

2019, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 265) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 266) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 267) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WALL WON'T SOLVE DRUG PROBLEM

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the President's demand for \$5 billion for a wall won't stop the drug trade, and here is why: The drugs will keep flowing in here, due to NAFTA and CAFTA's exploding continental trade resulting from U.S. jobs being shipped south of our border and the goods they produce down there being transshipped back here with an endless flow of trucks, planes, ships, and railcars. Colombian drug cartels figured this out when NAFTA came along.

Madam Speaker, I have a story from last Friday's Wall Street Journal, entitled: "El Chapo' Jury Told of Cartel's Tricks, From Submarines to Laundry Carts." Two characters among the most significant drug traffickers ever extradited to our country are undergoing trial.

They explain how massive amounts of cocaine and methamphetamines were ferried from Colombia through Mexico into major U.S. cities and how the cartel hired families from the United States to drive down through El Paso into Mexico and bring back contraband material hidden in compartments in their cars. This is a shot of Laredo, Texas, just one of hundreds of portals into our country.

Madam Speaker, the trucks go for miles from the control point all the way back. This is how the majority of contraband material comes into this country, through those portals of entry. A wall will not solve the major reason these materials end up in this country.

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA TOUR

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I hosted press conferences for a 2019 agenda in the Midlands, Aiken, and Barnwell with my wife, Roxanne.

I am grateful for the 2018 successes of serving as Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee chairman to rebuild the military, leading the House delegation to open the Embassy in Jerusalem, and tax cuts creating jobs with record-high middle-class income.

In 2019, I will work to create jobs and economic growth, support conservative alternatives, achieve foreign affairs opportunities, and promote our military and veterans. Building on bipartisan successes, I am confident this year we can be productive for American families.

Congratulations to the Clemson Tigers for their victory for the national championship. Coach Dabo Swinney and Quarterback Trevor Lawrence are an inspiration for the youth of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WE NEED TO OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I met with a group of Federal workers in Tacoma to discuss the impacts of the government shutdown. One of the folks there was a prison guard. She told me that, without her paycheck, she didn't know if she could pay for childcare or for the prescriptions she needs after successfully fighting cancer just last year.

Because of this shutdown, that is the conversation that is unfolding across 800,000 kitchen tables as Federal workers try to figure out how to scrape together mortgage payments and rent payments, trying to make due without a paycheck.

This crisis doesn't just impact Federal workers. It hurts entire communities. It hurts the economy around Olympic National Park, such as hotel owners and restaurateurs, when people cancel their visit to the park because of the shutdown. It affects college students, prospective home buyers, and small business owners who won't have access to Federal loans because of this shutdown.

Madam Speaker, while we can have a legitimate discussion about immigration reform, America doesn't need a wall. It doesn't need a 5th century answer to a 21st century challenge. America needs an open government. The Senate and the President can and should make this happen right now.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION: BUILD THE WALL

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of our porous borders and of the inability of Washington to get things done.

Every day that we fail to secure these borders, more drug runners, human traffickers, and violent criminals enter our communities. It is time we quit playing politics and give the American people what they want and what they voted for.

Although President Trump has certainly pushed the topic into the spotlight, the idea of a wall is nothing new. We have been talking about a wall for decades. This is not a work in progress. This is a failure of leadership.

Presidents, Republican and Democratic alike, have failed to secure our border. It is time for the President to take emergency action. And make no mistake: Our border security absolutely constitutes a national emergency.

Every day, our brave soldiers are breaking their backs to support our national security across the globe, yet we can't secure our own country here at home. If you were to ask any of them what the priority in this Nation is, I think you would receive resounding support for a border wall and border security.

We simply cannot continue to operate as we have. The time has come for our President to take decisive action, and I urge him do everything in his power to build this wall.

HELP SOLVE THE GUN CRISIS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, on November 7, 12 lives were stolen from us during the shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill in my district. As our community began to reckon with this tragedy, I said: "Today we mourn. Tomorrow we work to end the senseless gun violence ravaging our Nation."

But we didn't even have time to recover from our shock before wildfires raged through our community. Our trauma was made unimaginably worse, but we were also united by these dual tragedies, united in reflection and healing.

My community knows that there is no single solution to ending mass shootings, but we also know that to do nothing, to not even try, would be unimaginable. We cannot bring back those lives lost, but we can take sensible action to find solutions that will make the lives of our constituents better and safer.

One very obvious, commonsense solution that more than 90 percent of this country supports is universal background checks. H.R. 8 will not solve all of the gun violence that is ripping our Nation apart, but it will help. That is

what we are here to do. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHNNY MURPHY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. Johnny Murphy, who passed away on December 19 at the age of 63.

When Mr. Murphy passed, he was serving as the mayor pro tem of Richmond Hill in Georgia's First Congressional District. However, this is far from the only way that he served his community. Without his effort and dedication to the area, Richmond Hill likely wouldn't be where it is today.

In 1984, Mr. Murphy started a real estate company called the Richmond Hill Land Company, when the town was much smaller and didn't yet have a red light. Since then, he started the Richmond Hill-Bryan County Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Hill Reflections magazine, and served on the city council and as mayor pro tem. Now the city has grown to have multiple neighborhoods and something for everyone to do, including one of the largest festivals in the area, the Richmond Hill Seafood Festival.

I am proud to have had someone in our district who can make an impact like that of Mr. Murphy. His family will be in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING LUIGI BATTAGLIOLI

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Luigi Battaglioli, a visionary senior at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School, whose app was recently selected as the winner of the 2018 Congressional App Challenge for New York's 20th Congressional District.

Luigi's submission stood out in an impressive field from students across our district. His app, CodeGeek.org, is an online classroom that teaches novice students how to code through video lessons, educational texts, and challenge assignments.

Growing a modern, sustainable, and competitive economy requires exceptional STEM training and education. Luigi's commitment to making coding accessible to anyone on the internet truly embodies the spirit of the Congressional App Challenge. He has earned the pride and praise of our entire capital region community. May his work inspire others to share his passion in the coming year and beyond.

SUGAR LAND, TEXAS: BEST OF THE BEST

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, the world knows no one takes better care of their friends than Texans. The whole world knows my hometown of Sugar Land is the best of the best. The world saw this in global stories about Hurricane Harvey, but the world misses so many stories.

There was a Fort Bend Star article about an eight-alarm fire that destroyed eight apartments weeks before Christmas. The world needs to know about Nazila, Isabella, Blanca, Ann, and Troy. That fire burned all they owned, except two cellos Ann uses to teach kids music at Austin High School. As the world can see, Ann and her loved ones have a fully furnished apartment, courtesy of BEL Furniture in Sugar Land, Texas.

Sugar Land is the best of the best—the best in America, the best in the world.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING GEORGIA GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Georgia's most successful public servants, Governor Nathan Deal.

Governor Deal has led our State with grace and tenacity for the last 8 years, and his time in office has been marked by years of success for our State. In fact, since 2014, Georgia has been ranked the best State in the Nation to do business. That distinction is a direct result of Governor Deal's leadership, his focus on economic development, his investment in statewide workforce development initiatives and training programs, and a sheer desire to see our fellow Georgians succeed. His commitment has, in fact, led to more and better jobs for my fellow Georgians and produced a workforce that is second to none in the world.

Governor Deal and his wife, Sandra, are headed to a much-deserved retirement, some rest, and an awful lot of fun. We wish them the best. I know all Georgians offer their gratitude as well.

Governor Deal, thank you for making Georgia a better place.

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BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, in 2007 there was a vote in this body about whether or not we provide a barrier, a wall, a fence, and we had Democratic

leaders who voted for it back then, both here and in the Senate. Seventy-nine Senators voted for it back then.

The problem is not better on our border, and, in fact, the drugs coming across are worse. There was enough fentanyl coming across in the past year to kill every American adult. The problem is worse.

Folks here were for a wall, a barrier. It seems the only difference is now there is a President that some in here absolutely despise.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor, respect, and patriotism I make my first address on this floor.

This government shutdown needs to be resolved. The people know it is up to this Congress to do it and to do so in short order.

Despite the high level of political morass we must wade through in these first days of the 116th Congress, I continue to believe that this Congress can do things better and actually work together to get things done for the American people.

The need exists to advance and improve our border security, as well as correct aspects of our illegal immigration laws.

The problem-solving, however, starts with securing our borders. Our borders are a serious problem. We all know this. The data is indisputable by anyone who seriously reviews the information.

We have hundreds of thousands entering our country illegally every year, and our Border Patrol agents cannot manage the situation with the resources and tools Congress has appropriated.

There is a cost and a plan to make our borders properly secure. Congress has the responsibility to provide the right level of funding so border security staff can, in fact, do their job and so our country has lawful immigration.

The experts at Homeland Security say this cost is \$5.7 billion. There are many in this Congress who will not vote for this, but less than 7 years ago, these same Members voted for border security funding which did, in fact, include a physical barrier.

Politics has no place in this serious matter. The border agents, including Chris Cabrera of the National Border Patrol Council, emphasizes that a wall, or a barrier, is an essential tool. We here in Congress must provide the means so Border Patrol can do their job.

I, myself, do believe in a policy of high fences and wide legal gates, but before we can talk about legal gates and deal with the issues such as DACA