

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.