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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, September is National Suicide Prevention Month. The CDC data shows that nearly 50,000 Americans died by suicide last year—an increase of 2.6 percent nationwide.

Our veterans are at special risk. The risk of suicide for veterans is 57.3 percent higher than nonveterans, and 17 veterans are still lost to suicide every single day. In the 21st century, four times more servicemembers and veterans have died by suicide than have died in military combat.

We can and must put an end to this crisis. We can do it with fast access to care, innovative mental health services, and continuing to strengthen the VA's partnership with our community-based organizations.

The Veterans Crisis Line plays a vital role in suicide prevention. Veterans and their families can talk safely and anonymously with a trained crisis counselor. This type of access is proven to save lives.

We have a sacred obligation to those who defended our country. In this Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, please reach out to anyone who you might think would be struggling. Remember, you can dial 988 on your phone and press 1. Let me say that again. You can dial 988 and press 1 on your phone. You are not alone. We have access to help for you.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" BLACK

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, the picture before you here is the Honorable William "Bill" Black, who I served with in the State legislature. He passed on September 9, and I wrote these words September 9 when I learned God had called him home. He was a close friend and a mentor.

William "Bill" Black. You, my friend, could teach the unteachable because you were truly a teacher. You always did it with respect. You were a great orator. You could deliver the message that you wanted and needed to convey that everyone who was listening could understand, whether you were the most educated scholar or just an average person from the street.

In your own words, you would always put the cabbage down where the hogs could eat it. You did it through a story of life experience or a story of someone else's life experience. You used your ability to communicate to benefit your students, your constituents, and your colleagues to make your community, your State, and your country a better place.

As a legislator, you knew and understood that every word, dot, and comma was important and would have an effect on generations to come. Because of this, you stood boldly in the gap of what is political gamesmanship and true statesmanship. Thank you for being the statesman that you were.

Your tutelage, your ability to deliver your message through communication, and your understanding of the legislative process has made your commu-

nity, your State, this country, and me a better person because of who you were.

I will miss you, my friend. Thank you for all you have taught me. I love you, William, and I will miss you so.

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE CAREER AND LIFE OF DON SUNDQUIST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor, remember, and celebrate the life of a dear friend and mentor, Donald Kenneth Sundquist, known to all of us as Don. Don passed away this year on August 27.

Over his long and successful career, Don Sundquist served as a business leader, a Member of Congress from his election in 1982 and serving for six consecutive terms, and as Governor of the State of Tennessee from 1995 until 2003.

In public office and out of public office, Don cared greatly and profoundly about the people of Tennessee and worked tirelessly for their betterment.

Don Sundquist was born in Illinois and earned his bachelor's degree from Augustana College in 1957. Following his graduation, Don served for 2 years in the United States Navy.

After an extensive business career, Don was elected to this very body in 1982 from the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee.

Don was known as what was then called a "Reagan Republican," and made himself known as a fiscal conservative. In the House of Representatives, Don served on the House Ways and Means Committee. That is the same committee I serve on. I walk into that grand committee room almost every day and think about Don and his many accomplishments.

In 1994, Don was elected as the 47th Governor of the State of Tennessee, he

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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was then elected to serve a second term in 1998 by a record margin.

During his tenure as Governor, Don Sundquist ushered in new businesses and companies to the State of Tennessee. His Families First welfare program significantly reduced the number of families on welfare, and he insured that Tennessee became the first State to connect all of its public schools and libraries to the internet.

Don Sundquist's life can be summed up in one word: service.

He dedicated his life to the betterment of the Volunteer State, and he taught us all many lessons along the way. If you walk the streets of Memphis, Nashville, and other cities throughout Tennessee, and Washington D.C., you will meet a lot of people who owe their careers and their livelihoods to Don Sundquist.

Indeed, Don Sundquist was a person of honor and integrity.

On a personal note, I will tell you that Don was not only a mentor to me, but to so many others in Tennessee and across the Nation. He has a true legacy that will continue to live on in those in and out of public service.

Don Sundquist was a good friend to both my wife, Roberta, and to me. He will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Martha, the former First Lady of Tennessee, and their children, Tania, Andrea, and Deke.

Mr. Speaker, I know that each of you and all of us will keep his memory and legacy alive.

Thank you to Don for a lifetime of service not only to Tennessee but to the entire Nation. You had a remarkable career and a remarkable life.

DRUG SHORTAGES ACROSS OUR NATION

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise further awareness of an issue of great importance to this legislative body and to many of our constituents: the problem of drug shortages, specifically cancer drug shortages.

As a physician, I know this has been a problem for decades, and there isn't one solution to the problem.

Let me tell you some personal stories I have heard recently. I heard this month from a family in my district with a 5-year-old son battling pre-B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

For 2½ years now, the family has been facing heartbreaking challenges, which have been made significantly worse by shortages of generic medications.

First, their son was supposed to receive cytarabine, also known as ARA-C. This is a generic chemotherapy medication the family should have been able to inject into the little boy's thigh at home, during a particularly fragile stage of their son's treatment.

Instead, the family was informed that shortages would prevent them from obtaining that form of medication, and they would need to deliver all chemotherapy through a central port intravenous line.

Repeated access to the central port line led to an infection and ultimately a 3-week hospital stay hundreds of miles from their home in Evansville, Indiana.

On top of that, the family has experienced shortages of dexamethasone, a generic corticosteroid that supports the immune system and helps the body to endure heavier rounds of chemo and blood thinners needed because of his port, and finally, even antibiotics needed when his suppressed immune system needed help.

This wasn't the first story I had heard of the troubling news about drug shortages. Earlier this summer an oncologist in my district brought to my attention the fact that his practice was short on chemotherapy drugs. Subsequently, we found out this was a nationwide issue. In fact, they were so short that they were forced to, essentially, ration the medication needed by his patients with cancer.

I was really shocked that in our country we would have to potentially ration chemotherapeutic agents due to a shortage. We subsequently found out it was due to a manufacturing issue overseas.

As a physician myself, I cannot imagine being put in a position where I might have to choose which of my patients on this day might receive life-saving treatments.

As the Energy and Commerce Committee—of which I am a member—and other committees are considering legislation on drug shortages, let's think critically about how to enact meaningful reforms that will address the roots of these problems and allow for long-term change to mitigate chronic drug shortages.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to remember that real people are affected by these shortages every day. Our constituents and all Americans are affected by this problem.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass meaningful legislation to help resolve these chronic drug shortages.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF E.J. "JOE" KING

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one remarkable leader, Sheriff E.J. "Joe" King, whose life and legacy I hold with unwavering great respect.

He was and is an absolute legend in Brazoria County and will be missed by not only Brazoria County, but by many, many more. Brazoria County has lost an outstanding public servant whose contributions to our community are immeasurable.

Sheriff King's journey of public service began with 2 years in the United States Army, followed by a 12-year tenure as a trooper for the Texas Department of Public Safety. He then went on to serve as a lieutenant with the Brazoria Police Department for 2 years before being elected as sheriff in 1980. For an impressive 24 years, he led with dedication as the Brazoria County sheriff until December of 2004.

Even after his tenure as sheriff, he answered the call to serve yet again once more becoming Brazoria County's judge in 2007 until his retirement in 2014.

Throughout his distinguished career, Sheriff King exemplified the true essence of a law enforcement officer. His courage, integrity, and relentless pursuit of justice set a standard for others to follow.

Under his leadership, the sheriff's office underwent significant reforms and embraced progressive initiatives, ensuring the safety and security of all its citizens.

Beyond his official duties, Joe King was deeply involved in the community. He actively supported charitable causes and community-driven initiatives, understanding the importance of connecting with residents and developing trust and cooperation. As county judge, he bridged the gap between government and the people, tirelessly addressing the needs of Brazoria County's population.

Sheriff King cherished his family most. His wife of 32 years, Jackie, his son, his daughter, and four grandsons were the center of his retirement years. He took immense pride in being a loving grandpa and a cattle rancher.

As we mourn the loss of this extraordinary leader, we take comfort in knowing that Joe King's legacy lives on through the lives he touched and the positive changes he made in Brazoria County.

It is now our responsibility as a community to honor his memory by carrying on his work, cherishing the values he embodied, and nurturing the spirit of service that he instilled in us all.

Mr. Speaker, let us all come together to remember and celebrate Sheriff King's remarkable life. Sheriff King may no longer be with us, but his legacy will continue to inspire us to build a brighter future for Brazoria County.

□ 1215

LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, September 26, is now 5 days and counting for the start of the next fiscal year which, if Congress does not act within this next 5 days, the U.S. Government will shut down.