

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.

Scouts must fulfill leadership roles, exemplify the Scout oath and law, display exemplary outdoor skills, earn at least 21 badges, and complete a comprehensive service project for their community. Well done, Spencer.

I also want to congratulate Spencer's family and everyone who walked and worked with Spencer on his journey to become an Eagle Scout. Congratulations, Spencer Johnson, on becoming an Eagle Scout.

PER MAR NAMED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Per Mar, the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Business of the Year award at the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce annual meeting.

Headquartered in Davenport, Iowa, Per Mar was opened in 1953 by John and Eleanor Duffy and has grown into a premier family-owned security company in the Quad Cities and throughout Iowa.

This achievement is a testament to the relentless pursuit of excellence by Per Mar's employees, led by president and CEO Brian Duffy.

What truly sets Per Mar apart is their unwavering commitment to their employees, a philosophy that has been passed down through generations. By prioritizing their workforce, Per Mar ensures that their customers receive exceptional service, resulting in the company's continued growth and success.

Per Mar's journey from humble beginnings to being named Business of the Year is a remarkable testament to the power of determination, dedication, and community support.

Congratulations to Per Mar on this well-deserved honor.

I also wish my sister-in-law, Susan Branthoover, a very happy birthday. Happy birthday, Susan.

CONGRATULATING CARTER CRAWLEY ON RECEIVING CLEAN SCANS

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible constituent of mine, 9-year-old Carter Crawley.

Not only are Carter and his family constituents of mine, but I am also lucky to have coached Carter on my flag football team.

Carter has been through some battles leading our team as quarterback, but earlier this year he encountered the biggest battle of his life and was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma, a cancer that affects the tissue around your joints.

Well, I am excited to announce that just 3 weeks ago, following months of radiation and treatment, Carter received clean scans.

I have had the privilege of being Carter's football coach for several seasons now, and it has been a high privi-

lege of my life to watch him develop both as a player and as a leader.

When it came time to tackle cancer, Carter kept a good sense of humor and bravery, and his team and I look forward to having him back on the field leading our team once again later this year.

I also recognize his parents, Melissa and Kevin, and his 11-year-old sister, Emerson, for their strength and fortitude during this time.

Additionally, I highlight Dr. De La Maza and her fellow doctors, nurses, and staff at Banner UMC, where Carter was treated.

I am thrilled to share this incredible news on the House floor and can't wait to see Carter back on that field soon.

TUCSON BOULEVARD DIVERSION STRUCTURE PROJECT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tucson Boulevard Diversion Structure project, which was named one of our Nation's top public works projects by the American Public Works Association.

Pima County initiated this project to address the area's persistent sewer problem, which has plagued the community with sulfuric acid odor and a number of other issues. The outdated sewer was replaced with a new composite structure and a safe odor-free and corrosion-resistant system.

The crews on this project worked 6 to 7 days a week and up to 16 hours a day, which allowed the project to be completed on time. This achievement would not have been possible without the organizations and companies who partnered together, including Pima County, Hunter Contracting, Dibble, and the APWA Arizona chapter.

This project reflects the incredible impact strong partnerships have on the community. Congratulations to these awardees and all the well-deserved recognition on a job well done.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Generous God, in this season when we are all the more keenly aware of the responsibilities this body has to steward our country's resources with both prudence and compassion, we pray for Your clarity and courage.

To these men and women to whom You have given much—position, power, and perception—much is being demanded. Grant each the discernment to perceive what is of You and put off all else that is distracting and detracting them from heeding Your direction.

To whom You have entrusted much—the leadership of this country, the wisdom and opportunity to uphold our Nation's ideals—how much more is being asked—forbearance, flexibility, and foresight.

As You have with so many throughout history, those with whom You have entrusted the mantle of authority, grant each in this body the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the insight of Daniel, the courage of David, and the faithfulness of Abraham as they endeavor to do what You require of them in these days.

In the strength that we find only in Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

OUR NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week our national debt reached a record \$33 trillion. During the next 30 years, the interest payments alone on this debt will become