

from this administration. I will use my time to tell you the truth about the border, the opportunity she represents, and the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

El Paso, like other border communities, is one of the safest communities in the country, with a rich history made strong by our bicultural, binational character. Our people are generous, compassionate, and kind.

We share a border with our sister city, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. This border unites our families and our values, and it promotes commerce and trade. The border has never been safer or more secure.

El Paso already has a wall, but we were safe long before it was constructed. The truth is that additional border barriers will not address the real challenges that we face. Instead, I hope to work with my colleagues in this Congress to achieve comprehensive immigration reform, address the root causes of migration, and value immigrants as critical to building our economy and our country.

According to the Pew Research Center, there were an estimated 10.7 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States in 2016. Some came when they were small children, seeking refuge in our country, and, today, have limited protection under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Others have been here for decades under temporary protected status, establishing businesses and cultivating deep roots in communities across the Nation.

It is unsafe for them to return home because of ongoing strife in their home countries, but this administration decided to terminate protections for them anyway. The majority of others live in the shadows, afraid to avail themselves to assistance because of our current immigration climate.

Life for immigrants and asylum-seeking families, unfortunately, has gotten increasingly worse since January 20, 2017. This administration has cruelly separated a reported 2,654 families at the border, and these are only the families that we know of.

It has built tent prisons for children; teargassed immigrants near ports of entry, including many women and children; criminalized migration and prioritized detention; and attempted to drastically curtail the number of immigrants coming into our country.

Further, this administration's unlawful asylum ban on migrants who do not enter at ports of entry has strained our border crossings. Due to metering at ports, a practice that limits the number of people who may enter the U.S. each day, families are sometimes pushed out to more dangerous and deadly crossings.

I hope we will investigate whether metering contributed to the tragic deaths of two young Guatemalan children, Jakelin Caal Maquin and Felipe Alonzo-Gomez. These policies and practices are inhumane and un-American.

Building walls and sowing hate divide us as a nation. Instead, we must focus on reforming our immigration system to ensure a safe and humane process.

For example, we must create a pathway to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients; make investments in additional personnel and infrastructure at our ports of entry where most illegal drugs flow; hire more immigration judges and grant them Article I independence in order to address the backlog of cases and ensure due process; overhaul training for CBP and ICE agents that will boost safety and increase oversight, transparency, and accountability; and end the criminalization of migration, especially that of asylum-seeking families.

Above all, families belong together and should not be detained, especially when there are cost-effective, humane alternatives.

Finally, for any of my colleagues who think that the border is unsafe, I invite you to my district to see it for yourself.

END SHUTDOWN AND PAY COAST GUARD MEMBERS

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reintroduce my first bill, which was introduced at the end of the 115th Congress, the Continuing Appropriations for the Coast Guard Act. I am doing this on behalf of Janeen and her family, constituents from Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Janeen is the mother of two children, ages 10 and 12. Her husband of 15 years is a Coast Guard member. Until recently, they were focused on what most families across our country focus on: family time, work, balancing their checkbook to pay their mortgage and bills, enjoying the holidays together, and hoping to celebrate a new year.

All of that changed this past December when a partisan fight in Washington, over which they had no control, suddenly threw their family's entire existence into question.

Because the Coast Guard falls within the Department of Homeland Security, one of the agencies that has not been funded, Janeen's family and 42,000 others, including 320 Pennsylvanians, have been left to fend for themselves.

They received a one-time payment from the Coast Guard's emergency fund, equivalent to half a paycheck. But the Coast Guard doesn't have any additional funds on hand, so they have been advised to hold garage sales and take up dog walking for extra income.

My bill would fund the Coast Guard until an agreement is reached to fully fund the government, ensuring that Coast Guard members receive their paychecks during the entire shutdown.

I am proud to have the support of some of my Republican colleagues, including Mr. FITZPATRICK from Pennsylvania, and I hope that a bipartisan coalition

of Members in both Chambers can urgently pass this bill.

It is important to take a step back and remind ourselves of what is at stake for Janeen's family and thousands like them. As long as the government is shut down, and until this bill is passed by the House and Senate and signed into law, Janeen's husband won't get a paycheck on the 15th of this month.

Already, their family has been forced to dip into their savings and emergency funds just to buy groceries and keep the lights on. It is about a 70-mile drive from home to the base each way, so Janeen's husband is not only not getting paid, he is actually losing money to go to work every day.

As the daughter of a man who spent his entire career in the Air Force, I must say, this is a shameful way to treat men and women who have devoted their lives to serving our country and the families who serve and sacrifice among them.

For their sake and for the sake of the security of our country, we cannot let toxic hyperpartisanship keep an entire branch of the United States military from receiving pay.

We should be talking about funding more effective technology and infrastructure to protect our country, not about a border wall that will do nothing to stop the incursion of illegal drugs into our country. The Coast Guard is our most effective method of stopping drug runners.

In Janeen's words: "If my husband doesn't show up for work, he is AWOL." That is the reality for our men and women in uniform. The very least they should be able to expect from their elected representatives is that we have their backs and that they will get the support they need no matter what the politics are.

This is not about party or ideology. It is not about scoring points in Washington or on cable news shows. Ultimately, Janeen and her family, and everyone like them, just want to see their government live up to its most basic responsibilities, because as Janeen tells her kids: "When you say you are going to do something, you make a promise."

Servicemembers like Janeen's husband made a promise to defend our Nation when they took their oath. They have never let us down. Every single day, through every challenge and hardship, they have kept their promise and done everything expected of them and more. But during this shutdown, their government has failed to keep its promise to them.

Janeen's family and other Coast Guard families need us right now. Through our actions by getting this bill through the House of Representatives, the Senate, and to the President's desk, we can show them that we take care of our own and that we honor selfless service in this country more than partisanship.

END THE SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a crisis that is gripping our Nation. This crisis is impacting the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of hardworking men and women, such as Border Patrol agents, TSA agents, national park rangers, janitors, machinists, and many more.

The crisis I am referring to, Mr. Speaker, is the reckless government shutdown that now has gone into its third week.

We are the greatest country in the world. This should never, ever happen in this country. It has left Americans without paychecks, forcing many of them to seek donations from family, friends, and strangers just to make ends meet.

In Arizona, my constituents have reached out to share their stories. One Federal prison employee told my office that she planned to take out a loan on their retirement in order to pay for groceries, bills, and health insurance. Another, a scientist based in Arizona and working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote to me just yesterday to tell me that she would have to take up dog walking, Uber driving, and other part-time jobs just to cover the cost of her rent.

Neither of these Arizonans know what they will do if their paychecks continue to be held hostage for political games.

Mr. Speaker, the American people don't deserve this. It goes beyond the furloughed government workers. Small business owners and Arizona farmers and ranchers, already hit hard by uncertainty in their global trade partnerships, are being hurt by this.

There is agreement in this body and in the Senate on bipartisan spending measures that open up our government and provide increased funding for SMART, 21st century border security technology that has been proven effective.

The administration has conjured up this crisis and devastated the lives of countless Americans in the process, and it must end.

Mr. Speaker, these political games are hurting Arizona and our country.

□ 1115

HONORING SHERIFF KELLY "KC" CLARK

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Sheriff Kelly "KC" Clark as he retires from three decades of service to Navajo County and the State of Arizona. From his first post as a patrol deputy in Winslow in 1989 to sheriff of Navajo County, KC has always dedicated his career to ensuring victims receive justice.

Throughout his life, KC has served Arizona as the president of the Arizona Narcotic Officers Association and three terms as president of the Arizona

County Attorney/Sheriff's Association. Additionally, KC is a graduate of the FBI Academy 220th Session and the Drug Unit Commanders Academy. He was named Sheriff of the Year by the WETIP Foundation. On top of all of this, Sheriff Clark served on the Northern Regional Advisory Committee for Homeland Security and is a commissioner on the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to call KC a friend. His service to our great State is an inspiration to all public servants. I wish him and his wife, Brenda, the very best as he retires from the police force, and I know his commitment to serve in his community will not end.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR WALL WILL NOT WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 2½ minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a wall is not remotely capable of dealing with the magnitude of our continental challenge to civil order. The forces of commerce, greed, addiction, and lawless cartels and gangs are too insidious. They will surmount any wall. They already have.

The President's demand for \$5 billion for a wall, whether concrete or steel, simply won't work. Why? Because most illegal narcotics are already shipped here hidden in cross-border commercial cargoes fueled by the flawed and underfunded NAFTA and CAFTA continental trade deals. Millions of trucks, autos, ships, railcars, and planes carry massive and increasing shipments of cargo traversing over our borders as continental trade increases exponentially.

Recall that NAFTA and CAFTA sucked out millions of living-wage jobs from our country, depositing them in Mexico and Central America to exploit penny-wage labor south of our border. Finished goods were then U-turned back north.

NAFTA and CAFTA negotiators promised higher wages for all. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even laborers south of our border earn less now than before NAFTA passed. There is more poverty here and there as the transnationals shipped our jobs out to earn higher profits by gutting our workforce and while exploiting workers in Mexico and Central America. On both sides of the border, workers lose and investors win.

This is a map of the Laredo checkpoint. There are 16 lanes of traffic just at that one point on our border. The problem is the drugs are often hidden in those commercial cargoes. We need more agents to check cargo, but we also need technology to find the hidden narcotics that are there.

In addition to that, we see China shipping fentanyl and carfentanil into our country, including through the U.S. mails. We have no scientific way of detecting those killer drugs.

So, if you really want to look at solving the problem, it is important for the

President to know that legal ports of entry are the primary route through which illicit drugs arrive here in our country. There are 48 such crossing points, plus 330 points of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border, the most frequently crossed border in the world. Approximately 350 million documented crossings occur there annually.

We need to regularize that entry into the United States. We need more manpower and technology. There is no way we can solve this problem with a wall.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE) at noon.

PRAYER

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

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

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

We ask Your blessing as well on the Members of this House, whose responsibility lies also beyond the local interests of constituents while honoring them. Give each Member the wisdom to represent both local and national interests, a responsibility calling for the wisdom of Solomon. Grant them, if You will, a double portion of such wisdom.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows: