

from all States, under the orders of a Commander in Chief we cannot vote for.

For decades, my predecessors and I, lacking a vote on this House floor, have had to plead, with no proportional delegation, against bureaucracy and against both open and tacit discrimination in Federal programs and funding.

Puerto Ricans have been a part of the great American family for over 120 years. Puerto Ricans are part of what makes the United States what it is today. At work, schools, law, business, sports, government, and in communities in every State we contribute to the greatness of this Nation, and we are proud of that, Mr. Speaker.

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We embrace being Americans, and we want to be looked at and treated as such by our own government system.

It is time to get to work to give the people of Puerto Rico the equality that has been long promised but denied. After the discovery of the island, there were more than 100 years as a colony of Spain and now as a colony of the United States.

This is the time. Let's do it. Respect the will of the people of Puerto Rico to become a State, and let's do it now.

RECOGNIZING LANE LOFTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and sincere gratitude that I rise today to recognize Lane Lofton.

A Mississippi native, Lane grew up in the South with his parents, Lynne and Bill Lofton, and his brother and sister, Will and Lydia Lofton. Not ready to part with his Southern roots quite yet, he attended Samford University in Alabama, where he began his life in politics.

Lane moved from the Alabama district operations for House Representative Bobby Bright to D.C. in 2009. It was probably the best move ever because it was in Washington that Lane met and married the love of his life, Anna York Lofton. They both have immense love for their two French bulldogs, Duey and Shirley.

After nearly a decade of service in government relations, Lane interviewed to be my chief of staff about 2 years ago. I remember it like it was yesterday. It was at the end of a very long day of orientation, and he was the last interview of the day. I remember saying to myself after he left that we must have saved the best for last. Either that or it was a long day and I was overly tired and easily impressed, although I firmly believe that it was the former.

The fact is that there is no one else I would rather have by my side over these last 2 whirlwind years than Lane Lofton.

Together, we entered the 116th Congress with the Nation's longest government shutdown and ended it with a global public health and economic crisis. But no matter the problems at hand, Lane worked diligently every single day to support our office as we passed landmark legislation, fostered relationships across the aisle, and then sometimes he just reminded me to fix my tie.

A tried and true public servant, Lane has always put the needs of others first, especially the 20-person office that he managed. That team can attest that, every single day, even when Lane had a bad day, he never showed it. He came to work every day with an ear to listen, a voice of reason, and a smile on his face. He sets an incredible example of selflessness in the work that he takes on, and he has been an invaluable mentor for our younger staffers.

I look forward to watching the future successes that Lane will find in his personal and professional life. I think that his next challenge will be one of his biggest because Lane and his wife, Anna, will welcome their first son in February. I could not be more excited to watch their young family grow.

Welcome to the No Sleep Club, Lane, and welcome to finding a level of love and devotion that you did not know you were capable of.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your service to the Lowcountry and for becoming a lifelong friend.

COMMENDING CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Coronavirus Task Force, appointed by President Trump and led by my brother, Vice President MIKE PENCE.

Vice President MIKE PENCE has led doctors, scientists, manufacturers, elected leaders, and others as they work hard to develop therapeutics and deliver hope for the American people.

Under the leadership of Vice President PENCE and medical experts, Operation Warp Speed has been a historic success. We now have two vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna at 90 and 95 percent effectiveness. Companies like Lilly have developed an effective antibody.

Our scientists are making history. To not recognize this achievement is an insult to the tens of thousands of people who have been working day and night to battle this pandemic.

COVID-19 has gripped our Nation and our world, but under the leadership of President Trump and Vice President PENCE, and the hard work of those on the front lines, we are on the path to recovery.

God bless those who have dedicated so much of their time and energy to helping their fellow man.

HONORING K-9 OFFICER DIESEL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen K-9 officer in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana.

Bartholomew County's own K-9 officer Diesel died in the line of duty this weekend while he was in pursuit of a dangerous criminal.

Diesel helped our Columbus officers find dangerous narcotics and search for suspects who had fled from the police. This is important work.

Our community has come together to express condolences for this hero with flowers, notes, and even toys on the K-9 handler's car at the sheriff's office.

Our law enforcement community is the thin blue line that protects our friends and loved ones from danger, and we are forever grateful to the heroes who sacrifice everything to ensure our safety.

THANKING INDIANA'S SIXTH DISTRICT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to the Hoosiers of Indiana's Sixth District. They have sent me to Washington again to represent them in Congress. It is an honor to be entrusted with this responsibility.

In my first term, my team and I focused on delivering quality constituent services, and we will continue to work hard for you in the next term.

The Sixth District of Indiana is my home and always will be, and it is my honor to serve you in Congress and bring Hoosier values to this Nation's capital.

CONGRATULATING RYOBI DIE CASTING USA

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ryobi Die Casting USA of Shelbyville, Indiana, on being named the General Motors Supplier of the Year.

The Supplier of the Year award is chosen by a global team of GM purchasing, engineering, quality, manufacturing, and logistics executives.

Hoosier manufacturing plays a major role in our local economy as well as the global economy, and Hoosiers rely on the manufacturing industry for good-paying jobs in my district.

Congratulations to Ryobi Die Casting USA for this tremendous achievement, and keep up the good work.

COMMEMORATING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF NINESTAR CONNECT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th anniversary of NineStar Connect.

In 1895, Loren Helms of McCordsville, Indiana, established the very first telephone in the community and created the company we know today as NineStar Connect.

With headquarters in the Sixth District, NineStar provides rural broadband to communities all over my Hoosier State.

It is my pleasure to recognize this Greenfield-based company for their contributions to our community. Thank you to the great team at NineStar, and congratulations on 125 years.

CONGRATULATING BATESVILLE FFA SKILLATHON TEAM

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Batesville FFA Skillathon Team for winning the Indiana State 4-H title.

All four members of the team scored in the top 10 for individual competitors, earning them the team State title, a big accomplishment.

Congratulations to Anna, Onika, Shalee, and Blake on all their hard work and dedication to the agriculture community. This group has made the Sixth District proud.

HONORING U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT KYLE MCKEE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Kyle McKee.

Staff Sergeant McKee was killed on November 12 in a Black Hawk helicopter crash during a routine peace-keeping mission in Egypt. He was one of five American soldiers who lost their lives in that crash, all members of the Multinational Force and Observers, which oversees the peace agreement reached between Egypt and Israel as part of the Camp David Accords of 1978.

This tragic loss of life came less than 24 hours after our Nation observed Veterans Day, and it is a somber reminder that the security and the freedoms we enjoy each and every day are not free. They are paid for by the service and sacrifice of brave men and women in uniform like Staff Sergeant McKee.

Originally from Leroy Township, Staff Sergeant McKee graduated from Riverside High School in 2003 and followed in both his father's and brother's footsteps when he enlisted in the Army that same year.

In the 17 years that have passed since, he served as a crew chief in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Korea, receiving numerous awards and decorations, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and both the Army Commendation and Achievement Medals.

I could go on. The list of Staff Sergeant McKee's military accolades is not a short one.

But he wasn't just a patriot who stepped up to serve his country. He was also a dedicated husband to his wife, Nikki, and a father to not only two sons but his daughter, who is expected to be born any day now.

As a father of three myself, I can't begin to imagine the pain his family is feeling right now.

I invite the entire northeast Ohio community to join Kelly and me in keeping them in our prayers and giving them strength and support during this difficult time.

I know this entire Chamber is forever grateful to Staff Sergeant McKee for

his service, so I would like to conclude by requesting a moment of silence to honor his life and pray for his loved ones.

1982 VOTE MACHINE RIGGING

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this is my third speech in a series. Earlier, I cited constitutional and Federal law mandating that Congress, not the Supreme Court, determines whether to accept or reject State electoral college votes, and Congress, not the Supreme Court, has the final verdict on Presidential elections.

My remaining speeches describe voting system failures that threaten our Republic.

For emphasis, all republics depend on election processes that give candidates and citizens confidence that results accurately reflect voter will. Unfortunately, America's election process has systemic weaknesses that too often allow voter fraud and election theft, and fail America.

Today, I share my personal experience as a voter fraud and election theft target.

In 1982, Democrats dominated Alabama. All Alabama statewide elected officials were Democrats. The legislature had 136 Democrats to only four Republicans. Democrats held every single partisan elected office in Alabama's Tennessee Valley, from Mississippi on the west to Georgia on the east.

In 1982, I ran as a Republican in Alabama House District 18. On election day morning, angry voters called me nonstop about voting machines blocking them from voting for MO BROOKS.

At first, I blew these phone calls off as isolated problems, naively trusting America's election system. That trust was soon shattered.

I am a former prosecutor. After the election, another attorney and I investigated. We questioned witnesses, examined documents, and inspected voting machines.

Our investigation revealed that 11 of 45 voting machines, 25 percent of all voting machines in my district, were rigged to block votes for MO BROOKS. In contrast, not a single machine blocked voting for my opponent or any other candidate on the ballot.

At one voting precinct with five rigged voting machines, poll workers told voters that to vote for MO BROOKS, they had to give up their secret ballot right and sign a sheet on a wall for all to see.

After the election, Democrat officials declared the voting machine problem was possibly caused by jostling in transit that somehow affected me, but nobody else.

What bunk.

My hometown is the birthplace of America's space program. We know math. Mathematically, if there are 26 candidates and a machine blocks one

candidate's votes, the odds of that candidate being blocked are 1 in 26. If there are two machines and each block only one candidate, the odds of that candidate being blocked both times are 1 in 26 squared, or 1 chance out of 676 chances.

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Similarly, if there are 11 machines and each block a single candidate's votes, the odds that all 11 blocked out MO BROOKS and no one else are a 1 chance in 26 to the 11th power, which equals 1 chance out of 3.6 quadrillion chances. Hence, the probabilities that these 11 voting machines were rigged is an overwhelming 3.6 quadrillion to 1.

So the question becomes: Who rigged the voting machines?

In 1982, Democrats totally controlled Madison County voting machines. I was in a hotly contested race to be the only Republican legislator elected in the northern third of Alabama. I threatened Democrat dominance. I was the potential breach of the Democrat Party dam.

Democrats had motive. Democrats had opportunity. Democrats had control. Democrats rigged the voting machines. Fortunately, despite the attempted election theft, we still won with 57 percent of the vote.

Mr. Speaker, every candidate and every American has an absolute right to an election system that stops voter fraud, prevents election theft, and accurately records only lawful votes cast by eligible American citizens.

As this speech and ensuing speeches will reveal, Alabama's election system is riddled with systemic problems that too often render our official election results unreliable. Each of these election deficiencies must be fixed and eliminated.

SHAREHOLDER CAPITALISM

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of mom-and-pop retail investors who benefit from sound corporate governance to promote free enterprise and to warn against the risks of politicizing corporate leaders' responsibilities to their shareholders.

The primary job of a corporation is to maximize shareholder value, not to engage in social engineering or politically correct causes simply to satisfy detractors of corporate America. Corporate leaders have a fiduciary responsibility to their owners which, I fear, is getting lost as leaders try to play the politics of the day.

Last year, leaders of America's largest corporations, through the Business Roundtable, issued an updated "Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation" in which they elevated so-called stakeholders above shareholders in their responsibilities. I take issue with this change because it dilutes the accountability leaders have to their owners