

By remembering the events of the Holocaust, we can understand how important it is to defend those who are defenseless. We must eradicate hatred and never become indifferent to the suffering of others.

Mr. Speaker, on the international day of remembrance, the most important thing to reflect upon is the humanity that exists in all of us.

PREVENTING THE NEXT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say I am embarrassed by the past month.

This is my first week in Congress without our government being shut down. I came to Washington to help my community. It is a shame that the benchmark for progress so far has been whether or not the government has even been open. It is hard to lower the bar from there. We can't let this happen again.

Alongside some of my freshman colleagues, I have cosponsored legislation that says, even if the government shuts down, Congress will still have the funding to pay our Federal workers.

And it goes further than that. If Congress fails to make a deal, we should withhold pay from Members of Congress, we should stop using taxpayer dollars for travel, and we should end bonuses for the executive branch.

In other words, if the government shuts down, the people at fault should be held accountable, not the workers. If families in my district can't get their paychecks or if farmers can't get their USDA grants, then elected officials need to feel the consequences.

Mr. Speaker, governing from one crisis to the next is an embarrassment. I came here to do better. We have a chance to turn it around right now.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS POSSIBLE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, as my new Governor just mentioned in her first budget address, in South Dakota, we don't spend money we don't have.

South Dakota has never incurred any general obligation debt, and that doesn't happen by accident. It takes decades of prudent and, sometimes, unpopular decisions. I am proud to be a part of that history.

Now, in Washington, the story is a little different. We haven't always had that same kind of intestinal fortitude, so our debt is \$22 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, I know there is plenty of blame to go around, but I am more interested in solutions. Taking our

medicine—and we do need to take our medicine—will not be easy, and we can't do it all at once, but I am ready to take the tough votes. I am hopeful that some of my colleagues are as well.

After all, fiscal responsibility is possible. Just ask South Dakota.

GUN SAFETY

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to gun violence, we talk about Parkland, we talk about Trayvon Martin, and we talk about Jordan Davis. But I want to take a moment today for the victims whom we don't always talk about.

I want to talk about the nearly 100 Americans who lose their lives to gun violence in this country every single day.

I want to talk about the mothers and the fathers who have suffered tragic loss—the voices that we don't always hear.

Just last week, four lost their lives in a shooting just a few miles outside of my district in Georgia. Those four families are torn apart forever.

Each day, nearly 100 families are torn apart forever. For those loved ones, thoughts and prayers are simply not enough. We need policy and we need change. It is on us here in Congress to do something.

Mr. Speaker, I pray that my colleagues here and in the Senate will support me in acting to pass meaningful gun safety legislation

FLOOD INSURANCE FOR FARMERS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a bipartisan bill that I have been working on with my colleague from California (Mr. GARAMENDI). This week, we introduced H.R. 830, the Flood Insurance for Farmers Act.

Currently, FEMA's requirements for flood hazard areas essentially prohibit farmers from expanding or improving operations on what they deem as floodplains, often requiring barns and silos to be raised upwards of 10 feet, which can be very cost prohibitive for farmers and prevent needed buildings. This legislation would remove this unnecessary red tape, while also allowing farmers to pay more reasonable flood insurance rates that align with their true level of risk.

If levees in the area provide a 50-year level of flood protection, FEMA would then charge rates based on that risk level instead of the lack of 100-year flood protection of the existing levee system, which, essentially, means zero availability for flood insurance.

From the north State to the Sacramento Valley and beyond, this legis-

lation is good for agriculture production in California. I urge its passage.

JAMES ISLAND OCEAN ACTKIDVISTS

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share the story of a very remarkable group of children: the James Island Ocean ActKIDvists—Betty, Louis, Makena, and Liam—all between the ages of 6 and 8, who have made it their mission to protect our oceans and our marine life.

Recently, they successfully lobbied the Charleston and James Island City Councils to ban plastic bags, straws, and foam containers, collecting over 300 signatures in support of the ban. At town council meetings, these young activists had the courage to speak up for the marine life that could not speak for itself.

It is our job to preserve the low country's vibrant natural resources for future generations to come. I am proud of the James Island Ocean ActKIDvists for helping lead the way. I thank Betty, Louis, Makena, and Liam.

WASHINGTON IS BROKEN

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here today as a Representative of New York's 22nd Congressional District.

When I talk to upstate New Yorkers, there is one thing I hear time and time again: that Washington is broken.

We are all tired of Washington's partisanship, and I am here today to reiterate my promise to work with anyone who is willing to solve problems.

I will work with Members of both parties to address skyrocketing healthcare costs and make sure everyone has access to high-quality, affordable care.

I will work to bring good jobs to upstate New York, strengthen our schools, and improve job training programs.

I will fight to make sure our local farmers have the support they need to get a fair price for their goods, succeed financially, and make an honest living.

And I will stand with servicemembers and veterans to ensure they have the support and resources they need when wearing our country's uniform and when they return home.

I will fight for everyday people and take on companies that use power through monopolies to abuse consumers.

Above all else, my top priority will be to listen to my constituents, to be a voice for upstate New Yorkers.

I know that, by working together, we can deliver real results for hard-working people.

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PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 790, FEDERAL CIVILIAN WORKFORCE PAY RAISE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 87 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 87

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 790) to provide for a pay increase in 2019 for certain civilian employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of February 8, 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 any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of

this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 87, providing for consideration of H.R. 790, the Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019.

The rule provides for consideration of the legislation under a structured rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment, which strikes section 3 of the bill and makes certain other technical corrections to it.

The rule makes in order three amendments. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. Finally, the rule provides suspension authority through the legislative day of February 8, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 790 will provide for a 2.6 percent pay increase for Federal civilian workers in 2019, beginning with the date of passage, and this brings the civilian pay increase in parity with the automatic adjustment of pay for military servicemembers, which is also 2.6 percent.

The President's fiscal year 2019 budget requested a 2.6 percent increase in basic pay for military servicemembers equivalent to the statutory formula. This increase went into effect on January 1. But on August 30 of last year, President Trump announced that he would issue a downward adjustment of the pay increase for civilian employees because of a national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare. He proposed to set the civilian pay increase at zero, no raise.

On December 28 of last year, he followed through on this announcement by signing an executive order overriding the automatic 2.1 percent pay increase civilian workers were set to receive and replacing it with zero. Congress can override and Congress should override this executive order with legislation providing for a pay increase for our hardworking Federal civilian workers. H.R. 790 does just that with a reasonable 2.6 percent increase, matching the increase going into effect for military servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, if there is any redeeming feature to the sordid chaos of the 35-day government shutdown, the longest in U.S. history, surely, it is that it reminded America that our Federal workforce is indispensable to our commerce, to our economy, to our society, and to our way of life.

We have been reminded that if you take away the air traffic controllers, you take away air travel. If you take away the Transportation Security Ad-

ministration agents, you take away transportation security.

If you take away the Park Service rangers and the Park Service maintenance personnel, you take away our ability to enjoy the national parks free of litter, garbage, backed-up sewage, and criminal activity.

If you take away the food safety inspectors from the FDA and other agencies, you threaten the food supply with E. coli, salmonella, and insect infestation.

If you shut down the EPA, you empower the polluters to foul the air and dirty the waters.

If you shut down the Department of Justice, you throw a monkey wrench into the ability of law enforcement to go after the Mafia, Medicare fraud, white-collar crime, human trafficking, and all of the criminal enterprises endangering public safety.

If you shut down the National Weather Service, you threaten transportation, travel, and public safety.

If you stop paying Customs and Border Protection officers, you weaken border security and you demoralize our Border Patrol.

If you shut down NOAA, you disable America's first responders in the campaign to meet the challenges of climate change.

All of it has an effect on the private sector, too. If you furlough the people writing checks for home mortgages, farm subsidies, State Department personnel, and private contractor payments, you threaten to ruin private contractors, home purchases, small farmers, and small businesses.

If you were to cut off the VA, you would cut off the veterans.

And if you were to pull the plug on the Social Security Administration, you would threaten tens of millions of Americans who depend on Social Security.

The contribution that more than 2.1 million Federal employees make to our country is indispensable; it is incalculable; and it is irreplaceable.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the 35-day self-identified Donald Trump shutdown, the American people not only witnessed the surpassing dedication and patriotism of the Federal workforce, 30 percent of which is made up of veterans, but we were reminded of the critical nature of the work that they do for all of us. They deserve a raise, and we should override President Trump's insulting and embarrassing 2019 pay freeze for the Federal workforce.

To be clear, Federal workers deserved a raise before the shutdown. The Federal Salary Council, an advisory body of the executive branch established to provide recommendations on locality pay, found at the end of last year that, "Federal employee salaries on average lag behind those of the private sector by almost 31 percent," a finding based on U.S. Department of Labor data covering more than 250 different occupational categories.