

government, and end this shutdown. But since House Democratic leadership has refused to come to the table and negotiate in good faith, the least we could do is ensure our Federal workers don't suffer because of Washington's dysfunction.

Last week, only six Democrats joined every Republican to vote to pay our workers. This vote took place moments ago, and 10 Democrats joined us again. We have heard speeches today on the floor, in the media, and all over the news by Democrats who claim to empathize with Federal workers who have gone unpaid. But when they had the chance today to pay them, for the most part, they have declined.

We need to listen to the people, pay our Federal workers, secure our borders, and end this shutdown.

SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Speaker, working families in Utah are now facing another lost pay period. Through no fault of their own, they are suffering from the last Congress' failure to pass bills to fund government operations and our inability now to get an agreement to end the shutdown.

This weekend, I heard stories firsthand. Family members are facing medical issues due to the stress of wondering when a spouse will be paid. IRS workers worry about missing the training they need to be ready for processing tax returns. Air traffic controllers are working hard to keep airplanes in proper airspace over the Salt Lake Valley but are going without normal staff backup and equipment maintenance.

One individual who has been in government service for 30 years as a member of the military and as a civilian has applied for other jobs, knowing that he is likely not going to get hired. Employers see too much uncertainty.

Small businesses are hurting because their customers don't have money to eat at local restaurants or shop in local stores. The shutdown is harming the entire American economy and every American.

As one worker said to me: Our jobs have nothing to do with the border.

They have had enough of political games. I support border security, and I support Dreamers, but we need to end the shutdown so that they can get back to work.

REMEMBERING MARSHALL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the Marshall County community to honor and remember the precious lives of Preston

Cope and Bailey Holt. Preston and Bailey were victims of a tragic shooting at Marshall County High School in Benton, Kentucky, on this day last year.

Marshall County High School is comprised of a truly compassionate group of students, parents, and alumni who have demonstrated the resiliency of this community in the wake of such devastation.

Preston Cope and Bailey Holt remain in our hearts as we remember and honor all that these young, bright individuals brought to their families, friends, school, and community.

(1615)

TRUMP SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today addressing the damaging impact of Trump's senseless shutdown in the State of Michigan and in the 14th District.

Thirty days and Trump continues to hold the American people hostage over a wall that Mexico was supposed to pay for. Over 5,000 workers in the State of Michigan continue to suffer.

My constituents are suffering the hardships because of this shutdown. A constituent from Southfield, Michigan, wrote:

I have worked for the Federal Government for over 30 years. I have given 100 percent in my career with the IRS, and now I am facing the possibility of not being able to pay my mortgage because of this shutdown.

Our Federal Government is supported by a devoted workforce who are feeling like they have been taken for granted and used. This is unacceptable. Our hardworking Federal employees deserve so much better.

This shutdown is causing chaos and pain for our dedicated Federal workers in America. It must stop.

BRING THE COUNTRY TOGETHER FOR THE STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my objection and disappointment with the decision that was made to disinvite the President of the United States to address this Chamber for the State of the Union.

I would like to commend Majority Leader STENY HOYER, who, just yesterday, said he would welcome the President here to the Chamber this upcoming Tuesday.

This decision that was made is not one to bring this House together. That is a decision that is not one to move our country forward. I object. And many others in this Chamber do as well, and I believe many Democrats do.

Then I hear that we are about to leave again? I say we stay here. We should all be in one room. No phones,

no pay, no one is leaving the room until we have a deal and there is white smoke.

That is how to lead, not to set us backward, as we are seeing again by the Speaker's decision today.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, this week is National School Choice Week. It is when we shine a light on the educational opportunities when they are tailored to the individual student.

I was raised by four academics, and they would be the first to tell you that, in order to empower young people to develop into the type of adults who can solve the problems of tomorrow, their educational experiences need to be tailored.

No parent, no teacher, no student wants an ill-fitting educational experience.

Education is the great equalizer. It is the combat multiplier. It is the path that leads toward American dreams.

God bless the American student. God bless the American teacher.

READING OF THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to address the House today as we come together as Members of the House and read our U.S. Constitution.

Long-time British Prime Minister William Gladstone in 1878 said: "The most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by brain and purpose of man." That is how he described the U.S. Constitution.

For 2 centuries the Constitution has dedicated the structure of our remarkable Republic and created the operation of the consent of the governed and the protection of a free people's individual rights.

All of us who work here in the people's House marvel at its daily majesty, of James Madison's checks and balances, separation of powers, and the institutional hybrid of Federalism.

Today, we gather at the heart of the Capitol, the heart of Article I, the first branch, to read our governing document:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Article I, Section 1:

"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

Section 2:

"The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

"No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

"Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

"The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three."

Mr. EMMER. "When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

"The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment."

Section 3:

"The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

"Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appoint-

ments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies."

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. "No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

"The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

"The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

"The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

"Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law."

Mr. BOST. Section 4:

"The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

"The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be [on the first Monday in December,] unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day."

Section 5:

"Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

"Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

"Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal."

Mr. YOHO. "Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without

the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting."

Section 6:

"The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

"No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office."

Mr. CONAWAY. Section 7:

"All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

"Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

"Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill."

□ 1630

Mr. WILLIAMS. Section 8:

“The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

“To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

“To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

“To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

“To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

“To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

“To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

“To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

“To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

“To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;”

Mr. WALBERG. “To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

“To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

“To provide and maintain a Navy;

“To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

“To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

“To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

“To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And”

Mr. ALLEN. “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing

Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section 9:

“The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

“The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

“No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

“No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

“No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

“No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

“No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. “No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.”

Section 10:

“No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

“No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

“No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.”

Mr. BARR. Article II, Section 1:

“The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of

America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

“Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office or Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

“The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President.”

Mr. PERRY. “But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

“The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

“No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

“In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice

President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected."

Mr. OLSON. "The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

"Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'"

Section 2:

"The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment."

Mr. BABIN. "He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

"The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session."

Section 3:

"He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States."

Section 4:

"The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Mr. GRIFFITH. Article III, Section 1:

"The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office."

Section 2:

"The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State,—between Citizens of different States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects."

□ 1645

Mr. HICE of Georgia. "In all cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

"The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed."

Section 3:

"Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open court.

"The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted."

Mr. GRIFFITH. Article IV, Section 1:

"Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts,

Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof."

Section 2:

"The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

"A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

"No Person held to Service or Labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labor, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labor may be due."

Section 3:

"New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress."

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

Section 4:

"The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive, when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic Violence."

Article V:

"The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate."

Article VI:

"All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

"This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

"The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

Article VII:

"The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same."

Mr. Speaker, this historic reading of the U.S. Constitution on the floor of the House tonight, together with the Bill of Rights and all the amendments ratified as described in the original document, make the supreme law of the land. They are the law that we look to every day to guide the work of this House of Representatives. And I will remind my friends that 50 percent of the words in this historic document are governed and written in regard to Article I, the first branch, the Congress of the United States, the legislative branch.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues tonight who have joined us on the floor in reading the U.S. Constitution: VIRGINIA FOXX, TOM EMMER, WARREN DAVIDSON, MIKE BOST, TED YOHO, MIKE CONAWAY, ROGER WILLIAMS, TIM WALBERG, JODY HICE, RICK ALLEN, PETER OLSON, BUDDY CARTER, MORGAN GRIFFITH, ANDY BARR, BRIAN BABIN, and SCOTT PERRY. I am grateful for their participation in reading this historic document.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to discuss a trip that was recently made to our southern border in Arizona with the sovereign state of Mexico. Mr. BIGGS headed that party up, and at this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here and to speak and report to the American people about what we saw and learned on the Arizona-Mexico border over the weekend.

We spent Sunday and Monday putting a lot of miles on cars, traveling within 30 miles of the border all the way from the New Mexico line through about two-thirds of the State of Arizona. It becomes kind of interesting because, quite frankly, there are so many people who do not appreciate the breadth and the wide open space of that country.

Let me just take a few minutes and tell you that we had nine Members of Congress there. We met with Border Patrol agents, Customs agents, Border Patrol management. We met with ranchers, residents along the border. We met with numerous people, all who have an interest in the immediate impacts of illegal border crossings.

One ranch that we happened to visit in Arizona, right on the border, you could look out and you could see the vastness of what our Border Patrol agents are dealing with. You could literally see many miles into Mexico. The Sierra Madres are coming down from their height, leveling down, and then you have two other additional mountain ranges that come on the Arizona side, right through it, kind of tapering into the Chiracahua Mountains, beautiful mountains.

You can see the vastness of this open space, and it is many hundreds of miles, and even thousands of miles square. We have two or three Border Patrol agents there and no fence, really, to speak of.

So we talked with some of the ranchers who live along there and their experience. We walked through some of the hills and on the paths that illegal aliens and drug traffickers pass through and walk. We talked with some of them.

One gentleman explained to us that he has had four home invasions—four home invasions—more than 15 burglaries, and, every day, trespassers on his property.

Imagine that as your lifestyle, knowing that you will have home invasions, knowing that you are going to have people trespassing on your property consistently.

We moved over to the wall in Douglas, Arizona. It sits on the border with Agua Prieta. We took pictures. We talked with Border Patrol agents. And then we could see where that border wall, how long that goes.

It is bollard fencing, which is slatted steel fencing that goes anywhere from 10 to 15, 18 feet high. But it was so ineffective in some places that they have started putting concertina razor wire to keep people down.

In a minute, I will tell you how that doesn't really work.

And then they put up a third or second barrier there in some parts of Douglas, but not enough money. It just kind of runs out. And you can see how

far that border wall goes in Douglas, and it is the bollard fencing.

We then kept moving in Cochise County in Arizona, and we ended up, we were able to talk to some local law enforcement and some of the Angel Parents.

But I want to talk about something that I thought was most intriguing and interesting. As we were sitting there in that restaurant with some of our staff, our Members of Congress, some local law enforcement, some of the Angel Families, we had a resident just come up out of the blue, and she thanked the local law enforcement for the efforts being made to protect the citizens of that county.

□ 1700

She said: You know, I have had a home invasion. I have had repeated burglaries. I have had trespassing on my property, on my ranch. We get people come in, they turn on water, they want a drink of water, and they just let the water run. They never turn it off. They trash my property.

She was telling me this. I asked her to address our group. She did. Impromptu, she told of her experience, out of the blue. She didn't know who we were. I thought that was remarkable. It was completely unstaged.

We had the Angel Parents, Mary Ann Mendoza talk about her son, Brandon, who was a Mesa police officer. Brandon was killed by a driver who had previously been arrested and deported. He was driving along the wrong way on the freeway and runs into Brandon and kills him.

Steve Ronnebeck spoke. Steve had a son, Grant, early twenties, very outgoing, gregarious young man, working at the QT, which is a convenience store. One night, Mr. Altamirano, who had been convicted and deported previously—in fact, he was convicted for burglary. That was a plea deal down from the two counts of kidnapping and rape of a woman who was victimized by Mr. Altamirano.

He had been deported. He comes back, goes in to buy a pack of cigarettes. Grant is counting out the change. Mr. Altamirano does not like how slow it seems to be taking, pulls a gun out, and pointblank shoots him in the face, killing Grant Ronnebeck. What a tragedy that is.

So they are not alone. I have talked with Angel Families from throughout the country. You say: Well, okay. You are in a border State. That might happen in a border State. This goes throughout the country. These types of tragedies have happened throughout the country.

It is unfortunate and it is sad, but it is preventable in large measure.

We got a briefing at a Border Patrol station in southern Arizona. They are not too far below their full complement. They are about 80, maybe 75 percent of their full complement of agents. This is a big area, though, and they run three shifts. By the time you