

that firearms do not end up in the hands of those who cannot pass a simple background check.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING OKANOGAN COUNTY SHERIFF FRANK ROGERS

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today, on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I rise to honor Frank Rogers, who has served the public in his role as Okanogan County sheriff for the past 16 years. In his own words, Sheriff Rogers “bleeds cop.”

He spent the past three decades in the northern part of my district working to improve his community and promoting camaraderie among different law enforcement agencies. From solving burglaries and violent crime cases to helping evacuate those affected by devastating wildfires, Frank has been dedicated to his friends and neighbors. Also known as Sheriff Batman, he acted as a superhero for the people of Okanogan County.

Sheriff Rogers signed off for the last time on December 31, and I know he is excited to spend more time with his wife, Minette, and his family. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on a successful career and wishing him all the best in the future.

REOPENING OF SHEA'S SENECA BUILDING

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the storied Shea's Seneca building on Seneca Street in South Buffalo reopens to the public after 18 months of extensive renovations made possible by Federal and State historic tax credits.

Built in 1929, the former movie theater was the anchor of the once-thriving Seneca Street business district, and it will reopen this Thursday. The use of Federal historic tax credits added more than \$1 million to this historic preservation project.

There is new hope and optimism about the future of Seneca Street because of the vision of developer Jake Schneider and his wise use of the Federal Historic Tax Credit program that made the Shea's Seneca project a reality.

CELEBRATING LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to com-

mend law enforcement officers throughout our Nation who answer the call to serve their communities. This day is designated annually on January 9 to show support to our law enforcement leaders in every community, including our Capitol Police, who are with us here each and every day.

Law enforcement officers face increasingly difficult circumstances while working to serve and protect the public. It is a dangerous job, and, often, it is a thankless job. Our officers put on their uniforms each day knowing that they can be in harm's way at any moment. They answer the call in times of distress, and they follow the rules and wear the badge proudly.

Mr. Speaker, we must remember that our officers are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives. They are humans, and they arguably have one of the most difficult jobs in America.

So today and each day, let's honor our brothers and sisters in blue. Let's thank them for the important work that they do to keep us all safe.

□ 1215

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's irresponsible shutdown is in its 19th day. America's working families are bearing the brunt.

In Illinois alone, more than 7,000 Federal workers are going without pay. Without a solution, more Americans, and our Nation's economy, will suffer. Tax refunds that families depend on could be frozen or delayed.

Nutrition assistance programs could be reduced. The Northern Illinois Food Bank is now dipping in to reserves to operate without USDA funding.

Air travelers, already experiencing longer lines as TSA struggles to staff checkpoints with workers who aren't being paid, will incur even longer delays.

None of this is necessary. Last week, this new Congress passed bipartisan bills to fully reopen our government. This week we will pass them again, department by department.

The President needs to stop holding our Federal agencies and the livelihoods of thousands of families hostage. The Senate needs to take “yes” for an answer and vote to open the government now. Then we can continue the debate on how best to secure our border.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF KEN SCHWEBEL

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent and a

friend of mine, Mr. Ken Schwebel, of Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, who faithfully served as the chairman of the Keystone Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors in 2018. Ken also currently serves as the president of the Witmer Group, a leading regional masonry company.

Ken led the Keystone ABC Chapter through many milestones during his time as chair. Under his leadership, the chapter chartered its first-ever college student chapter from Millersville University, and also taught middle-school children more about construction through two Construction War programs.

The chapter also had a record number of participants in networking events, and had the largest enrollment in its apprenticeship program under Ken's leadership.

I would like to congratulate and thank Ken for his service to the construction industry and to our community.

WE CAN DO BETTER

(Mr. BERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today, on Twitter, President Trump threatened to withhold FEMA disaster money from California.

Mr. Speaker, maybe the President doesn't know what FEMA disaster funding goes for. It helps rebuild homes. It helps folks rebuild schools, hospitals.

Maybe the President doesn't know that we have suffered devastating wildfires in California. We have lost close to 28,000 structures. We have had billions of dollars of damage. Close to my district, 14,000 homes were lost.

Mr. Speaker, what makes America great is when our neighbors, our fellow countrymen suffer a tragedy, we come together as a Nation.

Mr. Speaker, what I find disgusting is that the President seems to lack the compassion to know that fellow Americans are suffering right now.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better than that.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY

(Mr. MITCHELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the House on National Law Enforcement Day.

I am not sure we are all aware of the demands and risks that the men and women in uniform face every day when they go out to work. They respond to the call always, every day, in bad weather, in disasters, at huge risk.

They often don't know what to expect, but they respond. They respond to domestic violence. They respond in issues of drug trafficking. They respond when there are bullets flying, and they do it without hesitation.

I want to honor all of them, and their families, that go every day, put on a uniform and protect all of us. And, in particular, I want to say thank you to my oldest son who, as a six year old, decided he wanted to be a police officer, and continues to serve every day protecting his family and our community.

And I want to thank all the law enforcement officers that, every day, get up to keep us safe.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last night, the President went on television in an attempt to justify his decision to shut down our government and plunge our country into chaos. He claims that we are in the middle of an emergency, and I actually agree with him on that. I just don't agree on what the emergency is.

It is an emergency that more than 5,200 Federal workers in Michigan are working without pay, or are furloughed.

It is an emergency that the Environmental Protection Agency has halted inspections of our drinking water systems.

And it is an emergency that our President is ready to spend, in his words, "years" prolonging this shutdown and hurting American families for the sake of an ineffective and expensive border wall.

On day 1, House Democrats took the first steps to clean up this mess by passing a complete funding package to reopen our government. Now we are preparing further action to reopen all government agencies, one by one, and remove any doubt that hardworking Americans will receive their tax refunds and the services they depend on.

Enough is enough. Michiganders can't afford one more day of the Trump shutdown.

PROTECTING AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Illinois 14th elected me as their Representative to protect their access to healthcare coverage and to make healthcare and prescription drugs more affordable.

I am a nurse, and I have a preexisting condition and so I know, personally, how critically important having high-quality affordable healthcare is for people.

Today, we are taking an essential step to protect access to affordable coverage from the GOP's cruel lawsuit which seeks to destroy the Affordable Care Act and its lifesaving protection.

My community sent me here to use my voice and my vote as their neighbor

and as a nurse, and I am proud to vote today to protect people with pre-existing conditions; to prohibit insurance companies from imposing lifetime and annual limits on health coverage; and to preserve young adults' ability to remain on their parents' insurance until age 26, and more.

I commend my colleague, Mr. ALLRED, and am proud to join my Democratic colleagues in wasting no time delivering on our promise to defeat Republican attacks on the Affordable Care Act, and to fight for the people, and to protect Americans with pre-existing conditions.

GUN SAFETY REFORM

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my condolences to the families of the three individuals whose lives were cut tragically short because of gun violence in my district.

Last Friday, a senseless shooting at a bowling alley in Torrance claimed the lives of Michael Radford, Robert Meekins, and Astin Edwards, while injuring four others.

Gable House Bowl, where the mass shooting took place, is a staple in my hometown. It is a place where I have visited; where my kids have celebrated birthdays; where folks in my community go to spend quality time together, and it should have been a place last Friday where people of all ages could have had fun safely.

My heart aches for the victims' families who lost their loved ones in a senseless, preventable manner. I am also dismayed that our community now joins an ever-growing cohort of communities touched by mass shootings.

Gun safety reform is a complicated task, but I am grateful that the House, now under Democratic leadership, is taking this challenge on. Yesterday, we introduced H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, which is an excellent place to start addressing gun safety reform. We must continue to push for sensible gun safety measures.

DO THE RIGHT THING NOW

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

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, my district lies just outside of Washington, D.C., in northern Virginia, and is home to tens of thousands of Federal workers and contractors. Since I was sworn in on Thursday, I have received hundreds of calls, emails, and social media outreach from my constituents whose lives are upended. I would like to read one of those messages now.

I am a Federal employee who used the last of his discretionary funds this week to attend his grandfather's funeral. Now I'm pre-

paring to file for unemployment. My wife has to try to get a job despite her severe and crippling disability, and we've had to return some of the Christmas presents for ourselves, our four-year-old son, and our six-year-old daughter.

We've always lived paycheck to paycheck because of the high cost of living in northern Virginia, and we don't have the option to take out loans because we incurred so much debt moving to the area and dealing with our family's medical bills.

Right now I am contacting our utilities and mortgage company to see if we can push out the deadlines for bills. I gave up military service to join the civil service and have been so disheartened to see the lack of respect for our Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, we owe our Federal employees better than this. I call on the Senate and the President to do the right thing and end this shutdown now.

THE UNNECESSARY AND RECKLESS GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. SHALALA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great disappointment that I rise today on the 19th day of this unnecessary and reckless government shutdown.

Just last week, this body passed the very same Republican funding bills that would open the government and keep Americans safe and secure.

My community in south Florida is home to one of the biggest airports in our Nation, Miami International Airport. Just yesterday, 130,000 passengers passed through the airport. Yet, TSA employees, air traffic controllers, and Customs and Border Protection agents who inspect international cargo are forced to work without pay, and must deal with the unbearable decision of choosing between paying for healthcare or putting food on the table.

Nearly a quarter of the households in my district rely on food stamps. If this shutdown continues, these families are at risk of losing access to food.

There is absolutely no reason why families should be evicted from their homes or go hungry because their nutrition benefits were left unprocessed.

There is absolutely no reason why the Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, and our national treasures around the country, must continue to rely on the kindness of devoted volunteers to keep them from deteriorating.

Mr. Speaker, I have been through a shutdown before. I oversaw 125,000 employees at HHS during the longest shutdown.

No one wins in a shutdown. It was painful.

MEDGAR EVERS HOME NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce H.R.