

In 1999, First Baptist Church broke ground on a \$2 million Christian center. The two-story facility includes 11,000 square feet, a library and learning center, nursery, children's church, clothes closet, and a multipurpose room for neighborhood development and outreach ministries.

First Baptist Church remains active in the Union Baptist Association, the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

During his pastorate, Dr. Johnson has preached more than 2,300 sermons and welcomed more than 500 souls into the fellowship, presided over 750-plus funerals, officiated at more than 125 weddings, and dedicated some 130 babies. He has ordained 15 ministers, including First Baptist Church's first five women ministers. He has also ordained the church's first five women deacons.

In closing, Madam Speaker, Dr. Johnson is blessed with a loving wife, the former Lena A. Goode of Durham. They have two sons, Paul and Cureton; one grandson, Jayden Cureton; and one granddaughter, Jaelynn.

By the grace of God, Dr. Johnson retires after three decades of outstanding leadership at First Baptist Church. Although Dr. Johnson is retiring from an active ministry, he will never retire from his unwavering service to God.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, we thank Dr. Johnson for his service to community. His life has been one of unlimited service. We will cherish his leadership for years to come. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Johnson, his wife, and the entire congregation at First Baptist Church and the Fayetteville community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Reverend Dr. Cureton Lee Johnson on this auspicious occasion.

#### HONORING STEVE NETTLETON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and to mourn the passing of a truly larger-than-life figure from my community in northern California, Mr. Steve Nettleton, pictured here with his wife, Kathy, appropriately out at the ball game.

A well-known philanthropist and lover of baseball, Steve passed away recently due to complications of Parkinson's disease at the age of 79.

Originally from Iowa, Steve grew up with a passion for America's pastime: baseball. Now we know that Steve also attended San Diego State University. His love for the game drove him to try out for the SDSU baseball team. While he didn't quite make the roster, he never left the sport behind.

In 1971, Steve and his family relocated to Chico, a small town in north-

ern California he never heard of—and he never left. More than 20 years later, he built a multimillion-dollar business as a grocer but said his best day in the business was the day he sold it in 1995.

If you lived in or near Chico, it would be hard to miss the Nettleton name, as Steve's generous philanthropy resulted in many buildings and many projects bearing his name: Enloe Medical Center's Nettleton Mother and Baby Care Center and the Nettleton Gym at the Boys and Girls Club of Chico are just a couple of those examples that were named in his honor due to his work.

Perhaps even more notably, Steve and his wife, Kathy, generously donated \$2 million to transform Chico State University's humble baseball diamond into a modern, 4,100-seat stadium, which was soon also adorned with the name Nettleton Stadium. The "Nett," as they call it, helped revitalize the baseball program at Chico State, which then became home to two national championship baseball teams, among the many more regional and conference titles the Chico State Wildcats went on to win.

Steve also brought the joy and family fun of minor league baseball to town as the owner of the Chico Heat franchise. Throughout the club's existence, Steve's limitless passion for baseball shone through in every facet of the organization. They wanted to win games, but they also wanted to give the community something that was unifying and entertaining. Indeed, it is and was.

It should come as no surprise that Steve was awarded Chico Sportsman of the Year in 1999 and was inducted into the Chico Sports Hall of Fame in 2016.

His generosity was not limited to baseball. Steve was deeply passionate for the community he learned to call home. As I mentioned, he was also a known contributor to the Boys and Girls Club of Chico, the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, United Way, the Salvation Army, and many more.

For all of his efforts and contributions on behalf of a university which he did not attend, Chico State awarded him an honorary doctorate degree of humane letters—only the second person in school history to receive such a degree.

It is indeed clear that Steve deeply cared for his community. In return, it deeply cared for him. Through his selfless generosity over the years, Steve Nettleton built a legacy that will far outlive his time on this Earth. But still, those who remember it will miss the nightly opportunity to shake Steve's hand after a baseball game as he showed his appreciation to those fans in attendance.

Steve brought much joy and fun to his hometown and to its people. He will be greatly missed. God bless the Nettleton family at this time.

□ 1030

#### DAY 33 OF THE SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, so here we are together in the House of Representatives on day 33 of the government shutdown. We have all been back in our districts, and like me, I suspect have all heard from people who are really starting to suffer as a result of this government shutdown: TSA agents, other people essential to our security, other Federal workers, and people who receive food stamps who are wondering whether 2 weeks from now they will be able to feed their children.

I don't know about you, but I come back to Washington thinking one thing, which is: We need to stop calling this a government shutdown. That sort of makes it sound like a machine isn't working somewhere. Let's call this what it is. The President's decision to sign no budget until he gets his wall is not a government shutdown.

It is taking the happiness, the prosperity, and the opportunity of millions of Americans hostage until he gets his wall. It is not too strong to say that this is torturing millions of Americans with anxiety until the President gets his wall.

It is saying to Americans that you will work for weeks, and maybe months, but we won't pay you because he needs his wall. If you are one of the millions of Americans who rely on SNAP benefits so that you can look at your child and know that that child has had nourishment that day, you may not get those benefits because he needs his wall.

If you are a contractor, you are not getting any back pay, and I am sorry, because he needs his wall.

I have got the stories from my district that everybody else does in this Chamber. The worst one was when I talked to a woman named Debbie. Debbie is fighting stage IV melanoma. Her husband is a Department of Transportation executive who was called back to D.C. to work without pay, leaving Debbie to raise three children and battle cancer without pay, with the insecurity of whether she will be able to pay her copays to keep herself alive.

Why? Apparently, holding hostage the American people is okay because the President's wall is that important. Well, if that is so important, why, when the Republicans controlled the House, and the Senate, and Presidency until a few weeks ago, why did we not hear about the wall then? Why are we torturing the American people now?

I have been here for 10 years. We haven't ever had a debate or an argument about a wall, but now it is okay for the President to torture the American people, to keep them without money, to keep them in insecurity, to keep them in anxiety, because right now the wall is absolutely essential.

Let's talk for a second about where this came from and what kind of a tool