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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McGOVERN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 8, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. McGOVERN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HELEN BARBARA LIVINGSTON

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Helen Barbara Livingston, who lives in Macomb County.

A person experiences a great deal in 100 years of life. In 1919, when she was born, Prohibition went into effect, the pop-up toaster was invented, unemployment was 1.4 percent—if you can believe that—and the Grand Canyon

became a national park. Helen experienced the Great Depression.

She has seen over 40 percent of the history of this Nation. She has experienced 18 U.S. Presidents, from Woodrow Wilson, when she was born in 1919, to President Trump. Suffice it to say, she has seen a great deal of change in national and local politics in her life.

She was born in Niagara, New York, and came to Michigan at age 6 when her dad got a job, amazingly enough, in the auto industry at a Dodge plant in Hamtramck, Michigan—the reason so many people move to Michigan to build cars and trucks for America.

Helen attended Hamtramck High School and was an incredible athlete. She was captain of the field hockey team and played tennis, where she never lost a match in 4 years.

During Helen's senior year in high school, Eleanor Roosevelt visited her school to promote women in sports, and Helen presented her with a bouquet of roses. A short time later, she received a handwritten letter from the First Lady.

She met her husband working at Parke-Davis labs, and for their first date, they drove 5 hours to Hartwick Pines. Now, there is an effort. That was the start of a 59-year marriage.

After being a stay-at-home mom for 12 years, when her kids were a little older, Helen started working at Macomb County Youth Home for juvenile delinquents. She worked there until she retired.

Helen has been an avid golfer. She has two holes-in-one, most recently, when she was 80 years old. There are many golfers, including many golfers in this Chamber, who are envious of that achievement.

Even as she got older, Helen continued to seek out fun. A few years ago, she was in a grocery store and ended up starring in a national Mike's Hard Lemonade commercial. To be honest, she didn't realize what Mike's Hard Lemonade was.

I join her family, friends, and the entire community in celebrating an incredible 100 years of life and wish her many more.

REAL-LIFE STORIES OF MY CONSTITUENTS AFFECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, a really sad milestone of, really, failure on day 18 of a partial government shutdown that is affecting 25 percent of the Federal Government.

I am rising today to share some of the real-life stories of some of my constituents in eastern Connecticut who are affected by this shutdown, which, again, today, we are now officially 1 day past the length of the 2013 shutdown of 17 days. On Sunday, if this is not fixed and ended, it will actually be the longest shutdown in American history, surpassing the 1994 shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, today, I got a letter from James of Waterford, Connecticut:

I am a State Department employee assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. I have been a DOS employee since 2003.

I live and work every day in a dangerous environment in support of U.S. foreign policy. In Herat, Afghanistan, in 2013, I was shot at and blown up in an attack by the Taliban on the U.S. Consulate. In Belgrade, Serbia, in 2008, I was trapped in the burning U.S. Embassy during protests against Kosovo independence while I protected and destroyed classified information.

I support our government's policies in difficult environments, and I expect my government to meet their commitment to me and my family.

Jeremy of Colchester, Connecticut, who works for the Coast Guard:

Please work to pass a bill to fund the government, including employees' salaries of the Coast Guard, which are, again, part of the Department of Homeland Security. My

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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family cannot go indefinitely without pay, nor should they have to.

And he is absolutely right.

Kate of Chester, Connecticut:

I am a U.S. Department of Agriculture employee. I have been an employee of the USDA for 15 years at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

That is off the coast of Long Island Sound, where they do amazing research in terms of animal health and public health.

If there is not a resolution and end to this shutdown soon, my financial situation will force me to choose which bills to pay.

Robert of Stafford Springs, Connecticut, who actually works for a regional craft brewery:

I depend on the ATF, the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, to approve license applications, formulas and labels for beers—delicious beers, by the way—that we brew and sell. Every day that this passes without a shutdown ending is another potential day of lost sales.

Ethan of Niantic, Connecticut, who works at the Coast Guard Academy, where they are building the leaders of tomorrow for this country. He has been part of the faculty for the last 11 years.

Personally, without earning a paycheck, we will find paying for groceries, mortgage, utilities, childcare, and other essentials, nearly impossible. As the government shutdown lingers on, I become increasingly concerned how it will impact my family.

Brian Krampovitas, I met with him this morning in my office. He is one of the air traffic controllers at Bradley Field in Hartford, Connecticut. They have 40 employees who are working without pay, 10-hour shifts, making sure that the planes take off and land safely. And again, the stress level, because they have no support staff, is growing more and more intense for people who are doing incredibly important work, guaranteeing the safety of this country.

Again, just as a way of a recap, last week the new Congress was sworn in. Within 2 hours, we passed H.R. 21, which fully funded the American Government, which would have ended this shutdown last week, again, not with a wild spending bill but one that had already passed in the U.S. Senate with Republican votes.

All MITCH MCCONNELL has to do is bring up that bill, which they have already passed, send it to the President, and with the stroke of a pen, this would end today; and these people who, again, are doing the important work of the American people would not have to be going through the stress and aggravation while they are doing great work to protect our public safety, to represent our country overseas, and to make sure that we have leaders of the future through institutions like the Coast Guard Academy.

Again, we are going to hear a speech tonight. This thing apparently is going to continue to go on. It is unnecessary, it is pointless, and it is hurting the American economy and the American people.

Mr. President, sign H.R. 21.

We can have a debate about border security. There are some things that both sides will agree on in terms of making sure that we get more immigration judges to eliminate the asylum case backlog, to boost enforcement of port of entry where fentanyl and dangerous drugs are coming through; and we can have a serious debate about whether or not it is sensors and drones, boots on the ground to make sure that those areas that are more remote get more protection, but lengthening this shutdown and hurting people who have absolutely nothing to do with the southern border is pointless and hurting people and hurting the U.S. economy.

HONORING OFFICER JOSEPH SHINNERS

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of one of Utah's finest. Master Officer Joseph Shinners of the Provo Police Department was, tragically, killed on Saturday night in the line of duty.

At the time, he was responding to assist in the arrest of a dangerous fugitive with a history of violence towards citizens and police officers when he was struck by gunfire and died as a result of his injuries.

Joe leaves behind his loving wife, Kaylyn, and 1-year-old son, Logan.

Mr. Speaker, my heart aches every time an officer is killed in the line of duty, but this one is personal. When Joe made his decision to work for Provo PD, I was his mayor. In a very real way, I feel responsible for his training, his work at Provo City, and his safety. I am deeply saddened by this terrible news.

I stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I speak for the entire Provo community when I say that Joe is a true hero. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect us, and we owe him and his family our deepest gratitude.

The chief of the Provo Police Department, Richard Ferguson, described him as intelligent, honorable, hardworking, and one of his all-stars. Chief Ferguson described him as the officer you would like to show up at your door in your crucible moment.

He was born in Boston and graduated high school in Springfield. He grew up in a home that valued and respected public service, with his siblings serving as policemen and his father, a retired fire captain.

During his 3 years of service at the Provo Police Department, he worked mostly in Provo's thriving downtown and on the SWAT team. He also served on the bicycle patrol and as a field training officer.

Most importantly, he was a good man, husband, and father. One of his fellow officers remembered that there

was a time that he arrested someone and gave them a hug just as he was arrested to offer them comfort. That was the type of cop he was.

My wife, Sue, and I offer our deepest sympathy to Provo PD, the family and friends of Joe, and hope that they know we will never forget their sacrifice—especially to Kaylyn and Logan.

Our brave policemen and -women face serious potential danger every time they say good-bye to their families and leave their homes to go on patrol, and they know that it is possibly the last time they see them and it could be their final good-bye.

I take this moment to express my sincere appreciation to all of our Nation's first responders and police officers, but today, especially, to those of Provo City. We love you, respect you, and thank you.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY

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

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and the need for Federal election reform.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2016 and 2018 election cycles, we witnessed overt discrimination, disinformation, and intimidation tactics aimed at disenfranchising our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.

Individuals and organizations intentionally aimed to spread deceptive material regarding the time and place of elections, endorsements, and voter eligibility. Moreover, there were also explicit attempts to intimidate voters at the polls.

In my home, the Commonwealth of Virginia, there were reports of a man standing in front of a polling place holding a Trump sign with a barking German shepherd on the roof of his truck, and yet that man broke no laws.

Such efforts can interfere with one of our basic rights as Americans: the right to vote. As such, I am pleased that H.R. 1 includes language from a bill I introduced in the last Congress with then-Ranking Member NADLER, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act.

This language will prohibit the dissemination of false information regarding Federal elections and prevent efforts to hinder, interfere, or prevent a person from voting, registering to vote, or helping another person to vote or register to vote. We, as Americans, shall make it easier to vote, not harder, and this language will further that goal.

In the same vein, I am equally proud that another bill has been included in H.R. 1, the Election Day Holiday Act, which I co-introduced with Congresswoman ESHOO in the last Congress. As the title suggests, this bill would direct Federal agencies to treat election day as a holiday and urge private employers to do the same.