

California (Mr. CARBAJAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the prodigious 24-year public service career of supervisor Janet Wolf, and a good friend, in Santa Barbara County of my district.

A southern California native, Janet Wolf earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, my alma mater as well. She then went on to the University of California, Los Angeles, to earn her master's degree and teaching credential.

In 1983, Janet began working in the field of vocational rehabilitation. In 1987, she opened her own business, with offices both in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, California. She continued her work and leadership in that field for over 20 years.

Janet Wolf began her service as an elected official in 1993, when she was first elected to the Goleta School Board, where she served three terms, equaling 12 years. She went on to be elected to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, where she also served three terms.

During her tenure, her accomplishments were numerous, including initiating the Eastern Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee, steering completion of the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan, expanding library funding, and advocating for the construction of a state-of-the-art emergency operations center.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my former colleagues in Santa Barbara County in celebrating the exemplary 24-year career of my former colleague, supervisor Janet Wolf, in her public service. Her leadership and commitment to her constituents has been both exceptional and unprecedented. I congratulate and wish Janet and her family the best in her well-deserved retirement and all future endeavors.

REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday night, there was a prime-time television speech from the Oval Office, which appealed to fear, prejudice, and anger. The argument was for a border wall by stereotyping and demonizing people coming to America seeking asylum, safety, and refuge from the violence caused by the war on drugs this administration is escalating in Central and South America.

With provocative anecdotes about violence and fear-mongering rhetoric, he used the word “illegal” 12 times throughout the entire speech, which was undertaken amidst what is shaping up to be the longest government shutdown in the Nation’s history. Never once did he mention the Federal workers who won’t receive a paycheck this week—not once.

His purpose was to create a state of anxiety about our national security in

an effort to convince Republican Members of Congress and the American people to stay with him on his narcissistic quest for billions of dollars to build his big, beautiful wall that he promised Mexico would pay for, but now he is demanding that the American people pay for it. That doesn’t add up, ladies and gentlemen.

What is not understood is that we are not a country that cowers or bends in dread to a hostage taker. To quote President Truman: “America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

The job at hand for this President right now, and for this Congress, is to reopen the government. Then we can all go to work to address skyrocketing drug prices and ensure affordable healthcare.

For the people, we must go to work creating high-wage jobs and fixing our Nation’s decaying infrastructure. For our children and our grandchildren, we must build a greener economy and prioritize protecting our planet. These are meaningful and worthy goals. Our job is not to waste billions on an ineffective border wall while spreading xenophobic lies.

Numerous disingenuous statistics were used the other night to back up his claims of a crisis. Here are some statistics, based on facts, to clarify the falsehoods perpetuated on the American people in that Oval Office speech:

One, the truth is that immigration from the southern border has significantly decreased in the last 10 years, disproving what was said. This gentleman wants us to think that this Nation is being overrun. In 2006, there were more than 1 million unauthorized immigrants apprehended at the southern border, but, in 2018, there were less than 400,000.

Two, immigration does not strain our economy and public resources. In fact, immigrants added an estimated \$2 trillion to the United States GDP in 2016. Additionally, unauthorized immigrants contributed significantly to Medicare and Social Security. From 2000 to 2011, they contributed \$35.1 billion more to Medicare than they withdrew.

Finally, of the 361,993 unauthorized immigrants apprehended by September of fiscal year 2018, less than 1 percent had a violent criminal record. Studies have also proven that immigrants do not increase local crime rates, and they are less likely to cause crime or be incarcerated as our citizens.

President Trump’s border wall concept was not created by law enforcement specialists, and his justification for wasting taxpayer money on a wall is not based on sound argument. This idea began where most of the President’s ideas are born, and that is on the campaign trail. It is an idea unworthy of consideration from Congress. Our constituents and our country deserve better.

Trump has built his political career by demonizing and stereotyping many

different groups of people. His speech Tuesday night was no different.

We, as Americans, cannot fall prey to his fear-mongering, and we cannot allow President Trump to hold Federal workers hostage. Let’s go to work and reopen this government now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

COAST GUARD SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with some very, very sad news. On Tuesday night, the *Mary B II*, a crab boat out of Newport, Oregon, capsized while crossing the Yaquina Bay bar.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard responded heroically to assist the boat, battling seas that were 12 to 14 feet in height. Unfortunately, the crew of three died.

It was actually to be Josh Porter’s last trip on that boat. He had a different job.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, I want to convey my deepest condolences to the crews, the family, the friends, and, frankly, the community for their immense loss. The tragedy illustrates the courageous and perilous work that our Coast Guard members perform daily and how vital their services are for these communities.

I am proud to lend my support to legislative efforts that make sure these men and women actually receive their pay for this dangerous work that they perform on our behalf.

As we enter almost 3 weeks under a partial shutdown of the government, I know, for many of our valuable public servants, their resources are stretched thin. They will start missing paychecks because of the failures of the Federal Government. They continue to admirably serve throughout this shutdown, and we must ensure they don’t suffer because of our failures.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the President and Congress to take up the bills the Senate and House have passed and reopen the United States Government.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly deliver my first floor speech as the new Representative for Texas’ 16th Congressional District.

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, a resilient, beautiful community along the U.S.-Mexico border, I am a proud fronteriza and know firsthand the realities of the border.

That is why I have been profoundly disturbed by the rhetoric and policies

from this administration. I will use my time to tell you the truth about the border, the opportunity she represents, and the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

El Paso, like other border communities, is one of the safest communities in the country, with a rich history made strong by our bicultural, binational character. Our people are generous, compassionate, and kind.

We share a border with our sister city, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. This border unites our families and our values, and it promotes commerce and trade. The border has never been safer or more secure.

El Paso already has a wall, but we were safe long before it was constructed. The truth is that additional border barriers will not address the real challenges that we face. Instead, I hope to work with my colleagues in this Congress to achieve comprehensive immigration reform, address the root causes of migration, and value immigrants as critical to building our economy and our country.

According to the Pew Research Center, there were an estimated 10.7 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States in 2016. Some came when they were small children, seeking refuge in our country, and, today, have limited protection under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Others have been here for decades under temporary protected status, establishing businesses and cultivating deep roots in communities across the Nation.

It is unsafe for them to return home because of ongoing strife in their home countries, but this administration decided to terminate protections for them anyway. The majority of others live in the shadows, afraid to avail themselves to assistance because of our current immigration climate.

Life for immigrants and asylum-seeking families, unfortunately, has gotten increasingly worse since January 20, 2017. This administration has cruelly separated a reported 2,654 families at the border, and these are only the families that we know of.

It has built tent prisons for children; teargassed immigrants near ports of entry, including many women and children; criminalized migration and prioritized detention; and attempted to drastically curtail the number of immigrants coming into our country.

Further, this administration's unlawful asylum ban on migrants who do not enter at ports of entry has strained our border crossings. Due to metering at ports, a practice that limits the number of people who may enter the U.S. each day, families are sometimes pushed out to more dangerous and deadly crossings.

I hope we will investigate whether metering contributed to the tragic deaths of two young Guatemalan children, Jakelin Caal Maquin and Felipe Alonzo-Gomez. These policies and practices are inhumane and un-American.

Building walls and sowing hate divide us as a nation. Instead, we must focus on reforming our immigration system to ensure a safe and humane process.

For example, we must create a pathway to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients; make investments in additional personnel and infrastructure at our ports of entry where most illegal drugs flow; hire more immigration judges and grant them Article I independence in order to address the backlog of cases and ensure due process; overhaul training for CBP and ICE agents that will boost safety and increase oversight, transparency, and accountability; and end the criminalization of migration, especially that of asylum-seeking families.

Above all, families belong together and should not be detained, especially when there are cost-effective, humane alternatives.

Finally, for any of my colleagues who think that the border is unsafe, I invite you to my district to see it for yourself.

END SHUTDOWN AND PAY COAST GUARD MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reintroduce my first bill, which was introduced at the end of the 115th Congress, the Continuing Appropriations for the Coast Guard Act. I am doing this on behalf of Janeen and her family, constituents from Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Janeen is the mother of two children, ages 10 and 12. Her husband of 15 years is a Coast Guard member. Until recently, they were focused on what most families across our country focus on: family time, work, balancing their checkbook to pay their mortgage and bills, enjoying the holidays together, and hoping to celebrate a new year.

All of that changed this past December when a partisan fight in Washington, over which they had no control, suddenly threw their family's entire existence into question.

Because the Coast Guard falls within the Department of Homeland Security, one of the agencies that has not been funded, Janeen's family and 42,000 others, including 320 Pennsylvanians, have been left to fend for themselves.

They received a one-time payment from the Coast Guard's emergency fund, equivalent to half a paycheck. But the Coast Guard doesn't have any additional funds on hand, so they have been advised to hold garage sales and take up dog walking for extra income.

My bill would fund the Coast Guard until an agreement is reached to fully fund the government, ensuring that Coast Guard members receive their paychecks during the entire shutdown.

I am proud to have the support of some of my Republican colleagues, including Mr. FITZPATRICK from Pennsylvania, and I hope that a bipartisan coa-

lition of Members in both Chambers can urgently pass this bill.

It is important to take a step back and remind ourselves of what is at stake for Janeen's family and thousands like them. As long as the government is shut down, and until this bill is passed by the House and Senate and signed into law, Janeen's husband won't get a paycheck on the 15th of this month.

Already, their family has been forced to dip into their savings and emergency funds just to buy groceries and keep the lights on. It is about a 70-mile drive from home to the base each way, so Janeen's husband is not only not getting paid, he is actually losing money to go to work every day.

As the daughter of a man who spent his entire career in the Air Force, I must say, this is a shameful way to treat men and women who have devoted their lives to serving our country and the families who serve and sacrifice among them.

For their sake and for the sake of the security of our country, we cannot let toxic hyperpartisanship keep an entire branch of the United States military from receiving pay.

We should be talking about funding more effective technology and infrastructure to protect our country, not about a border wall that will do nothing to stop the incursion of illegal drugs into our country. The Coast Guard is our most effective method of stopping drug runners.

In Janeen's words: "If my husband doesn't show up for work, he is AWOL." That is the reality for our men and women in uniform. The very least they should be able to expect from their elected representatives is that we have their backs and that they will get the support they need no matter what the politics are.

This is not about party or ideology. It is not about scoring points in Washington or on cable news shows. Ultimately, Janeen and her family, and everyone like them, just want to see their government live up to its most basic responsibilities, because as Janeen tells her kids: "When you say you are going to do something, you make a promise."

Servicemembers like Janeen's husband made a promise to defend our Nation when they took their oath. They have never let us down. Every single day, through every challenge and hardship, they have kept their promise and done everything expected of them and more. But during this shutdown, their government has failed to keep its promise to them.

Janeen's family and other Coast Guard families need us right now. Through our actions by getting this bill through the House of Representatives, the Senate, and to the President's desk, we can show them that we take care of our own and that we honor selfless service in this country more than partisanship.