

ever relied on precedent to expand their power?

Using this authority would not only build the wall, it would avoid the need to meet any demands to further diminish or dilute our current immigration laws.

If the next 3 weeks produce the unreasonable demands and intransigence that we have come to expect from the Democratic leadership, I strongly urge the President to use his existing authority. Countries that either cannot or will not enforce their borders simply aren't around very long. Let that not be America's epitaph.

UPCOMING HUNGER CRISIS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the President, finally, ended the longest government shutdown in our Nation's history.

For 35 days, activity at several government agencies halted. The wages of hardworking public servants were being used as bargaining chips to push a medieval solution to what should have been a modern discussion on how to protect our borders.

The President seemed tone deaf to all the devastation that came with the government shutdown. At one point, he said that he would keep our government shut down for "months or even years." In a speech on Friday, he stunningly said that Federal workers were encouraging him to continue the shutdown.

I would love to know who he was talking to, because that is the opposite of what I was hearing from my constituents and Federal workers all across this country. There aren't many people out there who can afford to work for free, much less people who are willing to forego their paychecks for a stupid, ridiculous campaign promise. No one should be expected to work for weeks without pay. What the President did, by shutting down our government, was disrespectful to our Federal workers.

If the government shutdown continued for a few more weeks, programs like SNAP and WIC, and child nutrition programs, would have run out of money, putting millions of families at risk of food insecurity.

Last week, I heard from one of my constituents in Ware, Massachusetts. She is a single mom who is disabled, and she depends on programs like Social Security and SNAP every day to help put food on the table for her two children. She was worried about a lapse in SNAP funding because, for a while now, she has been going without meals so that her kids can eat. She is barely able to provide for herself, but she is making sacrifices that any parent would make to provide for her children.

If the President decides to shut down the government again in a few weeks,

he could provoke a full-blown hunger crisis in this country.

Low-income families should not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from just because the President wants taxpayers to pay for his wall. In fact, government employees might need SNAP benefits themselves, if their pay is cut off again.

In the past 4 weeks, I only can say how grateful I have been to the American people who have demonstrated incredible compassion to those impacted by the shutdown. Countless businesses provided free meals and resources to help families through rough times.

Yesterday, I was at Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen's Chefs for Feds initiative, where he is feeding Federal workers who have not been paid. As of yesterday, they still have not been paid.

While many families have accepted help, they still took on expenses that couldn't be recovered. Many families went into debt, just to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. Others took on interest, late fees, penalties, and payment deferrals, not because they did anything wrong, but because their President thought he could strong-arm Congress.

These are people who have jobs, show up, and work every day for their country. The least we can do is pay them and keep their government running.

This administration might not understand why families need resources like food banks, but I think the rest of us do. Unlike the President, we don't all have a rich family who can loan us money. Unlike the Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, not all of us have investment fortunes to fall back on. While living paycheck to paycheck might not be a reality they understand, it is a reality for millions of families who depend not only on their jobs, but also on programs like SNAP and WIC to survive.

Government shutdowns and spending gaps have real consequences for real American families. They cause confusion, backlogs, delays, and discord. It could take months and years for us to fully recover from the past 35 days.

What is particularly ironic about the shutdown, Mr. Speaker, is that all of this could have been avoided if the President signed the bipartisan bills we sent him back in December.

The President should never again hold the American people hostage to get his way. I will do all I can to fight against using public servants as bargaining chips. I will do all I can to help protect programs like SNAP and WIC, and child nutrition programs. They need to keep running.

Three weeks of funding is just a patch on the hunger crisis that this country will soon face if we don't pass another comprehensive spending bill. SNAP, WIC, and child nutrition programs matter to people's lives.

Families, children, farmers, and food businesses don't deserve this, and there is no time to waste. There is no time like the present. Let's end hunger now.

RECOGNIZING GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, on January 14, 2019, at a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly that was held on the campus of Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, the Honorable Brian Kemp was inaugurated as the 83rd Governor of the State of Georgia. Upon taking the oath of office, Brian Kemp became the third Republican to occupy the Governor's mansion since reconstruction.

Even before taking the oath of office, Brian was already making history, receiving more votes than any gubernatorial candidate in State history.

As with many of Georgia's Governors, Governor Kemp comes from a humble background. He was a small business owner, building his first construction business with a pickup and a shovel. With hard work and personal sacrifice, he grew that business and eventually became one of Georgia's successful entrepreneurs, responsible for several successful businesses.

When Brian became frustrated with the mismanagement of State government, he determined that, instead of just complaining, he would do something about it. He ran for a seat in the State senate, and in 2003, this young businessman from Athens was sworn in as a freshman senator from the 46th District.

Two years after Brian took office, I was elected to the State house of representatives and had the honor to work with him on several key legislative initiatives. I could always count on Brian, not only to be an ally, but to help perfect legislation as it moved through the State senate.

Brian was, and still is, a strong conservative with the ability to reach across the aisle to get things done for Georgians. During his time in the senate, Brian was instrumental in fighting to cut taxes, fees, and mandates on job creators and Georgia families.

In 2008, Brian left the State senate and returned to the private sector, but his heart never left serving his State and his community. In 2010, Governor Sonny Perdue called on Brian to return to public service, appointing him to serve as Georgia's secretary of state. Brian easily won reelection as secretary of state that same year and remained in that post until he resigned in November 2018.

As secretary of state, Brian wanted to ensure that Georgia elections were secure, accessible, and fair. In 2016, being a member of this body's Committee on Homeland Security, Brian asked me to work with him to ensure that Georgia's election data was secure from cyber threats.

During his tenure as secretary of state, Brian utilized technology and innovation to cut bureaucratic red tape, reduce spending, and streamline Georgia's government.

Brian is known around the State as a great businessman, a public servant, and a statesman. However, Brian will tell you, his most important job in life is being a husband and a father. Brian and his wife, Marty, have three daughters: Jarrett, Lucy, and Amy Porter. The Kemps are a family tightly bound by their strong faith, their commitment to public service, and a love for their community, their State, and their country.

From the backhoe to the boardroom, Brian Kemp understands how to successfully create jobs, recruit startups, grow companies, and make deals to provide opportunities for hardworking Georgians.

To communicate his commitment to further growing Georgia's thriving economy, and to ensure all Georgians have the opportunity to live, learn, and prosper, Governor Kemp has made the theme of his governorship "Putting Georgians First." I believe Governor Brian Kemp will work for all Georgians, and I look forward to working with him as he leads Georgia forward. Congratulations, Governor Kemp.

HONORING MAYOR GREG PETTIS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mayor Greg Pettis, a leader and devoted advocate for our desert communities in California's 36th Congressional District, who unexpectedly passed away recently on January 15.

I had the privilege of working with Mayor Pettis to fight for equality and social justice for the people of the Coachella Valley.

Mayor Pettis set an example as a public servant committed to protecting the rights of all his constituents.

During his decades of service to our communities, Mayor Pettis never wavered in his advocacy for civil rights, improved transportation, and access to healthcare.

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As Cathedral City's first openly gay public servant and longest serving council member, Mayor Pettis was a trailblazer and a role model.

Every day, Mayor Pettis brought his passion for helping others to the call to public service. He helped our valley build a public library, combat drug addiction, and expand affordable housing.

Through his leadership and kindness, Mayor Pettis will live on in the memory of his brothers, Stephen and David Pettis, and the friends, neighbors, and families whose lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING SUPERVISOR MARION ASHLEY

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Supervisor Marion Ashley on his retirement after more than 35 years of public service.

Supervisor Ashley has served the people in Riverside County since 2002 with leadership, integrity, respect, and

enthusiasm. He grew up in Riverside County, California, and like me, has had the privilege of returning home to serve.

To see his positive impact on the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, and others, you only need to look around. You will see medical centers, public parks, wildlife conservation areas, and fire stations that exist thanks to his advocacy.

In retirement, I hope Supervisor Ashley will enjoy spending more time with Mary, his wife of more than 60 years, and their 6 children, 19 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

On behalf of communities across Riverside County, it is my honor to congratulate Supervisor Ashley on a well-earned retirement.

RECOGNITION OF BERGAD SPECIALTY FOAMS & COMPOSITES ON EXPANSION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tremendous business in Armstrong County, Bergad Specialty Foams.

Bergad Specialty Foams is a leading producer of polyurethane foams. It recently celebrated the completion of a 50,000-square-foot building expansion.

This is phase 1 of a long-range facility expansion, which will increase production capacity to meet customer demand for its growing line of specialty foams. It will also allow the company to accommodate the production of several new product lines.

The expansion includes state-of-the-art CNC cutting equipment and streamlined fulfillment and shipping areas, in addition to a secure manufacturing area to accommodate the requirements of the consumer technology industry.

Mr. Speaker, Bergad Foams makes specialty cushioning materials that span several markets, including medical, cosmetic, oil and gas production, high-end consumer electronics, and transportation and aircraft.

I congratulate Paul Bergad, president of Bergad Incorporated, on the outstanding business he has built in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania.

When they broke ground on this project, he refused the ceremonial golden shovel and, instead, fired up his excavator to take out the first bucket of dirt. Clearly, Mr. Bergad is a man who isn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and get to work.

With this new addition, the manufacturing area totals more than three acres under one roof, making it one of the largest manufacturing facilities in the county.

Phase 2 of the expansion is expected to begin in about 18 months and will add an additional 35,000 square feet to the facility. With these expansions, Bergad Incorporated said they expect to hire an additional 30 employees.

Mr. Speaker, this is very welcome news in Armstrong County, where Bergad Specialty Foams has its laboratory, manufacturing, fabrication, tooling, warehousing, and sales division, all located at its Kittanning facility.

Since Bergad Specialty Foams opened operations there in 1999, the mission has been to "exceed, not meet" the standards of the industry and the expectations of its clients. Mr. Speaker, the ever-expanding product lines and expansion surely note that Bergad Specialty Foams is not only living up to its lofty goals, but surpassing them.

I wholeheartedly congratulate Mr. Bergad on this outstanding achievement, and I wish him the best as his company continues to flourish in Armstrong County.

NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, pleased that the government is reopened and determined to not repeat ourselves in 3 weeks.

A poll taken last weekend found that 6 in 10 Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction, and nearly 70 percent have negative opinions on the state of the Nation. These findings are grim, but can anyone in this Chamber blame our fellow citizens for their skepticism?

The longest shutdown in American history brought fear, confusion, and financial harm on upstate New York and our entire country—\$11 billion worth of economic loss, according to the CBO. And here is what that looked like back home in upstate New York:

The Small Business Administration stopped processing new loans to potential small business owners, slowing the engine of American enterprise;

The FDA stopped routine food safety inspections, putting Americans at risk at their own dinner tables;

The Department of Agriculture stopped administering farm support programs, which include subsidized home loans and tariff relief payments, putting additional financial stress on farmers in upstate New York already suffering from our Nation's ill-conceived trade wars;

The Department of Housing and Urban Development stopped processing mortgage extensions or housing loans, leaving 100,000 rural homeowners at risk of eviction;

The EPA suspended the cleanup efforts at Superfund pollution sites, including in places like Hoosick Falls, with poisoned groundwater.

When the shutdown began, the EPA stopped returning calls from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. I held two townhalls during the shutdown and opened up our phone lines on weekends in order to remain accessible to those in my district who need an advocate in Washington.