

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon this people's House as we are in the beginning days of this new Congress. Encompass with Your power all the walls of this building, truly a symbol to the world of inalienable rights and the freedom of people.

Guide and protect Your elected servants in government and all who work in this place. May all who visit here be treated with respect and kindness.

May the comings and goings of Your people be under the seal of Your loving care, and all work accomplished here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, it has been nearly 100 years since women fought for and won the right to vote. Yet, we still do not have equal rights and protection under the United States Constitution.

There are too many examples in our everyday lives where women still do not get equal pay for equal work and where we still face discrimination simply for being women.

In 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced in Congress to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and was reintroduced every session until it finally passed in 1972.

However, with an arbitrary deadline in 1982, by that time, only 35 States out

of the required 38 had ratified the amendment. In the past 2 years, we have inched forward with successful votes in Nevada and Illinois, and now we are just one State away from finally passing the Equal Rights Amendment.

This is not about politics. It is about equality. It is about humanity. It is long overdue that we pass the Equal Rights Amendment and include equality between men and women in the United States Constitution.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible role mentors play in the lives of young people.

January is National Mentoring Month, which brings national attention to the need for mentors. Individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities, and non-profits can all engage their constituents to become mentors for the next generation of leaders.

When children have strong role models in their lives, they grow up to be good neighbors and good citizens. As a co-chairman of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, I know firsthand how essential mentors are for students seeking a career in technical education.

From agriculture to the arts, from marketing to manufacturing, CTE programs work to develop America's most valuable resources: its people. CTE has established itself as a path that many high-achieving students choose in pursuit of industry certification and hands-on skills that they can use right out of high school, in skills-based education programs or in our colleges.

Many CTE instructors are mentors who inspire students to reach their full potential and follow their dreams wherever they may lead.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every mentor in America for providing students the guidance and confidence that they need to find success.

WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP GOVERNMENT OPEN

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the fact that so many—800,000—Federal workers were out of work when the government was shut down, and now, happily, they will be back at work. Soon, all of them will be getting a paycheck.

This was very sad for their families, very sad for their communities where their financial viability is important, and very sad for our economy. Happily, the government is reopened, but not without paying a price.

I was very pleased that last week, on Thursday, so many Members came to the floor to tell the stories of the families affected by the shutdown, and then we had a Special Order and people sought comfort in the fact that we were recognizing the value that our public employees add to our economy and also concern for their well-being.

I want to tell one story that I thought was just so remarkable. Yesterday, I went to help with meals for the families who still have not gotten a paycheck. Even though government is open, it will be a couple of more days. While I was there, I met a woman who seemed young to me, but I guess she must have been middle-aged. They told me, after I was with her for a while, that, on Friday, she would be going to hospice, but it was a comfort to her to spend her last days before hospice feeding the hungry, having empathy for those who had that uncertainty in their lives.

What a blessing she is. Let us all have that empathy for those who are placed in that financial insecurity, and let us work to keep government open, to come to agreement so it can resolve all doubt in anyone's mind that that is not a reasonable path, to seek agreement holding hostage our public employees.

We thank them for what they do for our country. We sympathize with them. At this time, we are happy that government is open. Let's work together to keep it so.

THANKING ROBERT COLBY HALE FOR HIS SERVICE

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize and thank a friend and confidant who has been by my side for the last 15 years.

I first met my chief of staff, Robert Colby Hale, when he was 22 years old. I was the commencement speaker at his graduation ceremony at Hardin-Simmons University, and he introduced me on stage.

In that moment, I never imagined so many years later our paths would take us to the Texas secretary of state's office in Austin and now to the U.S. House of Representatives.

I gave Colby his first job and watched him grow from a recent college graduate into the husband, father, and professional that he is today.

He has been my right-hand man since before I decided to run for Congress in 2012. He believed in me, and he encouraged me every single day.

There is no one's counsel that I have trusted more. Colby will be missed around our office, but he is leaving his legacy in the capable hands of those he trained and those he mentored.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 25th Congressional District of Texas and the United States Congress, I thank Mr. Colby Hale. I thank him for his years

of service to this district and to the American people.

I am excited to see where life takes him next, and he should know that he will always be on the home team.

In God we trust.

FIND BALANCE BETWEEN LEGITIMATE TRADE AND TOURISM AT BORDER

(Mr. CUELLAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I live on the border, and we have to understand that, every day, there is about \$1.3 billion of trade between the U.S. and Mexico. That is a lot of jobs that are being created on this side.

When you look at the Mexicans who come over and shop, one out of every four international tourists will be people from across the river. That is over \$20 billion that is spent on the U.S. side in hotels, restaurants, and many other places. Those are jobs over here.

We want to see strong border security, but, again, we have to make sure that we find the balance between legitimate trade and tourism. The way to do that is to look at technology that has worked for the military that can work for us on the border and hire the right number of Border Patrol and CBP officers. If we do that, we can find a way to find the balance between legitimate trade and tourism, and I ask you to please consider that as we debate border security.

SECURE OUR BORDERS

(Mr. GIANFORTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has fully reopened, and Federal employees are back to work. While the shutdown is over, the crisis at the border remains.

I recently toured the southern border in Arizona. Ranchers and Border Patrol agents told me about the challenges they face because of open borders. I saw short, weak, barbwire fences that line our border. I learned more about violent cartels and how they profit from our porous borders, from human trafficking and the flooding of drugs into our communities.

Congress has an obligation to secure our border. We must give Border Patrol agents the tools they need to get their job done. They told me they need equipment to detect drugs, and more and better body armor.

Border Patrol agents also told me that they need a wall. They know walls work. Congress should listen to them.

Tomorrow, the conference committee tasked with border security will meet for the first time. Having seen the border crisis firsthand, I urge those lawmakers to listen to our Border Patrol agents, fund meaningful physical barriers, and secure our borders.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN HURTS THE PEOPLE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, fortunately, the United States Government is open, and, fortunately, when Donald Trump comes to this Chamber on February 5, he can say the state of the Union is that the government is open. Otherwise, the State of the Union would have been different.

A lot of people lost paychecks and had great difficulties because of 35 days without many Federal employees getting paid. That should not happen again.

A lot of private entrepreneurs whose businesses are located near Federal facilities will never recover the losses. When Federal employees did not go to work, people who have grocery stores, cafeterias, and lunchrooms lost business that they can never make up.

The ability of the FAA to keep our airlines going was jeopardized. We don't need to let that happen again. That hurts commerce and hurts our country.

We need to have an agreement, but we don't need to build an unnecessary fifth-century wall. George Bush put up more barriers than any other President, but none in Texas, his home State, because the Rio Grande River is the dividing point. There is a big difference.

God bless WALTER JONES.

A PATH FOR PROGRESS IN WAR ON POVERTY

(Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, since LBJ launched the War on Poverty, the percentage of Americans living below the poverty line has remained persistently static.

As reform efforts in Congress continue to falter, American's poverty reduction efforts continue to fall short of their objectives. We need a different approach to help millions of Americans escape poverty.

Today, I am introducing the People Centered Assistance Reform Effort Act, or the People CARE Act. This legislation creates a bipartisan commission in order to empower caseworkers to treat each person holistically, rather than simply administer programs; realign the 90-plus, often duplicative, poverty programs; remove benefit cliffs; and more.

It encourages employment, marriage, and education, activities identified by the Brookings Institution and others as effective means to end poverty.

The commission cannot launch new programs, nor directly cut spending. Upon receiving the commission's recommendation, Congress would have to vote to approve or disapprove.

People CARE offers a path for progress in the War on Poverty. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor the People CARE Act.

□ 1215

GOOD LEADERSHIP

(Mr. GOLDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a commonsense, bipartisan bill with Congressman CRENSHAW and Congressman ROSE. It is called the Solidarity in Salary Act. It is a simple bill that says if Federal employees aren't getting paychecks because of a shutdown, Members of Congress and the President shouldn't get their paychecks.

People back in Maine have heard me talk about when I was a young private first class joining my unit in the Marines at mealtime out in the field when they brought a hot meal out, we had a simple rule that we followed. What we would do is the private first class and lance corporal would go first to eat followed by the NCOs and staff NCOs, after that, the officers.

The idea was that good leaders should take care of other people before stopping and thinking about themselves. That is the principle behind this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to join Congressmen CRENSHAW and ROSE and me in supporting this legislation.

SECURE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, over the past month, we saw President Trump put forward one offer after another to secure our southern border. They were reasonable offers that sought common ground, but every step of the way, Speaker PELOSI was unwilling to participate in any type of good-faith negotiations.

Now the President has given the Democrats yet another opportunity. The government is fully reopened and workers are receiving their paychecks. We can all agree that that is a good thing, but we still need a long-term solution to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border. We need more technology, more border agents, and more physical barriers.

Now is the time for Speaker PELOSI to stop stonewalling. Let's get serious about negotiating a deal. Let's make sure our southern border is secure, and let's make sure our citizens are safe. That is what the American people want us to do, and it is time to get it done.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1