

Federal employees will not stay in their jobs without pay for months or years. They have to feed their families and pay their mortgage or their rent. Last week, the Senate passed S. 24, sponsored by 43 Democrats and one Republican, by voice vote. The bill guarantees that furloughed Federal workers would be paid from retroactively as soon as possible. This is the least Congress can do for these workers. It does not resolve, however, the pain Federal workers endure through a shutdown or guarantee that their homes will not be at risk during a shutdown or guarantee that food will be on their table or ensure that the Federal workers will stay in their jobs during a prolonged shutdown like the one this President apparently foresees. The solution is to shut down the shutdown—to do it now, to do it immediately.

This Trump shutdown doesn't only affect Federal employees and contractors. It affects the tens of thousands of Americans who rely on government services or need approval for projects. A local Sante Fe small business—a construction company, Sarcon Construction Corporation—is ready to begin an \$8.4 million project to build two new hangars at the Sante Fe Municipal Airport. This 32,000-square-foot project will generate \$650,000 in local tax revenue, and it will employ 75 to 100 people. Many of those people are unemployed now, waiting for this project to begin. This project is a big deal for my home city of Sante Fe.

Do you know why the project is stalled?

Sarcon can't get the necessary approval from the Federal Aviation Administration because of the Trump shutdown. The FAA personnel responsible for approval are furloughed. As we can see, the shutdown has real consequences for real people, especially for people like those unemployed construction workers in New Mexico, ready and eager to go to work but unable because of our President's inability to do his job.

The President's ridiculous claim that many Federal employees who are not getting paid support his shutdown has no basis in reality. The Federal workers in New Mexico who are furloughed or are working without pay and the Federal workers we have heard from do not support this shutdown.

An employee with the Department of Interior in Albuquerque writes:

While I am not sure how much good it would do, I emailed the White House to go on record that I am not one of the Federal employees the President is touting as wanting to be out of work without a paycheck until he gets his wall. I just want to go on record . . . that no, Federal employees do not want to stay out of work; we want to go back to work and get paid. This is not our fight, just his.

A husband and wife from Las Cruces who both work for the Environmental Protection Agency are also among the many Federal workers who did not support the Trump shutdown. They have three children, and they need their

paychecks. They don't support Trump's wall either. As EPA engineers, they understand and oppose the environmental destruction it will cause.

A scientist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico is one of the hundreds of thousands of Federal workers who are essential and working without pay. He is working on critical space infrastructure and testing related to the Space-X launch scheduled for later this month. There is no good reason why this important work is not being paid for right now.

There is no good reason why any Federal employee is not getting their salary today. There is no good reason why Federal contractors' contracts are not being honored. This Federal shutdown hurts American families across my State and the Nation. It hurts our economy.

One Federal employee in New Mexico wanted to tell their story but was banned by their employer on the ground it would represent illegal lobbying of Congress. That is patently false. Federal employees contacting their elected representatives about this shutdown and its impact on their work and lives is not prohibited lobbying. The Trump administration has not only put these people out of work, it is now gagging them and denying them their free speech rights.

I call upon the President to end this terrible shutdown. He should do so immediately.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON BARNHILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when Paducah Police Chief Brandon Barnhill announced last October that he would be retiring at the end of the year, we knew he would leave large shoes to fill. During his 20 years with the department, including the last 5 it at the helm, Brandon helped develop a statewide reputation for excellence. Now, as Brandon retires to pursue new opportunities, I would like to take a moment to thank him for his service to the city of Paducah and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Brandon graduated from Murray State University and earned a master's degree from Andrew Jackson University. It was at the Murray Police Department that Brandon began his noble vocation in law enforcement. He spent 3 years there before joining Paducah's police force in 1998.

Every day, Brandon wore the badge with pride. Out of love for his community, he faced down danger with integrity and professionalism. Our Commonwealth is blessed with an abundance of brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect their fellow citizens, and Brandon fulfilled his duty with distinction.

It didn't take long for his potential to be recognized in Paducah. Promoted to detective the year after joining the department, Brandon continued to earn the respect of his colleagues both in Paducah and throughout the State. When the previous police chief announced his retirement in 2013, Brandon became the best choice to lead his colleagues to preserve the peace.

Brandon's leadership has helped place the Paducah Police Department among the most respected law enforcement organizations in Kentucky. One of his major initiatives was to strengthen the partnerships between the department and the local community. Brandon recently said he was particularly proud of the "Chief's Community Forum," a way to receive feedback on the perception of policing in the city. Throughout his service, Brandon became an example of integrity and credibility in law enforcement, and the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police named him the Chief of the Year in 2016.

In recent years, I have had the privilege to work with Brandon to bring increased Federal law enforcement resources to Paducah in support of the work already being done there to combat the substance abuse epidemic. In 2018, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation both committed to open new offices in Paducah and to dedicate assets to a partnership with State and local law enforcement. Brandon and the men and women of the Paducah Police Department were, of course, integral to this effort to keep our communities safe.

At his retirement celebration, Brandon was greeted with an outpouring of support and gratitude from the community he had spent two decades serving. I would like to take this opportunity to add my voice to those congratulating him for his remarkable success in Paducah. With his wife Renee and their children, Natalie and Reese, I wish him all the best in his next adventure. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Brandon Barnhill for his leadership at the Paducah Police Department.

TRIBUTE TO EDDIE ROGERS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, after 16 years of service to the people of Taylor County, KY, Judge-Executive Eddie Rogers is beginning his retirement. My friend leaves behind a legacy of passion for the men and women he represented, and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Eddie's career in public service and to thank him for his commitment to Taylor County.

Eddie first entered the county's top job in 1999, and he worked closely with the members of the fiscal court to address the challenges facing the area. He made some difficult choices, but as he looked back on his career, Eddie said he always did what he thought was best to help attract new jobs to Taylor County and provide new opportunity for Kentuckians.

Serving in office a second time beginning in 2006, Eddie's leadership secured several major accomplishments for the county that will continue to be enjoyed for years to come. During Eddie's tenure, he oversaw the opening of the Taylor County Judicial Center and the construction of a new fire department. The county also built a new animal shelter, and in the near future, a technology center will open as a result of Eddie's work. These buildings will stand as lasting landmarks to Eddie's service and his success in Taylor County.

At his final fiscal court meeting as judge-executive, the county's other elected officials thanked Eddie for his leadership, his collaborative nature, and his record of achievement. They also noted his work with the Kentucky Association of Counties, helping other communities across the Commonwealth. In addition to his tireless work for Taylor County, Eddie's colleagues also thanked him for his personal friendship. I can echo those sentiments and say I have enjoyed working with Eddie on a broad range of projects for the community and our home State. Joined by members of his family, Eddie adjourned his last meeting with the appreciation of many throughout Taylor County.

At the end of his 16 years of dedication, Eddie has a lot to be proud of, and I would like to thank him for his hard work. With his children, Michele, Wynn, and Natalie, and his grandchildren, Dalton and Laine, I hope he will enjoy a well-earned retirement. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Eddie for his years of service to Kentucky.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from this evening's vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019, S. 1.

On vote No. 3, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WOODY CRAWFORD

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the retirement of Mr. Millard "Woody" Crawford of Colebrook, NH.

Since 1975, Mr. Crawford has worked for the Colebrook District Office of the New Hampshire Electric Co-operative in the New Hampshire North Country.

The Colebrook District Office distributes power to about 1,500 co-op members in Columbia, Colebrook, Dixville, Stewartstown, Clarksville, and Pittsburg, NH and maintains miles of overhead lines.

Returning to New Hampshire after college in 1971, Mr. Crawford took a job digging and setting poles for the co-op, before making a pitch to the district representative as to why they should hire him as a utility lineman. He learned line work on the job, and bringing power to a household by connecting someone to the grid remained his favorite part of the job throughout his career.

In 1997, Mr. Crawford was responding to an outage with his partner, Mark Monahan, when they witnessed the shooting of a New Hampshire State Trooper. The gunman, having already killed another state trooper, a district court judge, and a newspaper editor, threatened Mr. Crawford and Mr. Monahan, but they drove to the main road to stop traffic and prevented the loss of more life.

Mr. Crawford's colleagues praise his professionalism and care for others, and I am proud to join them in congratulating him on his retirement.

I hope you will join me in honoring a dedicated Granite Stater, Woody Crawford.●

REMEMBERING GERALD BOSCHWITZ

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and pay tribute to Gerald Boschwitz, who passed away on December 30, 2018.

Gerry's life was defined by his enduring kindness and commitment to his family. The son of Ellen and former U.S. Senator Rudy Boschwitz, Gerry came from a family that valued service and decency. During his life, he embodied these values and passed them on to his children as well.

I went to Wayzata High School with Gerry. An accomplished student, he then attended Carleton College where he studied political science, a subject for which his family life prepared him very well.

Gerry, or "the Gerb" as he was known to his family, was the first of Rudy and Ellen's four sons and the leader of his pack. Gerry was a quintessential oldest son and big brother, serving as both a mentor and a sounding board for those he loved. Whether it was helping his father on the campaign trail, or his brothers make career decisions, Gerry always showed up, ready to give his support.

Gerry also worked alongside his siblings at the family's Plywood Minnesota/Home Valu Interiors business for 25 years, stepping in as CEO when his father was ready to pass the torch. He later cofounded a business of his own.

His commitment to his work often made him the first one up in the morning and out the door, but that didn't stop him from putting his family first, including leaving voicemails for his wife Janet at her work so that his voice was the first she would hear in the morning.

Gerry's family—his wife Janet and their sons David, Benjamin, and Michael—was truly the centerpiece of his life. Gerry was deeply committed to the Boy Scouts and served as an assistant scoutmaster for more than a decade. The Scouts played an important role in the lives of his sons as well—all three Eagle Scouts—something Gerry was very proud of.

Gerry fought valiantly against his multiple myeloma cancer for 4½ years, undergoing numerous treatments including a stem cell transplant and a natural killer cell transplant. In keeping with the kindness and generosity that defined so much of his life, Gerry's final gift to others was the knowledge researchers will gain from his experience.

That final act is no surprise to those who knew him best.

May his memory be a blessing.

Thank you.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 24. An act to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 221. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

H.R. 266. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 221. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time: