

bicentennial; we thank you for all you have done for our State and our country; and we look forward to the days ahead.

God bless.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

TRIBUTE TO RON WANЕК

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing Mr. Ron Wanek, a great business leader, innovator, and philanthropist from the great State of Wisconsin, as he, his family, and his company celebrate his induction into the Wisconsin Manufacturing Hall of Fame.

Wisconsin has a long history of being the home of many successful manufacturing businesses. With his induction into the Manufacturing Hall of Fame, Mr. Wanek joins the ranks of past inductees, such as Jerome Case, Patrick Cudahy, Sam Johnson, Walter Kohler, Oscar Mayer, Frederick Miller, and Gustave Pabst, just to name a few of the 78 iconic titans of business who helped to make Wisconsin a proud manufacturing State.

For his part in continuing the long legacy of Wisconsin manufacturing, Ron Wanek founded Arcadia Furniture in the small town of Arcadia, WI, back in 1970. Back then, Mr. Wanek employed just a total of 35 people. Through hard work and innovation, in 1982, Arcadia Furniture merged with Ashley Furniture Cooperation and became Ashley Furniture Industries.

During these last 42 years, Ashley Furniture has grown into the world's largest manufacturer of home furnishings, with over 30 million square feet of worldwide manufacturing and distribution capability, with retail locations throughout the United States and in 67 countries worldwide. Ashley proudly employs 16,000 people in the United States, including 3,000 hard-working Wisconsinites.

Throughout his successful professional career, Mr. Wanek has become the personification of the phrase "business is a force for good." With his focus on philanthropy, the Ronald & Joyce Wanek Foundation has contributed tens of millions of dollars in support for important charitable causes in Wisconsin and across the country.

Through his charitable work, Mr. Wanek has become an unmatched supporter of technical and STEM education at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels. Through his various programs, partnerships, and scholarships, the Ronald & Joyce Wanek Foundation aims to encourage students to pursue careers in STEM fields and improve the quality of life in their own communities.

In addition, Mr. Wanek is an ardent supporter of America's veterans. His establishment of the beautiful Soldiers Walk at Memorial Park in Arcadia, WI—a premier war memorial in the United States, with 29 monuments and statues honoring all of those who have served our country—is just one exam-

ple of his dedication to those who have sacrificed and, in some cases, paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedoms Wisconsinites and Americans enjoy every day. Some would say the Arcadia Soldiers Walk rivals the magnificence of the war memorials around our Nation's Capital.

Finally, Mr. Wanek is not only a great personification of the American dream, but he actively and enthusiastically supports a steadfast American free enterprise system—a system which has made this country the economic engine of the world.

I congratulate Ron Wanek on his recent induction into the Wisconsin Manufacturing Hall of Fame. It is well-deserved.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Michigan.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, when my three children were born, it was unlike anything else I have ever, ever experienced before. Those 3 days were the best in my life, and it is hard to put into words how beautiful and how daunting it is to have a child.

Every American who wants to be a parent should have that opportunity, and when they are faced with medical challenges while starting a family, they should have the right to pursue every resource to help them navigate that process. IVF is one of those tools, and it has helped countless Americans. For those who have experienced frequent miscarriages, suffered from genetic disorders, or are otherwise affected by infertility, IVF is an essential procedure. It is safe. It is necessary. And it has given millions of people the chance to have a family.

Last week, a ruling from the Alabama Supreme Court put the future of IVF in jeopardy. So my Democratic colleagues and I went to work. We proposed a bill that would protect the right to seek IVF treatment for all Americans. I am grateful to Senators DUCKWORTH and MURRAY for leading the charge on this legislation, and I was proud to be one of the cosponsors.

But, yesterday, Republicans blocked the Senate from passing it. They decided to put politics before protecting a critical medical procedure. They have put this resource at risk, one that has allowed millions of women and LGBTQ Americans to have children. They think that they know better than doctors. They think they know better than parents. They think they know more than four decades of proven science. The bill they opposed is literally pro-life and pro-family. Yet Republicans refused to put it on the floor.

Let's not forget how this all started. Senate Republicans stood with former President Trump when he stacked the Supreme Court with extreme judges. And when the Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, it ripped the right to make choices about reproductive healthcare away from millions of women.

And now conservatives across the country feel empowered to take it even

further. The ruling in Alabama is just the latest instance in the war against reproductive freedom. It could keep millions of Americans from starting families, and Senate Republicans are just fine with that.

We don't know how far this will go. We don't know what other proven procedures Republicans will try to take away from families in the future. We don't know what effect these rulings will have on new innovations in fertility science. We don't know if they are going to come after birth control next. But one thing is very, very clear: This is just the beginning of their efforts to deny reproductive freedom.

IVF should be available to every American citizen who needs it. And when someone is choosing to have children, politicians should never get in the way.

I call on my Republican colleagues to support the Access to Family Building Act, to stop playing politics and instead stand behind the millions of Americans who simply want—who simply want—the chance to start a family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MITCH MCCONNELL

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, yesterday, my good friend Leader MCCONNELL shared some big news. At the end of this year, he will step down as the Republican leader of the U.S. Senate after having served the longest tenure of any leader in Senate history. For more than 17 years, he has been the steady hand at the helm, guiding us through some of the most consequential debates in recent history. He steered us through multiple wars, through a pandemic and countless high-stakes political battles under four different Presidents. Under his leadership, Congress rewrote the Federal Tax Code to help families across the country, unleashed American-generated power, and reshaped the Federal judiciary for a generation—and so much more.

It has been an honor to serve alongside Leader MCCONNELL and witness a modern-day "Master of the Senate." I will have more to say about our friend from Kentucky at a later date, but the good news is he is not going anywhere. Senator MCCONNELL will lead our conference through the end of this Congress, but he will remain in the Senate through the rest of his term. During that time, he will do as he has always done: represent the State of Kentucky and put his expert knowledge of this Chamber to use on their behalf.

For now, let me just say thanks to Leader MCCONNELL for everything he has done for this body and our great country.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on another matter, this week, the Senate finds itself in familiar territory. For the fourth time since last September, Congress is rushing to avert a government shutdown. Unless a funding bill is signed

into law before the clock strikes midnight tomorrow, portions of the Federal Government will shut down. And if nothing changes by the following Friday, we will be plunged into a full government shutdown.

I have made my feelings about government shutdowns crystal clear. No. 1, they don't save money. No. 2, they don't solve any problems. No. 3, they hurt innocent Americans and dedicated public servants. Government shutdowns are not in anyone's best interest, and I am glad that all four congressional leaders agree that we need to avoid a lapse in funding.

Before the end of this week—before tonight, I hope—I expect Congress to pass another stopgap funding bill. This will provide more time to advance regular appropriations bills, and I hope we can see some real progress this time.

But I must say that responsibility for where we are today lies at the feet of the majority leader of the U.S. Senate. Yes, the House has its problems, but here in the Senate, Senator MURRAY, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator COLLINS, and the entire Appropriations Committee have produced bipartisan—in some cases unanimous—appropriations bills that Senator SCHUMER has simply refused to put on the floor. So, without a doubt, he is complicit in where we find ourselves today.

It is just another example of how the Senate is broken. While the ongoing game of brinkmanship is extremely dangerous, it calls into question our military readiness and jeopardizes our national security at an increasingly dangerous time.

Making matters worse, this saga is completely avoidable. As I mentioned, the Appropriations Committee in the Senate passed 12 bills last summer, providing a lot of time for Senator SCHUMER to bring those bills to the floor. That is the earliest the Appropriations Committee has acted in the last 5 years. Thanks to Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS, they laid the groundwork for a thorough and ontime appropriations process. But Senator SCHUMER has ball control, and he simply failed to put those bills on the floor in a timely fashion, leading us to where we are today.

As I said, the Senate did not pass a single regular appropriations bill before the September 30 deadline. This was September 30 of last year. I don't know if people really appreciate how broken the Senate is, thanks to a lack of leadership. We are working on appropriations bills from last year. The fiscal year began the end of September of last year. As a result of the failure to do his job, Congress had to pass stopgap funding bills in September, November, and January.

And just think about it for a minute. If we weren't lurching from one crisis to the next, what other things might we do to benefit the American people? That is what economists call an opportunity cost. Each time, the Democratic

leader vowed to use the extra time to make progress on regular appropriations bills, but each time he failed to do so.

We are now 5 months into the current fiscal year, and it is embarrassing—it should be embarrassing—to note that not a single full-year funding bill has been signed into law.

Members of this body are charged to do the hard work of negotiating, debating, and passing bills to provide government Agencies with ontime funding. It is hard to do when Senator SCHUMER has us in session 2½ days a week—2½ days a week. It is hard to get your job done when you are working 50 percent of the time. But he is the one who controls the agenda. He can say we are starting Monday morning, like most Americans do, and we are not leaving until we finish Friday night, but instead, he has canceled votes on Monday so we come in on Tuesday. We have our first vote at 5:30 on Tuesday, and then we leave after lunch, typically, on a Thursday. No wonder the Senate is broken and not doing its job.

The Senate has a number of big cliffs that are fast approaching as a result of the mismanagement of the Senate schedule. We have major funding deadlines tomorrow, but we also have one a week from now, on the 8th. In addition, here is what else has not been done on a timely basis: the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration. That has to be done by next Friday. We need to reauthorize and strengthen section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act before April 19 or else it lapses, making us blind to the efforts of our adversaries to undermine our national security. And, yes, we need to pass a new farm bill before the end of September. We can't do that working half weeks—2½ days a week.

It is important to note that all of these tasks—funding, the FAA, section 702 of the farm bill—should have been completed last year. We are doing last year's work. We are not doing the American people's work today, looking forward, with the challenges with which our country is confronted.

We should have wrapped up our work on each of these items in 2023 instead of punting the deadline to 2024. We are now 2 months into the new year and still struggling to complete the work that should have been done months ago.

As I said, this backlog comes with a serious opportunity cost. When the Senate is dealing with overdue assignments, we don't have the time to work on other critical issues that deserve our attention on behalf of the American people. We don't have the ability to work on legislation to address the border crisis, the fentanyl epidemic, public safety concerns, or other issues that are top of mind for the American people.

Virtually all of the time is focused on one of two things: rushing to complete work that should have been done last year or processing nominations. That is it.

Under Senator SCHUMER's leadership, regular order has been thrown out the window. He has broken the Senate. And this Chamber has simply lurched from one deadline to another.

This should be embarrassing. This is malpractice. It is not negligent because it is by design. It is intentional. This is, regrettably, what we have come to expect under Democratic leadership. This is the new norm.

For the sake of the country, I hope that in the coming weeks, the Senate will prove more productive than the past several months have been. And, yes, I hope we have new management next year after the November election. That is the best way the 330 million people in this country can contribute to changing the status quo, which is a broken Senate, and fixing it, which we know how to do if we change management.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, 3 weeks ago, I stood here and spoke about the consequences of my Republican colleagues walking away from the border agreement.

After decades of crisis after crisis at our border, we had a chance to be the Senators who actually did something about it. We had a real opportunity, a real bill ready to be signed into law by the President—technology to stop fentanyl, more than 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents, authorities and policy changes to prevent the border from being overwhelmed, visas to keep families together, and more. That is what Senators SINEMA, MURPHY, and LANKFORD worked on together for months, with both Democrat and Republican Senate leaders at the table and with the administration at the table, and that is what Senate Republicans turned and walked away from.

I said then that some politicians see more advantage in shouting about problems than actually solving them. Well, let's take a look at what has happened in the last 3 weeks.

A couple of my Republican colleagues traveled to Texas so they could record videos about how bad things were at the border. Neither of them supported the bipartisan border bill. Other of my Republican colleagues have stood on this floor giving speeches, pointing fingers at President Biden. They have done the same on cable news. President Biden supported the bipartisan border bill; they did not.

In fact, one of my Republican colleagues said in his floor speech the other day that he hasn't seen the two Arizona Senators on this floor giving