

electromechanical assemblies built to customer specifications. In its more than three decades in operation, it has expanded the facility three times, acquired a plastic injection molding business, and developed quality employees and suppliers to serve its customers.

Recently, Contine Corporation received approval from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, as a SHARP participant. SHARP stands for Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program. This is one of the highest honors OSHA awards to a worksite.

Since 1995, OSHA has been recognizing small business worksites that have shown a continuous commitment to improving the safety and health of their workplace through the OSHA Consultation Program. Fewer than 1,600 worksites across the country currently share the honor of SHARP recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Constantine Ellrich, owner of the Contine Corporation; safety manager, Randall Groves; and the entire Contine workforce for its dedication to workforce safety.

Ensuring a safe and healthy working environment protects a business' viability, and, most importantly, it protects American workers.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God, Father of us all, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Ever faithful to Your promises, we ask Your presence with Your people, now and forever.

The sun grows dim and the daylight is measured. In the darkness, phantoms loom. The eye cannot discern as the distance fades. Be for us light.

Help the Members of Congress make clear judgments that will propel us into a blessed future. Remove any shadowy cloud so that they might follow the patterns of Your inspirations.

O Lord of the ages, ever faithful to Your promises, be with us throughout these waning days of the session, and may all that is done in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WESTERMAN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING GREG ALIA DAY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize that this Thursday, December 14, is Greg Alia Day: a day to recognize law enforcement and their families for their dedication in promoting the protection of American families.

I appreciate the hard work and devotion of Kassy Alia in recognizing her husband in such a positive way with Greg Alia Day, truly giving back to the community and recognizing his service to the American people.

Greg was a fine young man and also a 7-year veteran of the Forest Acres Police Department. I was fortunate to have the privilege to travel with Greg and Boy Scout Troop 100 of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Columbia to Philmont Scout Ranch at Cimarron, New Mexico. I learned then what a dedicated person he was.

His legacy and courage will live on through the great work of his wife, Kassy; his son, Sal; and his parents, Dr. Richard and Alexis Alia.

To the many law enforcement and families across the country: We thank you for your service, dedication, and sacrifice, which I saw over the weekend with Sheriff Michael Hunt from Aiken, Sheriff Leon Lott from Richland, and Sheriff Jay and Kim Koon from Lexington.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism. God bless the memory and service of Greg Alia.

RECOGNIZING GRAYDON CARTER

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the career of Hall of Fame Magazine Editor Graydon Carter.

Graydon Carter is one of the great journalists of our time. He retires today after 25 years as the editor at

Vanity Fair. He cofounded and was editor of Spy magazine, as well as the New York Observer. At Vanity Fair, he gave a venue to writers like Michael Lewis; Dominick Dunne; and Christopher Hitchens, one of the great journalists of our time.

Upon Christopher Hitchens' passing, Graydon said he was a wit, a charmer, and a troublemaker; and to those who knew him well, he was a gift from—dare I say it—God.

From his beginnings at Spy magazine and through his days at the New York Observer and Vanity Fair, he pointed out the shortcomings of Donald Trump. He gave him the epithet: short-fingered vulgarian.

For that and much more, Graydon Carter will be remembered as a great journalist, a great human being, a great raconteur, and a great friend.

GUNNERY SERGEANT DALE SIGLER

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gunnery Sergeant Dale Sigler from Moundsville, West Virginia.

Dale's life has been one of leadership and service to his community and country. At the age of 17, during the height of World War II, he got his parents' permission and enlisted in the United States Navy, even before he had finished high school. He served in the Navy until 1946 before returning home to finish his education. Upon graduation, he then joined the Marines and led an exemplary military career as a gunnery sergeant.

Dale retired after 20 years of military service, but his desire to serve the community didn't stop there. He went on to serve as a chaplain for the local chapters of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Marine Corps League. He was recently awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedicated service.

Gunnery Sergeant Sigler, we salute you and offer you our deepest gratitude. You, sir, are truly a great American.

REPUBLICAN TAX SCAM

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax scam will raise taxes on 36 million middle class Americans, undermine Medicare, and explode the deficit. It will saddle our children and grandchildren with more than \$1 trillion in additional debt simply to pay for an unnecessary, un-American, unconscionable tax cut for millionaires, billionaires, special interests, corporations, and big donors.

To justify this reckless Ponzi scheme, the Treasury Department has produced a 1-page analysis.

Really? One page? That is the best you can do?

You are insulting the intelligence of the American people, insulting the intelligence of this Congress, and insulting the intelligence of our Democratic republic.

The American people deserve a better deal.

HONORING THE ALSTON FAMILY OF MENA, ARKANSAS

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable family from the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas.

The Alston family from Mena is recently named Arkansas Farm Family of the Year. The Holly Springs Homestead, run by Luke and Deedee Alston, is a diverse farm of Angus cattle, chicken houses, and a large variety of fruits and vegetables grown at its location in Polk County.

Not only is the family—which includes sons Ryan and Drey—active in traditional farming, but the Alstons are also a leader in Arkansas agritourism, with a variety of crops bringing families to the Holly Springs Homestead. Their work supports the Polk County economy and brings pride to their friends and neighbors.

I send my congratulations to the Alston family on this prestigious honor, as well as all the county farm family winners across Arkansas.

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Trump White House and the U.S. Treasury Secretary continue to issue formal reports about the Republican corporate tax cut plan. These reports are devoid of fact or credibility and have been categorically rejected by each and every respectable tax expert.

These tax cuts will pay for themselves and fuel \$2 trillion in economic growth over the next decade.

Not true. Tax cuts have never come close to paying for themselves, not once or ever in human history.

Corporate tax cuts will trickle down to increase annual household income in America by between \$4,000 and \$9,000.

No one believes this or them. For the White House Council of Economic Advisers to say this is official misconduct and a blatant fraud perpetrated against middle America.

Mr. Speaker, this big, corporate tax cut is a massive giveaway to corporate America and a major takeaway from middle America.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MARIA DIAZ

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Maria Diaz, who will be retiring after more than 35 years serving at the Social Security Administration in my hometown of Miami.

My staff and I have had an opportunity to know and work with her over the last 17 years that she has served as a public affairs specialist. Throughout that time, she has been an invaluable resource to us and our constituents.

Maria started working at the Social Security Administration in 1982 in what she thought would be a temporary job, but she quickly grew to love her work and those she had an opportunity to serve. Over the last three decades, with her calm demeanor and ever-present smile, Maria has made a significant impact in the lives of countless individuals in our community.

Mr. Speaker, Maria Diaz is the embodiment of the ideal public servant. She has dedicated her life to faithfully and diligently serving those most in need in South Florida.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish her the best of luck in the next exciting chapter of her life.

Felicidades, amiga.

NEW YORK STRONG

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, a terrorist tried to attack the lifeblood of New York City: our subway system. It is another somber reminder that New York City, a beacon of hope and freedom, remains a target for terrorists.

We had the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, another one on 9/11 in 2001, the Chelsea bombing last year, the truck attack earlier this year, and another bombing yesterday.

In addition, the New York Police Department openly talks about 27 other attempts to harm New Yorkers, which were thwarted. By now, it should be clear that we cannot play politics with Federal funding for local law enforcement and homeland security. The funding for States and cities, especially high-threat areas, must not be delayed, diminished, or cut off.

While we are still learning more about this latest attack, one thing is clear: the terrorist wanted to strike fear into the hearts of every New Yorker, but he failed. New Yorkers will always persevere in the face of diversity. Our trains are running. Our people are back to work.

I wish the three people injured yesterday a swift and speedy recovery. I want to express my gratitude to the

law enforcement of New York City and the heroic response of our first responders. We are all very grateful to them for what they do for us every day.

BEETLE KILL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is amazing that there was 25 percent more tree death this past spring and summer after near record precipitation last winter.

We are seeing the beetle kill and the tree die-off at amazing rates. You can see the forests that are devastated in the West each year. They aren't necessarily all forested areas, but you see what the effects look like in communities on the east side of the State and in the north.

The devastation must end. We must manage our forests. We have, again, the beetle kill. We have trees dying off. There are billions of board feet of trees dying off that are assets of the American people. We should have our forests managed so they are sustainable, healthy, and good for the wildlife.

We need action taken by the USDA and the U.S. Forest Service. We are meeting with those folks to try to get a new direction. Under the previous administration, we got a lot of talk and a lot of smoke. We need action that is going to be positive so that the West doesn't have to burn every year, leaving negative effects to air quality and the economy.

□ 1215

GOP TAX SCAM

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, you have been hearing a lot about this tax plan, but it is really a tax scam.

It is not a mistake that congressional Republicans are going after hardworking middle class families. In fact, it is an intentional attack against them.

Let me explain briefly. They have laid out a simple three-step process. Here they are:

Step one, pass a tax scam that they know will raise taxes on millions of middle class families in order to give tax cuts to corporate special interests and billionaires. That alone will saddle our children with more than \$1 trillion in debt.

Step two, flip out about this new debt.

Step three, then demand cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

For months, congressional Republicans have denied that this is what they are doing.

Well, let me tell you what happened last week. Speaker RYAN said this: "We're going to have to get back next