

regulate commerce and lay taxes and duties with foreign nations, yet Congress has surrendered this Article I authority. Mr. Speaker, it is time to restore it.

STOP HOLDING OUR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HOSTAGE

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to share the story of one of my constituents. Her name is Trisha.

In December of 2017, Trisha and her family lost their home and all of their belongings in the devastating Thomas fire. Since then, the family has been working hard to rebuild their home and their lives while supporting their two young children.

Now, because of the Trump shutdown, Trisha and her husband, who both work as air traffic controllers, have gone weeks without paychecks, facing very extreme hardship.

President Trump is holding them and 800,000 other Federal employees hostage, making an already stressful time even worse.

I welcome an honest, bipartisan discussion on border security, but we cannot have a full and transparent legislative process while the American people are being held hostage. It is time to open up our government now.

MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Illinois State University's Mennonite College of Nursing on celebrating 100 years of excellence in nursing education.

Founded on January 23, 1919, the Mennonite Sanitarium Training School had a vision of training the Nation's best nurses. In 1982, they grew to become the Mennonite College of Nursing, thereby offering undergraduate degrees for the very first time.

In 1995, they added a graduate degree; and in 1999, the college became part of Illinois State University, where it has expanded to include even more academic offerings, including a doctorate degree.

Today, the ISU Mennonite College of Nursing boasts a state-of-the-art simulation lab and a 10,000-square-foot facility to provide students with hands-on experience in real-life situations with patient simulators.

As the husband of a nurse who is a former nurse educator, I am proud of the strong legacy of ISU's Mennonite College of Nursing and their commitment to educating future generations of nurses just like these students here. I commend them on their century of

leadership and look forward to the many achievements to come.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS AFFECTED BY THE SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you a letter from Antonio, a constituent of mine affected by this shutdown. He says:

I am an air traffic controller at O'Hare Airport. This is already a stressful job, but a job that I love. This shutdown is adding an extra layer of stress to all of the controllers working around the country. With the shutdown going past a month, we are all stressing about bills, how to put food on the table, how to pay for childcare, et cetera. We don't have the luxury of escaping from the stress of this job because, when we go home, the stress just continues as worrying.

Finding out that our vision and dental benefits would be billed to us with the expectation that we pay those bills out of our own pockets, despite having no paycheck for over a month, has only added to that stress. This shutdown is going to be a massive safety risk for the flying public if it doesn't end soon.

I have more from Antonio, which I will include in the RECORD later.

BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF FEMA

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the work of our hardworking FEMA employees and the fantastic job they do with disaster relief.

In October, my district, and many on the East Coast, were hit by Hurricane Florence and Tropical Storm Michael. I visited the town of Drakes Branch in Charlotte County to offer support after those storms. The damage was devastating, and there was work to be done all over the East Coast.

In my district alone, FEMA applications were filed in Charlotte County, Danville city, Franklin County, Halifax County, Lunenburg County, Mecklenburg County, Prince Edward County, and many others.

I commend the hard work done by FEMA in helping these areas recover, because we are recovering and are continuing to work to rebuild these areas.

I also commend the brave fire and rescue workers in all these areas, especially Meherrin Volunteer Fire and Rescue and the Drakes Branch VFD.

This is not an easy task, but for our work so far, we have been a success, and I thank the brave men and women of FEMA for their efforts.

□ 1215

END SHUTDOWN AND PAY AMERICAN WORKERS

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, 33 days into the longest shutdown in our history, hundreds of thousands of Federal employees are being forced to work on our Nation's behalf without pay.

We are all able to confidently shop for groceries and eat in restaurants because FDA food inspectors are on the job. We are able to pass through airport security and fly across the Nation because TSA agents and air traffic controllers continue to do their jobs. We can all sleep soundly at night knowing our shores are protected because the men and women wearing the uniform of the Coast Guard remain resolutely at their posts, on the job.

The list goes on and on, and all of these Federal workers, these Americans, are working without pay.

Mr. Speaker, this situation is unconscionable. It is unjust. It is immoral.

This past weekend, Jason, an 8-year-old boy from my district, presented me an impassioned letter, remarkable for its wisdom. He writes: "Dear Mr. President. . . . All of us work hard for our money. . . . I hope you see my point of view and end this shutdown."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to listen to Jason and the majority of the American people. End this shutdown and pay the American workers who every day keep our Nation safe, secure, and strong.

MARCH FOR LIFE

(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, last Friday, more than 100,000 Americans came to Washington for the 46th annual March for Life. This year's theme was "Unique from Day One."

Those who march envision a world where the beauty, dignity, and uniqueness of every human life are valued and protected.

Thanks to the pro-life movement, abortion rates across the country are at the lowest since 2013. Proudly, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania remains one of the top protective States in the Nation to provide legal protections for human life from conception to natural death, according to the Americans United for Life.

Many of my colleagues have introduced legislation in this Congress to advance the pro-life cause and to protect the unborn. I am proud to cosponsor many of these bills, including the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, the Sanctity of Human Life Act, the Protecting the Dignity of Unborn Children Act, and the Life at Conception Act.

Mr. Speaker, we must always be a voice for the voiceless, and we must continue to build a culture that values

life and respects mothers and their children, both born and yet to be born.

SHUTDOWN HARMS VETERANS

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the great harm this shutdown has on our Nation's veterans. I have often said, when politicians talk tough, real people get hurt.

Today, over 150,000 veterans are furloughed or working without pay. In Colorado, over 20,000 veterans who rely on SNAP food assistance are left wondering if they will be able to afford to feed their families.

This is more than just a delayed paycheck. It is about the denial of dignity and respect.

As one furloughed veteran in Colorado told me, when he took off the uniform, he wanted to continue serving our country by working for the government. We owe it to him and all others to honor that service by getting them back to work. There is a sacred promise in America that, if you step up to serve, we will be there for you when you take off the uniform.

After I returned from my third tour of duty, I was grateful that my country was there for me, and today, I stand before you to make sure we are there for them. It is time for the Senate to vote. It is time to reopen the government. And it is time to end this travesty.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this week, we will vote for the tenth time to end the shutdown. I sincerely hope that this is the last time.

For the people in the 14th Congressional District of Illinois, the effects of this shutdown are real and they are painful.

This weekend, I visited a family shelter for survivors of domestic violence that does incredible work serving my community. This shelter would like to expand to serve more people, but funding uncertainty around reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act makes that impossible for them. Domestic violence survivors are a casualty of this senseless shutdown.

This weekend, I met an entrepreneur who is working to open a pet care company with her husband. He even left his job so they could realize their dream. They are currently waiting on a Small Business Administration loan they need to open their business. It is sitting on a furloughed worker's desk. Entrepreneurs are a casualty of this shutdown.

This week, I met with air traffic controllers in my district, people who keep passengers and freight moving safely

through the skies. They are working 6 days a week and about to miss a second paycheck. They told me they look after their colleagues by asking: How long do you have left?

How long do they have left before they miss a mortgage payment, a healthcare bill, or max out their credit cards?

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope the Senate will take up one of these bills and reopen the government.

PRESERVE DIGNITY OF OUR CITIZENRY

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to lay bare the calamity that is the shutdown. From phones ringing off the hook, to folks I talked to at my townhall meeting on Monday, we have heard from far too many of our fellow citizens struggling because of government inaction.

Take the Coast Guard, who I met with in Saugerties last Friday. They are providing an invaluable service to our community up and down the Hudson River, not only search and rescue, but ice cutting, which is critical to our local economy.

They are out there working in the freezing cold and not being paid. This is the first time in history U.S. Armed Forces servicemembers are not being paid during a lapse in government funding.

I repeat: Because of the shutdown, members of the U.S. military are working without pay.

Government dysfunction of any kind is not good for the well-being of our democratic order. We are now approaching levels of dysfunction that ought not be tolerable for anyone who cares to preserve the dignity of our citizenry. We must open the government now.

HONORING LIFE OF DR. RONALD MERTHIE

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

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a spiritual leader in my central Florida community, Dr. Ronald Merthie, who recently passed away.

A proud son of Seminole County, Dr. Merthie attended what is now known as Crooms Academy of Information Technology, where he was elected class president. He went to Texas Southern University on an athletic scholarship and, upon graduation, returned home to become an educator.

Dr. Merthie struggled with substance abuse for a period of time, but he found strength through faith, overcoming personal hardship and becoming a pillar of his community.

Dr. Merthie's life was filled with action and achievement. He established

the New Life Word Center Church, offered spiritual guidance on a weekly broadcast, and founded a K-12 school.

It was Dr. King who said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Dr. Merthie devoted his life to serving others, and he will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional man and offer our condolences to his family and to all of those whose lives he touched.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 648, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 31, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 61 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 61

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 648) making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. Clause 2(e) of rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 31) making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of February 1, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of