

cannot afford inaction. We cannot afford to undo the progress we have already made.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up for coastal communities, farmers, vulnerable people all over the world, and future generations to not fall victim to the self-serving propaganda from those who seek to profit by polluting the world.

To defend the work we have done, we must meet the challenge of the global call to act on climate. Regardless of who sits in the Oval Office, we must continue to fight for commonsense action in Congress that will address the pressing environmental threats of today in order to create a more sustainable future for tomorrow.

No partisan rhetoric or repudiations of fact can stand in the way of our important work to fight and win this battle.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, time is running out to do right by our retired coal miners and their widows. When they went down into the mines, they were made a promise: When you retire, you will have good pensions and healthcare benefits.

They literally put their lives on the line to put food on their table and power our nation, but now that promise is in jeopardy.

At the end of the year, the healthcare benefits for many miners and their widows will dry up, and their pensions could end soon as well. These families are worried about making ends meet, and they are going into the holidays with great uncertainty about what the new year will bring.

We have a solution. It is called the Coal Healthcare and Pension Miners Protection Act, legislation which I am proud to cosponsor. It is a bipartisan bill, and a similar bill is actually pending in the Senate.

Congress needs to act to fulfill this promise. Our miners have done so much for our country. They mined the coal that made the steel that built the skyscrapers and won world wars. These miners and their families deserve no less than what they worked their entire lives to earn: the peace of mind that comes with a pension.

I urge my colleagues to keep the promise and support this important legislation. Time is running out to stand up for our miners and their families.

RELIEF FROM PRESIDENTIAL MIDNIGHT RULES

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in just 64 days, a new President will be sworn in. That is 64 days for the current President, President Obama, to jam through new regula-

tions; new regulations that will hurt our families, kill our jobs, and continue damaging our economies.

We saw that just this morning when his administration released the final environmental study for the stream buffer zone rule. This rule continues the administration's war on coal and will take it even further down the road of killing jobs in West Virginia.

Congress and the States have all issued opposition to this rule, but this administration didn't listen. It is full steam ahead for this radical agenda and overregulation from the Obama administration.

That is why I am proud to support what is known as the Midnight Rules Relief Act. We are voting on it this week.

This bill is simple. It gives Congress the authority to review and reject rules that this President, President Obama, or any President issues during the final months of their term.

American families and businesses have suffered long enough under this administration's, this President's regulatory onslaught, and they have spoken loud and clear at the polls that they do not want more business as usual from Washington.

This administration cannot be allowed to force its job-killing regulations on the American people after their policies have been so soundly rejected.

I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up against midnight rules and bringing transparency and accountability back to our Federal agencies.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAMON "CHUNKY" SANCHEZ

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez, an exceptional musician and activist for the community of San Diego. Chunky Sanchez passed away on Friday, October 28, 2016, a few days before his 65th birthday.

Chunky Sanchez was born in 1951, in Blythe, California, to Mexican immigrant parents. He was a talented musician who was taught traditional Mexican music by his mother and his uncles. Chunky Sanchez quickly learned how to sing, play 10 different instruments, and compose his own music.

In 1969, he attended San Diego State University on a scholarship and began performing with La Rondalla Amerindia de Aztlan, a noted musical group composed of students and professors. Later, Chunky Sanchez became a vocalist for the folklore group Los Alacranes, the Scorpions, which he co-founded along with his brother, Ricardo. They recorded their first album in 1977.

Through his music, he would tell the story of the Chicano movement and of

the Mexican American bicultural experience. Chunky Sanchez was so well received that labor leader Cesar Chavez would often invite him to play at his union rallies.

Chunky Sanchez was also an incredibly active member of the San Diego community. In his song "Rising Souls," he sang that he needed and we needed "to educate, not incarcerate, so that humanity will shine."

During his lifetime, he embodied these lyrics as he worked with local youth as a coach, an educator, a youth center director, and a gang intervention counselor. His passion and care for the community garnered numerous awards and honors from organizations across California and throughout the city of San Diego.

Chunky Sanchez is best known for his song "Chicano Park Samba," which narrated the struggle for and the successful creation of Chicano Park in San Diego. A city historic landmark, Chicano Park honors the history of the Chicano Mexican people throughout their monumental works and murals and sculptures and earthworks, and an architectural piece.

Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez will be missed by his family, his wife, his five children, many grandchildren, and the San Diego community.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the lyrics of the "Chicano Park Samba."

CHICANO PARK SAMBA

(By: Los Alacranes Mojados: Chunky Sanchez, Ricardo Sanchez, Mario Aguilar, Marco Antonio Rodriguez)

In the year the year 1970, in the city of San Diego, under the Coronado Bridge, lied a little piece of land, a piece of land that the community of Logan Heights wanted to make into a park . . .

A park where all the chavalitos could play in so they wouldn't have to play in the street and get run over by a car . . .

a park where all the viejitos could come and just sit down and watch the sun go down in the tarde . . .

a park where all the familias could come and just get together on a Sunday afternoon and celebrate the spirit of life itself.

But the city of San Diego said, "Chale. We're going to make a highway patrol substation here, man."

So on April 22nd, 1970, la raza of Logan Heights and other Chicano communities of San Diego got together, and they organized . . .

and they walked on the land, and they took it over with their picks and their shovels and they began to build their park.

And today, that little piece of land under the Coronado Bridge is known to everybody . . . as Chicano Park . . . ¡Órale!

It began in 1970, under the Coronado Bridge En mi barrio, in San Diego

Where my people began to fight

For Chicano Park, for Chicano Park

Under the bridge, under the bridge, under the bridge . . .

We shall continue to live my brother,

We shall continue to fight my friend

For Chicano Park, under the bridge . . .

¡Raza!, ¡Que vivan, que vivan, Los barrios unidos!

Por Ramon 'Chunky' Sanchez.

THE SENATE MUST REFORM CLOTURE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the American people have given our 45th President and the 115th Congress a clear mandate to revive our economy, secure our borders, restore our Nation's sovereignty, reinstate our Bill of Rights, and uphold the rule of law. Moreover, they have given us majorities in both Houses of Congress to do so. There is no excuse for failure.

President Obama and Secretary Clinton set a positive tone for this peaceful transition of power, a tone no doubt shared by many Members of Congress and many Americans of good will who did not vote on the prevailing side. This represents the best of American statesmanship.

Yet, we have also heard reactionary elements of the Democratic Party make a vicious pledge to thwart this mandate and destroy this President. One need look no further than Senator RED's disgraceful diatribe on Friday to realize that these threats far exceed the lunatic fringe now violently rioting in our streets.

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They reach directly into the Halls of Congress.

To fulfill the mandate of the American people, we will need to deliberate wisely and in good faith, with all sides participating in the discussion and all voices heard. But, ultimately, those deliberations must result in laws to fulfill that mandate. The agenda is daunting, and time is fleeting.

The greatest single obstacle to this era of reform is the 60-vote threshold to invoke cloture in the Senate, and I rise today to urge the Senate to finally reform it. Given the record of abuse of this rule and avowed intentions of many in that body, nothing will change legislatively unless the Senate Republican majority takes action when they organize in January. All the reforms that the American people called for, that the President will request, and that the House will pass will be stopped dead in the Senate.

Now, I don't argue to abandon this rule, but rather to restore it to its original purpose. Cloture is rooted in a sound and ancient parliamentary principle that, as long as one-third of a deliberative body wants to debate an issue, that debate should continue. After all, a minority exists to convince the majority of its way of thinking. This is the essence of deliberation.

But this principle assumes it is an actual debate where Members are talking to one another, and it requires that the debate be germane to the question at hand and that it is not dilatory. That is how cloture started. But over the 20th century, it degenerated into a 60-vote administrative threshold just to consider legislation. Ironically, a

procedure designed to protect debate has now morphed into a procedure that very effectively prevents debate.

The two Houses of Congress are designed to disagree with each other, but once the House and the Senate independently exercise their best judgment on a particular matter, there is a conference process developed over centuries to resolve their differences. This process cannot function if one House simply refuses to consider the other House's work.

The modern notion of cloture prevents that process and the system breaks down. During the last several Congresses, the House has sent hundreds of bills—including the appropriations bills that fund this government—to the Senate; but instead of amending their ideas into those bills or sending us bills of their own, they have simply refused to consider them by a minority denying cloture.

Now, some Senators have said that this mechanism is necessary to preserve collegiality and encourage compromise, but how can you have collegiality when one side simply refuses to talk to the other? How can you have compromise when the matter to be compromised cannot be taken up and discussed?

Others have said that since most legislation grows the powers of government, it is an effective brake on that tendency. It is true this rule effectively blocks bad legislation. It also very effectively blocks good legislation that is necessary to reverse this trend. The current cloture rule provides a ratcheting effect that locks in every expansion of government over the past century.

Now, some Republicans have said that it has been most useful when they have been in the minority. I have to ask them, do you want to be a successful majority or a successful minority? You cannot be both as long as cloture exists in its current form.

Voters elected Republican majorities in both Houses of Congress, and they expect action. They will get it from the President and from the House. But in order for the Senate to rise to this occasion, it must reform its cloture rule when it organizes in January.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PALM SPRINGS POLICE OFFICERS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the lives of Palm Springs Officers Jose "Gil" Vega and Lesley Zerebny and to support the incredible law enforcement officers in my district. It is important to tell their story and forever record their heroism in our national RECORD.

Officers Vega and Zerebny were, tragically, shot and killed in the line of duty last month while responding to what seemed like a routine domestic disturbance in Palm Springs, California.

Officer Vega lived by the mantra of "To Serve and Protect." He graduated from Indio High School and joined the force in Palm Springs in 1982. He was always witty, quick to tell a joke and to offer guidance to new officers. He was an inspiration to friends, family, and countless people who knew him. The day he died, he was only 2 months away from retiring after 35 years of service.

He volunteered to pick up a shift on that day—on his day off. He is survived by his wife, Susana, nine children, and many grandchildren.

Officer Lesley Zerebny was new to the force, with a lifetime of service. She showed a passion for law enforcement and service her entire life, no doubt inherited from her father, a California Highway Patrol officer. She was raised in Hemet, California, and attended West Valley High School. As a young girl, she always stood up to bullies to protect others and for justice. She was also known for her pranks and her fun-loving spirit.

Officer Zerebny was a mother of a 4-month-old daughter, Cora. She had just returned from maternity leave when she was killed. She is survived by her husband Zack, a Riverside County Sheriff's Department officer, and by baby Cora.

Officer Vega and Officer Zerebny were two of California's finest. Their lives of service and spirit of community embody the values of law enforcement officers across our great Nation. Each day, men and women like Lesley and Gil wake up, kiss their families good-bye, and go to work knowing full well the risks they take to keep us safe. Spouses, children, and parents wonder if they will ever return that day.

Law enforcement officers see danger and they don't run from it; they run toward it to protect others. We are safer because of them. They and their families deserve our utmost gratitude for their service.

So on behalf of the people of California's 36th Congressional District, my wife, Monica, and my family, I want to thank Officer Vega and Officer Zerebny and their families for their ultimate sacrifice. Our hearts are with you, and our hearts are with all law enforcement brothers and sisters during their time of mourning. We mourn with you, and we continue to offer our deepest gratitude for your service. Your dedication and the risks you take each and every day will never be forgotten.

Officer Vega and Officer Zerebny, end of watch, October 8, 2016.

WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I have been on the floor so many times over the last year or so talking about the 16