

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.

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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.

I have been around Congress for a while. I was here in 2013 when the government shut down for 17 days. In 2019, all the agencies under the Department of Homeland Security were shut down for 35 days. This is a disaster for the American people and for our standing in the world if, God forbid, this does not come together in the next 5 days.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a district that is a strong defense district. We have the largest military installation in New England, the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut. We have about 16 attack submarines that are located there, tied up there that are deploying at a heel-to-toe pace constantly. There are about 2,000 civilian employees that make that base operations function as they should.

I also have a district which is the home of the Coast Guard Academy. That institution is building the future leaders, young men and young women, for the Coast Guard, who are doing important work not just in the littoral areas of our Nation and the rivers, but also overseas in terms of providing critical assistance to allies who again are really struggling with gross violations of the international convention for law, the sea treaty. Again, the Coast Guard is looked at around the world as really the gold standard in terms of providing quality training and examples for that critical function to take place.

In the past, when we had shutdowns, despite some of the ridiculous comments that are made by some of my colleagues in this Chamber that, oh, there is nothing to worry about, Active-Duty people still have to report, they are going to get paid retroactively, the concerns about that are overblown.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that is, in my opinion, some of the most irresponsible, dangerous rhetoric that can be uttered at a time like this. The fact of the matter is, there is a hardship for people who are wearing the uniform. Many of them go literally from paycheck to paycheck. In 2019 when the Coast Guard was shut down along with the Department of Homeland Security in New London, we had pop-up food banks to help Coast Guard families put food on the table for themselves and their family members.

In terms of the 17-day shutdown, the submarine base, again, all of the civilian support staff, DOD employees who were told they were not essential, they didn't have to come to work. We didn't have crane operators doing their job on the base, we didn't have all the support and maintenance staff in terms of making sure the operations of that base functioned.

This is a totally unnecessary, unforced error which will cause havoc in every other military installation and every other DOD facility around the country.

Mr. Speaker, there is a pathway here. There is a roadmap, and we know that

because at the end of May when we passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which avoided a default on the full faith and credit of this country, Democrats and Republicans came together, a center-left, center-right coalition that passed those measures. The final vote on May 31, when we passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act, passed 314-117. There were 165 Democrats and 149 Republicans that came together to avoid that catastrophic consequence of a default, something that hasn't happened since the War of 1812.

On the rule vote that led up to the Fiscal Responsibility Act, again it was a center-left, center-right coalition that got that measure to the floor. Fifty-two Democrats voted for the rule, which is unheard of in this town to have the minority party vote to support the majority party for a rule, but 52 of us did that. Honestly, I have been here a while, I consider that one of my proudest votes to make sure that we were going to look beyond party and do what is right for our country, in terms of making sure that critical functions at a time like this, when both domestically and overseas there was so much at stake in terms of having a stable, functioning government so that we can do the work for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, there is a military saying which I think Members should be thinking about today as we approach this critical week, and it says "Lead, follow, or get out of the way." There is clearly going to be a bipartisan measure that is going to get put together in the Senate. It is happening right now as we speak. It is a 45-day extension to keep the government open, allow the Appropriations Committee to finish its work. We need to pass that. We need to lead, follow, or get out of the way.

WISHING GORDON FOWLER A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Gordon Fowler's remarkable 100th birthday, a century of enduring wisdom and service. Gordon's journey began on a humble Iowa farm in 1923, instilling in him the values of hard work and resilience during the Great Depression. His education and involvement in 4-H and FFA set the stage for a life dedicated to giving back.

In World War II, Gordon followed the path of Charles Lindbergh, his childhood hero, into the Army Air Corps, joining the brave American HUMP Pilots Association, who embarked on perilous missions flying over the Himalayan mountains. After his service, he returned to Iowa, raised a family with his wife, Sharon, and embarked on a successful 50-year career in advertising.

Gordon served as a Scoutmaster, a Sunday schoolteacher, and also sup-

ported Junior Achievement, and shaped the lives of countless young individuals.

May his wisdom continue to inspire us for many years to come. Let's all wish this World War II veteran a happy birthday.

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Ovarian cancer is often referred to as the silent killer because its early symptoms are subtle and easily mistaken for other less serious conditions. Once a diagnosis is reached, it is often in advanced stages, making it one of the deadliest cancers among women.

Together, we can empower women to take charge of their health, and by supporting critical research we can hope for a future where this silent killer has been silenced. Thank you to all the individuals who fight against ovarian cancer and support the women whose lives have been changed by this abhorrent disease.

During Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, we continue to encourage women to learn about the risk factors, familiarizing themselves with the early symptoms, have conversations and regular checkups with their healthcare providers, and work together year round to raise awareness about this deadly disease that affects countless women worldwide.

GRACE LYNN KELLER NAMED MISS IOWA USA

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grace Lynn Keller of Coralville, Iowa, for being named Miss Iowa USA. Grace's love for pageantry began in childhood as a way to push herself out of her comfort zone as a shy person.

Now, at 24, she works as vice president of production and digital marketing at Executive Podcast Solutions, a company she helped start as an intern while studying journalism at the University of Iowa. Grace credits pageantry for playing a pivotal role in shaping her confidence and equipping her with invaluable skills for her professional career.

As Miss Iowa USA, Grace has used her platform to promote childhood literacy through the Reach to Succeed program, where she has focused on low-income and rural school districts.

Grace's mission is a testament to her dedication to making a positive impact in Iowa and the rest of the country. Congratulations to Grace Lynn Keller on this outstanding achievement.

CONGRATULATING EAGLE SCOUT SPENCER JOHNSON

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Spencer Johnson of Troop 199 from Bettendorf, Iowa, for completing his Eagle Board of Review and attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is the highest and most prestigious achievement a Scout can attain, and reaching the Eagle rank is no small feat.