

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