have delivered two copies of the oath, signed by Mr. JONES, to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

G.K. BUTTERFIELD,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from North Carolina, the whole number of the House is 434.

IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

(Mrs. McBATH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)