

economy. That is why I encourage my colleagues to support the Hospitality and Commerce Recovery Job Act, to support the tourism economy and all the people who make it strong.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot to be thankful for in this country: the opportunity to raise our families, our freedom, our servicemembers and law enforcement who protect us, and the opportunity for prosperity and success. Many people come to America for exactly these reasons, to pursue that dream.

This year, so many self-made Americans are struggling to keep their small businesses afloat. COVID-19 relief and leftover PPP funds continue to be held onto in this Chamber.

Next Saturday, November 28, is Small Businesses Saturday, an opportunity for all of us to support the small businesses and the dreams of our fellow citizens that own them. If we all collectively make a conscious effort to shop small for our holiday gifts, we can help these local store owners in our neighborhoods pull through these difficult times this winter.

Our small businesses are doing everything they can to stay open for their employees, and we really owe it to them and their futures to help them do so. We can be part of that by patronizing their businesses, not only this coming Saturday, November 28, but all through the year.

PRESERVING PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to all of our Federal employees.

Thank you for the dignity you have shown during the last 4 years. For every Alexander Vindman who was forced into the public spotlight, there are thousands more quiet patriots behind him, and we are grateful. But we also need your help.

Congress is still waiting to receive thousands of documents from the Trump administration. Multiple White House officials have been communicating through undocumented, non-official channels. Many more are still blocking the release of information that directly pertains to their work for the United States Government, and that is illegal.

Why this administration is afraid of transparency is tomorrow's question. But today, every Federal agency must preserve those documents. The Presi-

dential Records Act of 1978 and the Federal Records Act of 1950 exist to ensure that no President enters office with our adversaries knowing more about the prior 4 years than they do.

We need your vigilance over the next 61 days to ensure those laws are honored.

When elected officials failed us, we could still count on you. Now, once more into the breach, dear friends, once more.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, November is National Adoption Month, and I rise in celebration of all the families created and strengthened through the selfless act of adoption.

Adoption has united countless children with loving, caring parents, and every child deserves to grow up in a safe home. Many children have had their lives significantly improved by adoptive parents seeking to raise them as their own.

Adoption is a powerful act, Mr. Speaker, and devoted parents are essential to any child's development and success.

My wife, Kelly, was a widow when we married. Soon after, I adopted her daughter, Isabel, and she is wonderful, Mr. Speaker, just like her mama. Being a father has been one of the greatest joys of my life, and I will ever be thankful to both Kelly and Isabel for letting me be a part of their family.

I am proud to stand on the floor of the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, today to honor all the families, including my own, that have gone through the adoption process. Folks adopt children for any number of reasons, but above all else, they do it out of love. I am the luckiest human on the face of the Earth, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO TROOPER CALEB STARR

(Ms. SLOTKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart to honor and remember Trooper Caleb Starr of the Michigan State Police.

A son of the city of Mason, Trooper Starr fulfilled his lifelong dream when he joined the force in 2018. For those who served alongside him, he was an exemplary officer.

On the evening of July 10, while Trooper Starr was responding to a call, a drunk driver swerved into his lane, colliding with his patrol car head-on.

Trooper Starr battled in the hospital for 3 weeks before passing away due to his injuries. He was just 33 years old.

The impact he had cannot be fully described in these remarks, but it can

be seen in his funeral procession, which included 100 vehicles from 15 different law enforcement agencies and three fire departments. It can be found in the close-knit community of first responders who showed up to his funeral, honoring him with shirts that read "Starr Strong."

Lastly, it can be found in the outpouring of love and support from his wife, Rachael, and his two daughters, Evelyn and Rosalie.

Service to your country is the greatest love letter you can send. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Trooper Caleb Starr, and it is my privilege to deliver these remarks so that he may live on in the RECORD of the people's House.

MOVING FORWARD WITH DISTRIBUTION OF VACCINES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me wish America a happy Thanksgiving.

Just 24 hours ago, Pfizer indicated that they would seek an emergency authorization of their vaccine at the Food and Drug Administration.

People are dying. 250,000 have died. One million cases have already been met in Texas and California.

The General Services Administrator does not have any legal authority to continue to block the certification that is needed for the incoming President and Vice President of the United States so they can be engaged in the distribution and the formula to be utilized for the distribution of vaccines as they begin to come, with a number of companies ready to move forward.

In interviews on national television, you are hearing different States saying that they are getting a certain amount and that others are getting a certain amount. It is a question of vulnerability and those who are most vulnerable, those who cannot speak for themselves. Therefore, cooperation between the present administration and the Biden and Harris incoming administration is absolutely vital.

I call upon the General Services Administrator today to cease blocking this engagement for the betterment of the American people and to save lives.

HONORING JACKSON HEIGHTS JEWISH CENTER CENTENNIAL

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Jewish Center of Jackson Heights by sharing some of their rich history in New York's 14th Congressional District.

The center was founded as the Queens Independent Society in 1920 when a few Jewish families looked for a safe space to congregate in Jackson

Heights. The center was first called the Queens Independent Society because the term “Jewish” was not permitted at the time.

The original building itself was based in Woodside, an adjacent neighborhood to Jackson Heights, because at the time Jews were not welcome in the neighborhood of Jackson Heights. However, in 1928, the center was able to rename itself the Jewish Center of Jackson Heights, and in the 1950s, they officially moved their brick and mortar into the neighborhood where they are housed today.

Today, the center is known in the community as an inclusive and accepting space, hosting a number of diverse community events throughout the year, as well as housing our beloved Queens Center for Gay Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Jewish Center of Jackson Heights.

Thank you for your ongoing service to our community.

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address what is top of mind to Americans across the country, and that is the extraordinary economic and health hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout this year.

The reason I decided to rise today is because we are here convening in Washington, and just a day or two ago, the Senate majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, decided to break the Senate.

He broke the Senate as there are thousands of people in Texas lined up for food lines. He broke the Senate while hospitals no longer have beds to house the sick. He broke the Senate and dismissed the Senate while 30 million Americans are on the brink of eviction.

He dismissed the Senate when every single day when we go back to our communities, people are asking us: Is there going to be help? Is there going to be a second stimulus check? Are we going to get the resources that we need?

He broke the Senate. And in breaking the Senate, we are abandoning our people.

Thanksgiving is around the corner, and there are millions of Americans

that won't be able to afford a meal to eat, that don't know if they will be kicked out of their home, that are unsure if they are going to have to quit their job to care for their child. And we are having entire bodies, and the Senate prides itself as one of the most deliberative bodies, they abandoned them.

The number of Americans living in poverty since May has grown by 8 million people, since just May 2020. According to a study from Columbia University, this rise in poverty has been concentrated in Black and Latino children and people.

The CARES Act stimulus checks and unemployment benefits lifted more than 18 million individuals in the United States out of monthly poverty in April alone. But this number fell from 18 million to 4 million individuals in August and September after unemployment benefits were expired.

Just 44 percent of people in the United States are very confident that they can afford the needed food that will be necessary for the next 4 weeks. That means the majority of people in the United States are not very confident in their ability to eat over the next 4 weeks, according to a new Census survey data. About 10 percent, or 3.5 million households, are not at all confident in their ability to eat the week before Thanksgiving, and the Senate broke. It is unconscionable, unconscionable leadership to abandon our people.

□ 1230

And while we are arguing about negotiations, and while we are arguing about points, people are going hungry. And we are dismissing their needs as blue State needs or as bailouts depending on what party you voted for. Hunger has no party. Illness has no party. And when we allow suffering to be alleviated or concentrated based on political affiliation, we are doing a disservice to our entire Nation.

This uncertainty in food reflects food hardship across the country, with 5.6 million households with children struggling to put enough food on the table in the last 7 days.

Landlords filed at least 43,500 evictions in 17 major cities from March until September. An estimated 13.4 million adults living in rental housing today—nearly one-in-five renters—were not caught up on rent.

Small businesses don't know if they are going to survive or exist in a month, in a week, in January.

We cannot afford to wait for a new administration or another election, or a political state of play. We need to get people help now, and the Senate broke. They broke.

We are supposed to be here to work for everyday people. We are not supposed to be here to work for political donors or political favors or the powerful. We are here to serve the people who are most vulnerable, all the way up to the top. But we start with the people most in need.

Our country is going hungry on the week before Thanksgiving, and the Senate broke. I don't care what party you are. It is an abandonment of our responsibilities as elected officials who are charged with acting in the public trust.

The unemployment rate jumped in April to a level not seen since the 1930s and still stood at 6.9 percent in October. Some 10.8 percent of Black workers and 8.8 percent of Latino workers were unemployed in October compared to 6 percent of White workers. Last week, 1.1 million Americans filed new unemployment claims. Today, 4.4 million Americans are receiving pandemic emergency unemployment compensation, up from 1.4 million in August.

Last week was the 35th straight week total initial claims were greater than the worst week of the Great Recession, and the Senate broke.

You know, I want to address some of the claims, because yesterday I said that we need to make sure that people get economic relief due to these shutdowns. And I was surprised to hear so many Republicans now concerned about how we are going to pay for it or using other people's money. But the Senate majority leader wasn't concerned about other people's money when he authorized a \$4 trillion leveraged bailout for Wall Street in March. He wasn't concerned about where that money came from. He wasn't concerned about how we were going to pay for that.

It is only when we are talking about relief for working people, for children, for families, for parents, for education, for healthcare that, all of a sudden, we can't pay for any of these things. But when it comes to tax subsidies for private jets, we have got the money for that. When it comes to the endless appropriation towards more and more military spending, when we aren't even, technically, in growing elements of war, according to some people, we have money for that. But we don't have money to feed our own kids. We don't have money to educate people. We don't have money to provide healthcare.

But we have money for private jets. We have money for tax loopholes for yachts. We have money to incentivize stock buybacks. We have a billion dollars to invest in research and development for a vaccine—which was proudly invested in and a good use of public funds—just for pharmaceutical companies to take these publicly developed drugs and then sell them back to the public at no discount, so we don't even get a return on this investment. How is that fiscally responsible?

So we are living in a world and a state of play in our governance where the party who is eager to help subsidize private jets somehow can't find the dollars and the cents to get people a \$1,200 check. It is unconscionable, and it is wrong. And the Senate broke.

I am rising today, because it is extraordinarily difficult to represent a