

He also spent much time creating programs for kids: the Junior Deputy Program, substance abuse programs, D.A.R.E. program, and a narcotics unit.

But perhaps his most important accomplishment is evolving this rural sheriff's office to a modern law enforcement agency in one of the fastest growing parishes in the State of Louisiana.

With five decades of service, he has maintained the immaturity of a teenager. I am proud to call him a friend. I want to honor his service to our State and our Nation, and I commend his daughters, Sara and Erin, and recognize the 40 years of marriage to his wife, Linda.

RIISING IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Federal workers across the country.

Right now, in Dallas, Texas, the American Federation of Government Employees local chapter, or AFGE, is organizing a rally to hold the President accountable for this shutdown.

Today, the President is finally making his first official visit to the Texas-Mexico border. He will be visiting McAllen, a town that I have visited on numerous occasions and have many friends, and I adore and love the town.

In 2018, McAllen saw their lowest crime rate in 30 years. And let's be clear: Democrats care about border security. We care about stopping crime. But we won't roll over because the President is getting frustrated that the majority of Americans don't want his wall, plain and simple.

The President and Senate Republicans are choosing political self-interest over our families. The members of the Dallas chapter of AFGE are real people who are facing two real burdens as a direct result of this shutdown. They are struggling to pay for rent and groceries.

The gut punch is that the President is far more concerned with his base in 2020 than securing the well-being of over 800,000 families.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES NAVY'S NEWEST LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP

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

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the U.S. Navy's latest littoral combat ship christened the USS *Wichita*.

On Saturday, the USS *Wichita* will be commissioned in Mayport, Florida, where she will begin her service to our country. As the third USS *Wichita* in U.S. Naval history, this ship will carry on the proud legacy of representing Kansas' largest city around the globe.

Wichita will be represented on board by Chief Petty Officer Isaac Davis, a graduate of Wichita Heights High School, who will serve as an operations specialist, and Chief Petty Officer Brian Tanner, a graduate of Derby High School, who will serve as an information systems technician.

I am grateful for Chief Petty Officers Davis and Tanner, as well as the entire crew of the USS *Wichita*. I am also thankful for the efforts of so many people in our community who have been supportive of the work of the USS *Wichita* Commissioning Committee.

Thanks in part to these efforts, I know the USS *Wichita* will serve our community and country with pride.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the men and women of the USS *Wichita* fair winds and following seas.

IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, a bill to implement universal background checks as a critical first step towards ending the public health crisis of gun violence.

Today, I speak up in honor of the Moms and Students Demand Action leaders from Michigan's Ninth District who have inspired me. I speak up because it is unacceptable that far more people per capita are shot and killed annually in our country than in other wealthy nations. And it is unacceptable that in 2016, more than 1,200 Michiganders died from firearms-related injuries.

I speak up because the American people are counting on us to save lives, and this bill is a commonsense way to do that. I feel privileged to cosponsor this bill as one of my first actions in Congress. We owe it to families everywhere to get this done.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE AMBROSE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and hobby radio control industry legend, Joe Ambrose, who passed away unexpectedly on Friday.

Joe was a lifelong resident of central Illinois and a graduate of the University of Illinois. He joined Horizon Hobby in Champaign in 2005 as vice president and in 2008 he became CEO, where he successfully grew the business over the next decade. This past

year he led the largest acquisition in radio control industry history through the purchase of crosstown competitor Hobbico RC.

Joe and his company were leading voices for establishing the micro UAS regulations, hosting myself and other stakeholders in June of 2016 for a roundtable on the topic. Horizon Hobby also participated in the FAA's UAS Aviation Rulemaking Committee. That group ultimately developed recommendations for performance-based regulations to allow certain unmanned aircraft to operate over people.

Joe made things happen in this institution. His visionary leadership will be missed, and I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Julie, their four children, and eight grandchildren.

IT IS TIME TO REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I stand here today on behalf of the hard-working Nevadans hurt most by this recent shutdown: The 3,512 Federal workers in Nevada who are missing out on paychecks; the 34,000 people in my district who could lose their nutritional assistance; the 1.1 million Nevada families whose tax refunds could be delayed; the air traffic controllers and TSA agents at McCarran International Airport who are forced to work without pay.

It is time to reopen the government and stop this shutdown from taking even more money out of their pockets. That is why I voted for bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown on the very first day of this new Congress.

It is time to reopen the government and get back to work on behalf of the American people and the people of Nevada's Fourth.

HONORING COLONEL ERICA INGRAM

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Colonel Erica Ingram, who recently became the first African-American female colonel in Arkansas National Guard history.

Colonel Ingram is a native of Wilmar, Arkansas, and a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She began her military career as a second lieutenant on Active Duty with the United States Army in 1995.

Throughout her two decades in the Army, Colonel Ingram has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the

National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon, and the Arkansas Service Ribbon.

She has served as the president of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, and she is a graduate of Leadership Greater Little Rock.

My congratulations and best wishes to Colonel Ingram and her family, and I thank her for her service to our citizens and her bright future as a defender of our great Nation.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT LAWSUIT

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, this is a frustrating time in Washington, in which most of us have been focused on the ongoing government shutdown. But I want to take a moment to talk about something positive the House is doing to protect everyday Americans across this country.

My colleagues and I have passed a motion to intervene in the Texas vs. United States lawsuit. If allowed to stand, this lower court ruling would pull the rug out from under millions of Americans who rely on the Affordable Care Act for health coverage, many of whom were denied coverage in the past for a preexisting condition.

133 million Americans are living with chronic illness, serious medical conditions, or even minor medical histories that used to disqualify them from all but the most expensive insurance coverage. We cannot return to a time when a cancer survivor or a child with diabetes is rejected for coverage because of a preexisting condition.

Affordable, quality healthcare should be a right for every American, and we should be making it easier, not harder, for everyone to get the insurance they deserve. That is why I am proud that the House has taken the action to intervene in the lawsuit, demonstrating our steadfast commitment to fighting back against those who seek to dismantle the fundamental protections no person should be denied.

I will continue to work tirelessly with my colleagues to uphold and protect access to American healthcare.

OUR COMMUNITIES NEED OUR HELP

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, we have talked a lot about border security this week, but I rise today to talk about a lot more than what goes on at the border.

Tens of thousands of people die from opioid addiction every year, including hundreds in the Fifth District alone.

Yesterday, on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I was reminded of the

many heroes I have met in law enforcement who try to prevent some of these tragedies; heroes who help people at the end of their ropes, people who see no way out; heroes like Sheriffs Bob Mosier of Fauquier County and Mike Taylor of Pittsylvania County.

This issue is important for my district and close to my heart. My immediate family has been affected by opioids and its awful and persistent hold. Localities across my district have been ravaged by the crisis, from Fauquier County in the north, to Pittsylvania County in the south.

They need our help. Our law enforcement needs our help. Our communities need our help. I call on Congress to act.

OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, we are entering the longest government shutdown in the Nation's history and, ironically, most of the Federal employees who are affected by the shutdown are the very Federal agents who we depend on to protect our borders.

To a national audience 2 days ago, the President repeatedly warned that terrorists are pouring into the United States from Mexico. This is the President's central argument for a 25 to \$40 billion border wall. He is now threatening to declare a national emergency to go around Congress to get that wall.

The President's own counterterrorism officials and experts said there has never been a case of a known terrorist sneaking into the country through open areas of the southern border. The Department of Homeland Security's threat assessment rates the situation at the southern border as a minimal threat. Who are we to believe?

Mr. President, open the government and prove that you can manage the situation at the border as Presidents Obama, Bush, and Clinton did before you.

PARADISE, CALIFORNIA FIRE RELIEF

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the good work that has been done by FEMA in my district in California where we had the devastating Camp fire affect and devastate Paradise, California. The clean-up and the recovery from this disaster is going pretty well, with a coordinated effort with FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and State entities like the Cal OES.

The response from the Federal Government after the President's visit has not been disappointing but, indeed, going pretty well.

So far, more than \$48 million has been approved by FEMA to help re-

cover from wildfire losses in California, including Butte County and Paradise. FEMA has been on the ground helping people get the assistance they need directly. Nearly 7,000 individual assistance applications have already been approved.

It is still extremely challenging for people who have suffered losses and who are, indeed, displaced from their homes, having to live with friends, relatives, motels, whatever that might be. I get that. It is very difficult. But we are all working in a coordinated way together to move along the recovery efforts as quickly as possible with State entities and Federal entities and local government. The outpouring of people who support each other has been amazing.

The administration has made a commitment from day 1 to help our people recover, and they have been backing it up to this point, and I expect this will fully continue.

FEDERAL WORKERS ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Federal workers in my district who are suffering because of the government shutdown.

I rise today for my constituent, Raj Kaur, a single mother of two, a breast cancer survivor, and a correctional officer at the Mendota Federal Prison. Raj is currently on leave as she recovers from surgery. She went on medical leave believing she would be financially secure as she recuperates.

Now, not only is Raj worrying about her health and recovery, but as a single mother, she is faced with the burden of trying to figure out how to provide for her family on grit alone. Unfortunately, Raj doesn't have a rich father to bail her out.

We say we are a Nation that values work and workers, but today we are forcing thousands of working men and women to work without pay because our colleagues in the Senate and the White House won't do their jobs.

Today, in solidarity with Raj and the hundreds of thousands of unpaid Federal workers nationally, I am asking the Chief Administrative Officer to withhold my pay until our government reopens.

This situation has gone on for far too long. It is time to get back to work.

RELEASE KHALIL MAATOUK

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Khalil Maatouk, who is the executive director of the Syrian Center for Legal Studies and