

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, like many of my fellow Americans I listened to the President's State of the Union Address 1 week ago, and while there are any number of the President's false or misleading assertions that I could refute, I want to take a minute to highlight just a few.

The President began his remarks with a focus on cooperation and compromise, calling for unity among both political parties to work together and break what he described as "decades of political stalemate." The reality is that last Tuesday's address followed the longest shutdown in our government's history—a shutdown that resulted from the President's stubborn refusal to work with Congress—and was delivered by a President who has made a daily practice of making unfounded, personal attacks against Democrats and anyone else who opposes his xenophobic, ill-conceived policies.

The President went on to call on Congress to make needed commitments to "defeat AIDS in America and beyond." Who doesn't support that? The problem is that his administration proposed a \$1 billion cut in fiscal year 2018 and a \$1.2 billion cut in fiscal year 2019 to combat HIV/AIDS around the world. This is typical of this White House. The President makes outlandish claims, whether in ignorance or reckless disregard for the truth, in a transparent attempt to appear to care about solving problems his administration is actually making worse.

Funding for these programs has been restored by Congress—not in partnership, but rather in spite of, the White House. Many Members of Congress, myself included, are waiting for the President's upcoming budget request for fiscal year 2020, to see if his professed support for HIV/AIDS programs will be backed up with the necessary funding.

The President also mentioned a new "government-wide initiative focused on economic empowerment for women in developing countries." That is a laudable goal that Republicans and Democrats have been supporting for years, but the reality is that this administration has repeatedly cut funding for family planning and other health programs that directly contribute to women's health and economic prosperity, as well as funding to combat gender-based violence and to support UN agencies focused on women's health, economic empowerment, and human rights.

The President stated that our country has "a moral duty to create an immigration system that protects the lives and jobs of our citizens." There is nothing remotely moral about forcibly and needlessly separating young children from their parents at our border and not even caring enough to keep a record of their whereabouts so they can be reunited with their parents. The President stated that he wants legal immigrants "to come into our country, in the largest numbers ever." Is he

even aware that his administration has slashed the refugee admissions cap from 110,000 per year down to 30,000, a record low for our country?

The President recalled the countless Americans, like the soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy 75 years ago, whose selfless sacrifices helped freedom triumph over fascism and solidified our Nation's place as the world's only superpower. He challenged us not to squander what we have inherited from "the blood and tears and courage and vision of the Americans who came before." The irony of that message isn't lost on those of us who have worked, if sometimes unsuccessfully, to mitigate the impact of the President's relentless efforts to undermine the international order that those Americans strived to create to protect global peace and security for future generations.

The President routinely injects uncertainty into our support for NATO, has withdrawn from the Iran nuclear deal despite Iran's compliance as confirmed by his own administration, removed the United States from the Paris Climate Accord, the Global Migration Compact, the UN Human Rights Council, and has otherwise threatened or taken steps to walk away from numerous multilateral commitments that provide the United States with a platform for global leadership. Without U.S. engagement in these arenas, our adversaries are unchecked to pursue their own interests, which are often at odds with ours.

The President should heed his own words. The American soldiers at Normandy were not answering a call to unilateralism or isolationism. President Roosevelt, 4 years earlier, cautioned the country against those who "believe that we can save our own skins by shutting our eyes to the fate of other nations." Addressing the threat of the Axis powers, he stated, "I make the direct statement to the American people that there is far less chance of the United States getting into war if we do all we can now to support the nations defending themselves against attack." Now, as then, we must do everything in our power to strengthen global alliances and confront threats to peace and stability head on. International diplomacy should be a tool of first resort, not a casualty of domestic politics. The President declares that his actions advance U.S. national security interests, but we know better.

These are but a few examples of how the President's lofty rhetoric bore no factual relationship to the actions of his administration. The American people deserve to know the truth, not to be misled by the President of the United States.

RECOGNIZING SARDUCCI'S

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President. I read an article about Sarducci's celebrating 25 years in Montpelier.

Marcelle and I have enjoyed eating at Sarducci's since it first opened and are thrilled with what Carol Paquette and Jeff Butterfield have done with the restaurant.

I remember when they first opened and how Dorothy Korshak, the original founder, wondered whether anybody would come in. I remember telling Dorothy that, if they keep providing food that good, people will show up.

My mother was born in Vermont, a first generation Italian-American. We always ate Italian food, both at my grandparents' home in South Ryegate, VT or at our home in Montpelier, VT. It feels like going home to go to Sarducci's. It is one of our favorite restaurants.

I ask unanimous consent that the article from thebridge entitled "Sarducci's Celebrates 25 Years in Montpelier" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From thebridge Jan. 23, 2019]

SARDUCCI'S CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN
MONTPELIER

(By Tim Simard)

On a recent sunny and chilly January afternoon, Sarducci's Restaurant founder and co-owner Carol Paquette relaxed by a front table and looked back on 25 years. Sitting alongside head chef and new co-owner Jeff Butterfield, Paquette marveled at surviving two-and-a-half decades in the restaurant business—a momentous achievement. This past weekend, the Montpelier institution quietly celebrated the milestone birthday.

Paquette can remember Sarducci's first day quite clearly—Jan. 19, 1994. It was a Wednesday.

"We opened at 4 pm. It was freezing outside. Dorothy Korshak [founder and former business partner] and I had no idea who might or how many people might stop in. We really hadn't done any advertising to let people know we were opening," she said.

But people knew. Oh, they knew. Within the first hour of business, it was clear that Montpelier was ready for Sarducci's.

"The doors opened and people just kept coming in. We hadn't planned on so many that night, but by the end we had served close to 200 people," Paquette said, still in awe of that first night's success.

Paquette attributes Sarducci's early success to a lack of restaurants in Montpelier at that time. She said locals were "desperate" for a place where families could sit down in a cozy atmosphere with the whole family and have an amazing, authentic Italian dinner.

The signature wood-fired oven was also a unique feature for a Montpelier restaurant. Paquette and Korshak—who started their partnership as coworkers at Julio's—researched Italian restaurants in Boston, New York, and Chicago and noted the popularity of these ovens.

"We saw the restaurants that had the wood-fired ovens were becoming more and more popular," Paquette said.

Since those first days, Sarducci's has become a go-to dining spot in the Capital City. In its 25 years, the restaurant has renovated its space, added a deck overlooking the Winooski River, and doubled its seating capacity, all while keeping its menu remarkably consistent. Today, Sarducci's enters a new chapter as it celebrates a quarter century.