

century. Over the past months, our majority on the Appropriations Committee has drafted the 12 appropriations bills, which bend discretionary spending down and enact important reforms.

I admit that we are inexcusably late in that process. The approach of the fiscal year, though, provided us impetus to complete this work. Last week, we began taking up and adopting appropriations bills that now comprise 70 percent of Federal discretionary spending on the eve of an impending shutdown.

□ 1215

We have learned from experience that a government shutdown can be administered in a manner that does enormous damage to the economy and to the lives of millions of Americans.

The President, if he wishes, can destroy every small business on Federal land and those adjacent to Federal land. Obama went so far as to barricade every monument and memorial, chain the gates of every acre of Federal land, and even barricade the turnouts overlooking Yosemite Valley so that people couldn't even pull over to catch a glimpse of it.

Mr. Biden had made it very clear that he had intended to follow that strategy, specifically designed to create a panic and to force an immediate resolution in favor of the status quo.

Accordingly, our Conference put forward a 30-day continuing resolution to avert a shutdown, while reducing non-defense discretionary spending by 8 percent and enacting the border security bill that we had previously passed.

Unfortunately, 21 Republicans joined House Democrats to defeat this resolution. Now, out of time and faced with an imminent shutdown, our Conference directed the Speaker to put a 45-day continuing resolution on the floor without the previous reforms as the only way to avert a shutdown and to continue our work to complete the appropriations process. We canceled the October recess to complete this work.

Yet now we are faced with the threat that a Republican will move to vacate the Republican Speaker of the House. It will only require four other Republican Members to join the Democrats to achieve this result. The immediate effect will be to paralyze the House indefinitely because no other business can be taken up until a replacement is elected, just when we are on the verge of completing the appropriations process that, in turn, will finally initiate discussions with the Senate that are vital to change the dangerous path that our country is on. I cannot conceive of a more counterproductive and self-destructive course than that.

The supreme irony is that this is being initiated by self-described conservatives. Do they honestly believe that when the Democrats side with them to remove a Republican Speaker that they will then side with them to name a more conservative replacement? Of course, not.

The Democrats will certainly recruit the most liberal Republicans to establish a left-of-center coalition to run the House. This is exactly what happened in California in 1994. A coalition Speaker will move the administration of the House sharply to the left and effectively end the Republican House majority that the people elected in 2022.

I implore my Republican colleagues to look past their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests, and their selfish views, and to make a wise decision when it is needed most at this critical moment in the life of our country.

SECRET SIDE DEAL ON UKRAINIAN FUNDING

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise a question: What was the secret side deal on Ukraine?

House Democrats and President Biden have said that as Speaker MCCARTHY was asking Republicans to vote for a continuing resolution so as to avoid having to take the Senate's plus-up in Ukraine money, that the Speaker of the House was actually cutting a side deal to bring Ukraine legislation to this floor with President Biden and House Democrats.

So let me get this straight: To extend Joe Biden's spending and Joe Biden's policy priorities, the Speaker of the House gave away to Joe Biden the money for Ukraine that Joe Biden wanted.

It is going to be difficult for my Republican friends to keep calling President Biden feeble while he continues to take Speaker MCCARTHY's lunch money in every negotiation.

The Speaker of the House has responded to these reports of a secret side deal on money for Ukraine, opaquely stating that he still wants to fund Ukraine and our border.

I have a few replies to this statement.

First, the Speaker's statement confirms the existence of a secret deal. I have talked to Members of our own leadership who have said they didn't even know that Speaker MCCARTHY was negotiating a secret side deal outside of our Conference, outside of his own leadership team for the sake of Ukraine.

Second, Ukraine has lost the support of a majority of the majority. The last time there was a freestanding Ukraine vote on this floor, it was last week—101 Republicans voted for it, 117 Republicans voted against it.

According to the Hastert rule, which Speaker MCCARTHY agreed to in January, you cannot use Democrats to roll a majority of the majority on something as consequential as Ukraine. So for all the crocodile tears about what may happen later this week about a motion to vacate, working with the

Democrats is a yellow brick road that has been paved by Speaker MCCARTHY, whether it was the debt limit deal, the CR, or now the secret deal on Ukraine.

Third, this is swampy logrolling. The American people deserve single-subject bills. I get that a lot of folks might disagree with my perspectives on the border or on Ukraine, but can we at least agree that no matter how you feel about Ukraine or the southern border, they each deserve the dignity of their own consideration and should not be rolled together where they might pass where each individually wouldn't?

This is what we are trying to get away from. This is the spirit of the January agreement we made with the Speaker. No more lashing these disparate issues together so that the American people's interests are subjugated here on the floor of the House.

Do you know how we should stand up for our border? Demand that the United States Senate take up our single-subject appropriation bill that funded the border. It created Republican unity. We voted for it. It has the policy demands that the continuing resolution that Speaker MCCARTHY advocated for on this floor did not.

Our DHS's funding bill requires E-Verify, and then hours later after we passed that, the Speaker wanted us to vote for a continuing resolution that didn't include E-Verify. Retreat is never a strategy to win anything.

Mr. Speaker, just tell us, what was in the secret Ukraine side deal? What commitments were made to President Biden to continue the spending of President Biden in exchange for doing things for President Biden? It is becoming increasingly clear who the Speaker of the House already works for, and it is not the Republican Conference.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that these questions be answered soon because there may be other votes coming today or later this week that could be impacted by the answers to these questions. Members of the Republican Party might vote differently on a motion to vacate if they heard what the Speaker had to share with us about his secret side deal with Joe Biden on Ukraine. I will be listening. Stay tuned.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their remarks to the chair.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRE CHIEF STEVE KNORREK ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fire Chief Steve Knorrek on his retirement.

His four-decade long career of extraordinary dedication, commitment,

and service to the Bettendorf Fire Department began on September 6, 1983.

In less than a decade, he rose through the ranks, becoming a captain and a fire marshal. His commitment didn't go unnoticed as he was named the Bettendorf Fire Department Officer of the Year in 1991. He received accolades such as the 2015 Governor's Fire Prevention Officer of the Year award and actively contributed to organizations like the American Burn Association's International Outreach Committee and the St. Florian Burn Foundation Board of Directors.

Chief Knorrek's service extended beyond the call of duty, representing the highest ideals and integrity, and he is leaving an indelible mark on the Bettendorf community and the broader region.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chief Knorrek on his retirement and thank him for his dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. October can feel different for everyone who has been affected by breast cancer.

Some people wear pink and others may be grieving, but we can all agree on the importance of community support. Breast cancer knows no age, gender, or race, but it predominantly affects women.

As the single most diagnosed cancer among American women, we must remember to get screened, learn more about the risks and factors, and support families and caregivers impacted by this disease. This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let us continue to put up a fight against breast cancer and, most importantly, let us remain united as we work to find a cure.

HONORING DUSTIN MICHAEL CACKLEY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Dustin Michael Cackley of Keokuk, Iowa, who passed away at the age of 51 after suffering a heart attack in September.

Dustin's life was marked by selfless service and unwavering dedication to his country. He graduated from Keokuk Senior High School in 1991 and joined the U.S. Army later that year, beginning a 20-year career as a military police officer. His exemplary service earned him numerous accolades, including the Iraq Campaign Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal, among others. He served two deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003 to 2004 and 2008 to 2009.

After retiring from the military in 2011, Dustin faced personal challenges, including PTSD. Yet, with the support of his loyal military brother, Paul Schroeder, he found his way back to faith and a new purpose in life.

He dedicated himself to helping veterans cope with PTSD through faith-based initiatives, cofounding the Armatus Reintegration Program in 2017.

Returning to Keokuk in 2019, Dustin became an integral part of his community. He served as commander of Keokuk American Legion Post 41, promoting military appreciation night and advocating for veterans' causes. He worked tirelessly on the Veterans Memorial Commission, promoting the Agent Orange Memorial and the Road of Honor.

Dustin Michael Cackley's legacy is one of bravery, service, and unwavering dedication to his country and community. His impact on the lives of veterans and the city of Keokuk will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING POLICE OFFICER JARED ALCORN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts of Norwalk Police Officer Jared Alcorn, who saved a couple from a house fire while on patrol in August. At 3:50 a.m., Officer Alcorn smelled smoke and conducted a thorough search of the neighborhood he was patrolling, leading him to a small house where he witnessed flames engulfing the back deck.

The fire, although not yet extensive, posed a grave threat to the unsuspecting couple sound asleep inside. Without hesitation, Alcorn dialed the fire department, swiftly woke and evacuated the occupants, along with their pets, and called for backup.

Then displaying remarkable bravery and resourcefulness, Officer Alcorn and his partner took on the roles of impromptu firefighters. They grabbed garden hoses from both sides of the house and commenced a valiant battle against the encroaching flames. Their relentless efforts held the fire at bay until professional firefighters arrived on the scene.

Thanks to the swift and selfless actions of Officer Jared Alcorn, the fire's damage was contained primarily to the home's exterior. The couple and their pets were spared from harm and the heart of the residence remained intact.

Mr. Speaker, in the darkest hours of that morning, Officer Alcorn's courage shone brightly, embodying the true spirit of a dedicated and heroic public servant.

MOTION TO VACATE SPEAKER MCCARTHY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address comments I recently heard on the floor, and that is a motion to vacate Speaker MCCARTHY.

A motion to vacate is going to continue to derail our appropriations bills process and bringing those bills to the floor. It will upset and further erode our ability to investigate the Biden family corruption, in which we have made significant progress.

45-DAY CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, we cobbled together a 45-day con-

tinuing resolution. That is not my preferred way of doing business around here. Indeed, what I talk about to my constituents at home is the process that the House Republicans with our majority have attempted to put in place and are putting into place, a successful Appropriations Committee process.

Now, this isn't just jargon, and it is inside baseball for a lot of people, but when people understand what it is they are trying to accomplish, the Appropriations Committee is going to be the transparency, the light of day, the sunshine on the spending process that D.C. has, and of which we need much more.

We didn't quite get there this year. We got 70 percent of our spending—I hate to use that term, but that is the jargon here—accomplished in four bills already. We still need to do eight bills as our budget is divided into about 12 pieces in the appropriations process. We have a little ways to grind out here.

So what happened? We weren't able to come to agreement, even amongst all Republicans on getting all these bills done. We had a good start in getting a few things done last week, but we have much more to do.

□ 1230

We want to get through the whole process because we want transparency so the public can see what it is we are doing in this process, the Appropriations Committee, in the light of day, line-by-line, et cetera, so that we can then send documents over to the Senate and have them contemplate those bills. They are not going to like exactly what we do, but we will bring those bills back and hopefully achieve a consensus we can all live with in this era.

I have to remind you, what we have laid out as our goals as House Republicans aren't necessarily shared by the Senate or the White House. It is a hostile environment to try and cut back to pre-COVID levels of spending, as well as secure our border, from the Senate Democrat majority and the Biden White House.

These are our goals.

We want to have a secure border.

We had a document early last week that we thought was going to take a giant leap there, but we couldn't get all the votes we needed even in our own Conference to get it done. That is pretty frustrating.

Now, we have this 45-day ability to buy time with what we passed the other day. I am not happy with continuing resolutions, especially long-term ones. This is fairly short-term. It will enable us to do our work and get these appropriations done. That is what we are doing. Yes, it continues spending pretty much as it was, but we were up against a deadline.

Now, what are the bad things? A government shutdown is what we were up against. That is a terrible way of doing business. I have been around a couple of them and so have my colleagues that