

become a member of the United States Special Forces Command, a lifetime achievement he and his family are proud of to this day.

During his tenure with the United States Special Forces he worked directly under two different four-star generals. Since his retirement in 1998, he continues to be an active member of the Disabled American Veterans organization and is a passionate and fierce advocate for veterans' rights, particularly those, such as him, who have suffered the unfortunate and debilitating consequences of having been exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. To this day, he continues to adopt the motto: "Duty, Honor, Country," as his life creed.

First Sergeant Arroyo resides in Kissimmee, Florida, with his wife, Luz Amary, who has always stood by his side in support throughout his entire military career. He is the father of three children: Nikolas, Phillip, Zulimar Arroyo; and three grandchildren, Camila, Valeria, and Sofia, all of whom he loves dearly.

#### UNPAID GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to talk a little bit about the shutdown. We are in day 33, since the shutdown began. The House and Senate came together originally with bipartisan budgets to try to resolve this. But then on that fateful day, President Trump said that he will take the mantle and he would shut down the government over border security.

Over 2 weeks ago, I met with TSA, PASS, and Department of Corrections employees, and they told me their stories about not being able to make a mortgage; about not being able to have healthcare and childcare; about those facing diabetes and cancer.

Last week, I returned back to the TSA in their break room to speak with workers about how we were going to transport people to and from work, waiving tolls, addressing diabetes, and childcare, once again.

This past week, I joined Second Harvest Food Bank to help feed Federal employees because the United States Government is not paying them. Our Federal workers are about to miss their second paycheck.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President: How long will TSA protect our airports without pay; how long will the IRS workers clock in to timely process our tax refunds if they are not getting a paycheck; and how long will U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents protect our very border that we are debating without getting paid?

□ 1045

We can debate and negotiate over border security.

But why, Mr. President, must you hold nearly 800,000 Federal workers and their families hostage?

Where is the Senate?

We have voted 10 times to reopen the Federal Government. The number of times they voted: zero.

The offer that was given this week, a temporary 3 years for Dreamers and TPS refugees for a permanent border wall with \$5.7 billion and a political asylum system that is worse than the current one.

If you are really serious, President Trump, why not make the changes for our Dreamers and TPS refugees permanent, much like the wall you are asking for?

Now the House Democrats have a counteroffer. We already put in a \$1.3 billion increase for border security in a bipartisan Homeland Security budget. This was the budget passed by the last GOP Congress. Now we are adding an additional \$1.5 billion to improve our security in a three-part border and security plan: one, more security for our ports of entry where most of the drugs are coming in; two, more technology at the border so we know when people are coming across it; and, three, more personnel.

Mr. President, reopen this Federal Government.

I ask the Senate to get a backbone and act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

#### END THE SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today because 800,000 Federal workers—7,400 of who live and work in Illinois—are furloughed or working without pay because of this unnecessary Trump shutdown.

Today I want to talk about two of them. The first is a constituent from the south suburbs of my district. Before joining the Federal Government workforce, he proudly served our Nation during the Vietnam war. He fought for his country. He risked his life for this country.

When he came back from the war, he continued to serve. In fact, he served 46 years in the government working to help his fellow Americans find opportunities and bridges to a better life. After 46 years and because of the declining health of his wife, he decided that it was time to retire. Given his career, I would say it is a well-deserved retirement. So he filed his paperwork, but, sadly, it was 2 days before the Trump shutdown started. His retirement application has yet to be processed. He has yet to receive his final paycheck and cannot access his TSP or 401(k) because he doesn't have his official retirement documents.

Madam Speaker, this is insane. It is insane that this President—a five-time draft dodger—would treat a Vietnam veteran with such outright disdain. But, honestly, I am not sure he cares.

While this story is especially upsetting, it is not the only story. Another of my constituents was featured yes-

terday on "CBS This Morning." His family has three kids; two of them are autistic. After years of dedicated government service, his family was denied his paycheck and likely won't receive his next scheduled paycheck either. In order to make ends meet, they are dipping into their savings—savings meant to provide for the long-term care of their children.

Is this really the way we want to treat Americans—let alone Americans who have dedicated their careers to serving our great country?

Madam Speaker, these are just two stories of many. Right now there are dozens of Active Duty Coast Guard at Station Calumet Harbor risking their lives to save others and to protect the homeland who aren't getting paid. These are Active Duty servicemembers, and they were told to hold yard sales or babysit to make ends meet without paychecks.

Are you serious?

President Trump wants Active Duty Coast Guardsmen to sell their families' memories because he is throwing a temper tantrum and shut down the government. It is just madness, plain and simple.

I have a message to President Trump about his border wall: You have lost. This game is over, and you are hurting people like this Vietnam war veteran. You have lost, and you are not going to get it. End this Trump shutdown and then have a real serious conversation on border security and comprehensive immigration reform.

In fact, I will promise right here and right now, Mr. President, if you are serious about solving issues—and there are definitely issues that need to be solved—I will be the first one at the table. Reopen the government, Mr. President. I will be there to talk about real bipartisan reforms that will enhance border security and prevent more families from being cruelly torn apart by a broken immigration system.

Madam Speaker, while this is a Trump shutdown, he has dangerous enablers in Congress. The biggest one is just a few steps away in the Senate, the Senate majority leader.

I also have a message for the Senate majority leader, the gentleman from Kentucky: Call a vote on any of the bipartisan funding bills that this House—the people's House—has sent over to the Senate. Call a vote and reopen the government. Call a vote for the 6,400 Kentuckians working without pay or not working in your State. You were elected to serve the people of Kentucky, not the whims of the man in the White House. Mr. Majority Leader, it is time to do your job.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have joined our efforts to reopen government. Each vote gets a few more. These are hardworking, commonsense men and women who want to do their job. They want to serve their constituents and make America a better place.

Together with House Democrats, they are standing up to President Trump and his illogical wall. Together with House Democrats they are saying: reopen the government. Together with House Democrats, they know that we can't secure our border if border agents aren't being paid and if Active Duty Coast Guardsmen are not being paid, and we can't secure public safety if FBI agents aren't being paid.

Madam Speaker, my constituents and hundreds of thousands of other families are suffering because of this Trump shutdown. I am proud to have voted with every House Democrat to reopen the government to pay our Active Duty servicemembers and restore government services. It is time for the Senate and President Trump to show the same commitment to our economy, our national security, and the hard-working men and women who serve this Nation as Federal Government employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### LET'S COME TOGETHER

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

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I remember standing in your chair over these last couple of Congresses reading out that very same card at the end. Whether the Obama administration or the Trump administration, folks come down to the floor, they get caught up in the passions of the moment, and we do have opportunities to come together.

I had not planned on coming down. I was actually in the Cloakroom making some telephone calls, and I heard my colleague speaking. I heard her with sincerity implore the President to come to his senses, come to the negotiating table, and end this shutdown. Then I heard her with sincerity implore the leaders of the Senate to come to the negotiating table, to come to their senses, and to end this shutdown. Then in about an hour and a half, I will be down here leading the debate on the rule for the minority, and we will bring yet another of the exact same bills we have brought to the floor that have gone absolutely nowhere in an effort to reopen the government.

I would say to my friends that the secret to finding common ground isn't to ask everybody else to come to where you are standing. That is the new definition of compromise in this town. I have seen that, that gravitate in the five terms that I have been here.

The definition of compromise is: Well, why don't you agree with me?

The truth is the only movement I have seen in this debate over these last 32 days is the President this past weekend when he said: Do you know what? We have called on every single Member

in every single Chamber to find a solution to the young men and women trapped in a DACA status, those families who come here with temporary protective status, and they are uncertain about their future—folks on both sides of the aisle have called for that—he said: Do you know what? Maybe we can broaden this debate, Madam Speaker. Maybe we can broaden the definition of what success looks like, and maybe we can break this logjam.

Madam Speaker, I would just say to my colleagues: I will come back down to the House floor as often as you all want me to come back down to the House floor, and we can do exactly the same thing every single day knowing we are going to get exactly the same result from the White House and the Senate. Or, we can try to do something different.

Candidly, my constituents didn't send me here to do the same thing over and over and over again with the same failed result. They sent me here to get success. They don't care if I win. They care if I succeed on their behalf. They don't care about Republican and Democratic priorities. They care about their family priorities.

And I have to believe—though I don't know all of my freshman colleagues as well as I would like—I have to believe that even with all the new Members in this institution there is still more that unites us than divides us in this country. I love that about this institution. I love that about the men and women who are here.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask this: Let's try to do a little more listening and a little less talking. Here in the rank and file, golly, I have to believe if I could pick out a few colleagues here, I am pretty sure that we could sit down at the table and solve this. I confess it is beyond our reach as we sit here today. This is a White House decision. This is a MITCH MCCONNELL decision. And this is a NANCY PELOSI decision. We ought to all as rank-and-file Members be outraged when it does rise to that level because we lose control. Our constituents lose their voice.

I am encouraging my leadership to be as open and honest and to be as flexible and creative as they possibly can in finding a solution. Every single one of us bears responsibility in this Chamber of what is going on.

If Senate Democrats had let these appropriations bills move last fall, then we wouldn't be in this mess. If Republicans had passed a continuing resolution in December, we wouldn't be in this mess. There are 1,000 different decisionmaking points where we could have done things differently. We cannot change those, but we can change what is happening here today.

I tell my constituents back home: If you want to understand what is happening in Congress, listen to the 5 minutes in the morning, listen to the 1 minutes at noon, and find out if the folks who are coming to the floor are celebrating opportunities for success or

simply condemning their colleagues for not being invested in solutions.

I believe in the men and women of this Chamber. I believe in the U.S. House of Representatives. I believe in self-governance in this Nation. Failing the American people, Madam Speaker, undermines that confidence. We have an opportunity to succeed, and I hope we will say yes to that opportunity.

#### VIRGINIA'S EIGHTH DISTRICT IS SUFFERING

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, my Northern Virginia district includes more Federal workers—almost 87,000—than any other, and my people are suffering.

This week we entered the second month of a shutdown which President Trump began by rejecting a Republican bill which passed overwhelmingly in the Senate after promising that he would, in fact, shut down the government.

The undeniable fact is that if the President told Senate Republicans today to vote for the exact same bill they already passed, the exact same bill he promised to sign, then this shutdown would end. But he refuses to do so because his demands are unmet.

President Trump's complaints of a crisis, Madam Speaker, are correct in one respect: they are a crisis for the people I represent and for people in every district across this country.

The President has said many things since he promised that he would shut down the government, but few of his comments are directed to the Federal workforce. I have gotten many hundreds of calls, emails, and letters, and they are overwhelmingly opposed to the shutdown. They are about tuition they can't pay, rent, healthcare premiums, insulin and other drugs, and groceries.

I am particularly concerned because so many of the folks who work in northern Virginia have security clearances, and the number one reason people are denied a security clearance is because of a financial blot on their record. It is the number one reason their security clearance is taken away. If they are late on car payments and mortgage payments, they can actually lose their jobs.

I am concerned about the impact on contractors. These are the folks like guards at the Smithsonian or food service workers or people in cleaning crews. They tend to be minimum wage. They tend not to have savings, and often no benefits. They are not getting paid, and they have nothing to fall back on. All the people who serve in our community—waiters, dental hygienists, auto mechanics, and hairstylists—are seeing their ability to make money day after day disappear.

President Trump says his shutdown is about making the country safer, but