

this hostage taking is. Remember, during the campaign the President said, we will build a wall from sea to shining sea, a big beautiful wall that will be paid for by Mexico.

What we are doing right now is not delivering on the campaign promise of the President of the United States. We are cleaning up around the fact that he could not deliver on a campaign promise to have Mexico pay for the wall. Instead, security workers and the American people are being asked not just to pay for his wall, but to suffer for his wall.

This is a dealmaker. The art of the deal. I was in the majority once when we had the Senate, and Presidency, and the House. There was lots of stuff we wanted but we couldn't get done. A public option in the Affordable Care Act, we couldn't get that done. The American Clean Energy and Security Act, we couldn't get that done. Something to address climate change, we couldn't get that done. But we never dreamed that the tool that we had in our pocket was to say we will torture the American people unless we get what we want.

I would remind my Republican colleagues that there will be a Democratic President someday, and they are setting this precedent. Set this precedent because it is an awesome tool. Maybe we will decide not to pay the military until we can get truly universal health coverage. Maybe we will decide not to man the borders or to decriminalize marijuana because that is what we want, and we won't pay people until we get what we want. It is a terrible precedent, and my Republican friends know that.

So what do we do now? There are two things that can happen. The President can maybe turn off "FOX News" long enough to see that this is hurting his politics very badly. He could maybe experience some empathy; something that I am not holding my breath for. Or maybe, Congress could act like Congress and say we are a coequal branch and we stand for the people who we are currently torturing.

The Senate majority leader said, I will not move a bill that the President will not sign. Think about that. The United States Senate, the greatest deliberative body on the planet is, by design now, a rubber stamp to the President.

It is not hard to override a veto. It just requires us to do what we are paid to do and stand for the American people who are suffering right now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

THANKING MINNESOTA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING THEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the residents of Minnesota's First District for the privilege and honor of serving them as their Representative in the House of Representatives.

As southern Minnesota's servant in Congress, I will work to keep America safe with secure borders and a military and foreign policy of peace through strength.

I will work to make America prosperous by transforming the Federal Government and implementing regulatory reform, individual tax reform, work for welfare, patient-centered medical care, merit-based immigration, and achieving U.S. energy independence.

I will work to protect our God-given U.S. constitutional rights, especially the right to life, the right of law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms, and the right to religious freedom.

Lastly, I will work to sustain agriculture and our rural southern Minnesota way of life.

Madam Speaker, serving this body is humbling, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to restore America's greatness and reflect the views and values of the constituents of the First District of Minnesota.

FIGHT FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, a few days ago I walked into a Coast Guard base in Boston and I saw something I never thought I would witness on American soil. Members of our Armed Forces were lined up at a food pantry while they were on the clock because their employer, the United States Government, wasn't paying them for the work that they put in that day.

Madam Speaker, look around this country, and you will see nearly a million civil servants and more than a million contract workers who are forced to deter medical care, find part-time jobs, return Christmas presents, take out loans, pawn valuable possessions, draw down retirement savings, just to afford to feed their family and to keep a roof over their head.

You will find families that are terrified that their food stamps will run out. You will see notices threatening eviction for families who are upholding their end of their rent, while the government defaults on its own obligations.

You will see businesses struggling to stay afloat under lost Federal support. Domestic violence organizations will have to turn away survivors because critical grant funding isn't coming through.

Yes, this is about a misguided and demagogued immigration fight. And,

yes, this is squarely about a President who couldn't keep his promise.

But at its core, it is about an administration that has spent 2 years treating the livelihood of working families as a bargaining chip, quickly traded away time and again to protect power, profit, and political gain.

Theirs is a system that asks American workers to make painful sacrifices that those in power only read about; a system where tax cuts for international corporations are paid for by Medicaid cuts for working families; where healthcare premiums skyrocket for the sick and the suffering; where healthcare industry executives reap the reward.

Theirs is a system where labor protections for workers are wiped out as distant CEOs lay off loyal employees and gut pensions; where a safety net that keeps our fellow Americans afloat shrinks and tears as their President smiles and holds the scissors; where profits accrue to those who have already profited, and the loss is borne by those who can least afford to bear it.

Beyond the shutdown, beyond this President, our government needs to prove to the American people that we are fighting for them. Because right now, they don't believe we are in their corner, and I don't blame them.

HONORING SERGEANT ALIPIO ARROYO RAMOS

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

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Alipio Arroyo Ramos. First Sergeant Alipio Arroyo Ramos, resident of Kissimmee, Florida, was born on January 14, 1949, in Cayey, Puerto Rico.

At the age of 18, he joined the United States Armed Services where he served proudly for over 22 years. During his time in the Armed Forces, he obtained a degree in accounting from the University of Maryland and completed combat medical training at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School in Texas.

In 1969, he volunteered and served in the Vietnam war as a combat medic where he fought for our Nation and provided critical medical aid to wounded fellow servicemembers and civilians in the line of fire.

As a result, he was awarded the Bronze Star for his courage in the Vietnam war. After the Vietnam war, he briefly returned to the civilian sector and applied his military medical experience with the epidemiology division of the Puerto Rico Department of Health before deciding to rejoin the United States Armed Forces on Active Duty.

Upon rejoining, Mr. Arroyo was assigned to multiple posts throughout the United States and abroad. In 1988, he was stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he successfully passed rigorous training and evaluations to

become a member of the United States Special Forces Command, a lifetime achievement he and his family are proud of to this day.

During his tenure with the United States Special Forces he worked directly under two different four-star generals. Since his retirement in 1998, he continues to be an active member of the Disabled American Veterans organization and is a passionate and fierce advocate for veterans' rights, particularly those, such as him, who have suffered the unfortunate and debilitating consequences of having been exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. To this day, he continues to adopt the motto: "Duty, Honor, Country," as his life creed.

First Sergeant Arroyo resides in Kissimmee, Florida, with his wife, Luz Amary, who has always stood by his side in support throughout his entire military career. He is the father of three children: Nikolas, Phillip, Zulimar Arroyo; and three grandchildren, Camila, Valeria, and Sofia, all of whom he loves dearly.

UNPAID GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to talk a little bit about the shutdown. We are in day 33, since the shutdown began. The House and Senate came together originally with bipartisan budgets to try to resolve this. But then on that fateful day, President Trump said that he will take the mantle and he would shut down the government over border security.

Over 2 weeks ago, I met with TSA, PASS, and Department of Corrections employees, and they told me their stories about not being able to make a mortgage; about not being able to have healthcare and childcare; about those facing diabetes and cancer.

Last week, I returned back to the TSA in their break room to speak with workers about how we were going to transport people to and from work, waiving tolls, addressing diabetes, and childcare, once again.

This past week, I joined Second Harvest Food Bank to help feed Federal employees because the United States Government is not paying them. Our Federal workers are about to miss their second paycheck.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President: How long will TSA protect our airports without pay; how long will the IRS workers clock in to timely process our tax refunds if they are not getting a paycheck; and how long will U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents protect our very border that we are debating without getting paid?

□ 1045

We can debate and negotiate over border security.

But why, Mr. President, must you hold nearly 800,000 Federal workers and their families hostage?

Where is the Senate?

We have voted 10 times to reopen the Federal Government. The number of times they voted: zero.

The offer that was given this week, a temporary 3 years for Dreamers and TPS refugees for a permanent border wall with \$5.7 billion and a political asylum system that is worse than the current one.

If you are really serious, President Trump, why not make the changes for our Dreamers and TPS refugees permanent, much like the wall you are asking for?

Now the House Democrats have a counteroffer. We already put in a \$1.3 billion increase for border security in a bipartisan Homeland Security budget. This was the budget passed by the last GOP Congress. Now we are adding an additional \$1.5 billion to improve our security in a three-part border and security plan: one, more security for our ports of entry where most of the drugs are coming in; two, more technology at the border so we know when people are coming across it; and, three, more personnel.

Mr. President, reopen this Federal Government.

I ask the Senate to get a backbone and act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

END THE SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today because 800,000 Federal workers—7,400 of who live and work in Illinois—are furloughed or working without pay because of this unnecessary Trump shutdown.

Today I want to talk about two of them. The first is a constituent from the south suburbs of my district. Before joining the Federal Government workforce, he proudly served our Nation during the Vietnam war. He fought for his country. He risked his life for this country.

When he came back from the war, he continued to serve. In fact, he served 46 years in the government working to help his fellow Americans find opportunities and bridges to a better life. After 46 years and because of the declining health of his wife, he decided that it was time to retire. Given his career, I would say it is a well-deserved retirement. So he filed his paperwork, but, sadly, it was 2 days before the Trump shutdown started. His retirement application has yet to be processed. He has yet to receive his final paycheck and cannot access his TSP or 401(k) because he doesn't have his official retirement documents.

Madam Speaker, this is insane. It is insane that this President—a five-time draft dodger—would treat a Vietnam veteran with such outright disdain. But, honestly, I am not sure he cares.

While this story is especially upsetting, it is not the only story. Another of my constituents was featured yes-

terday on "CBS This Morning." His family has three kids; two of them are autistic. After years of dedicated government service, his family was denied his paycheck and likely won't receive his next scheduled paycheck either. In order to make ends meet, they are dipping into their savings—savings meant to provide for the long-term care of their children.

Is this really the way we want to treat Americans—let alone Americans who have dedicated their careers to serving our great country?

Madam Speaker, these are just two stories of many. Right now there are dozens of Active Duty Coast Guard at Station Calumet Harbor risking their lives to save others and to protect the homeland who aren't getting paid. These are Active Duty servicemembers, and they were told to hold yard sales or babysit to make ends meet without paychecks.

Are you serious?

President Trump wants Active Duty Coast Guardsmen to sell their families' memories because he is throwing a temper tantrum and shut down the government. It is just madness, plain and simple.

I have a message to President Trump about his border wall: You have lost. This game is over, and you are hurting people like this Vietnam war veteran. You have lost, and you are not going to get it. End this Trump shutdown and then have a real serious conversation on border security and comprehensive immigration reform.

In fact, I will promise right here and right now, Mr. President, if you are serious about solving issues—and there are definitely issues that need to be solved—I will be the first one at the table. Reopen the government, Mr. President. I will be there to talk about real bipartisan reforms that will enhance border security and prevent more families from being cruelly torn apart by a broken immigration system.

Madam Speaker, while this is a Trump shutdown, he has dangerous enablers in Congress. The biggest one is just a few steps away in the Senate, the Senate majority leader.

I also have a message for the Senate majority leader, the gentleman from Kentucky: Call a vote on any of the bipartisan funding bills that this House—the people's House—has sent over to the Senate. Call a vote and reopen the government. Call a vote for the 6,400 Kentuckians working without pay or not working in your State. You were elected to serve the people of Kentucky, not the whims of the man in the White House. Mr. Majority Leader, it is time to do your job.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have joined our efforts to reopen government. Each vote gets a few more. These are hardworking, commonsense men and women who want to do their job. They want to serve their constituents and make America a better place.