

□ 1030

Democrats and Republicans have two competing visions for what we need to do in order to make sure that every American can continue to experience the American Dream.

Democrats, we want to move the country forward. Others want to turn back the clock.

We are working hard to bring people together. Others are tearing us apart.

We are fighting for working families and middle-class folks. Others are fighting for the wealthy and the well off.

We believe in the public interest. Others are all about the special interests.

Democrats are fighting for the people. Others are fighting for the privileged few. We are fighting for working families, middle-class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, the afflicted, veterans, people in rural America, urban America, suburban America.

Democrats are fighting for the people. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, unfortunately, are fighting for millionaires, billionaires, mega corporations, lobbyists, big donors, all to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and shameless.

Exhibit A is the Republican tax scam. That is their signature piece of legislation. That is what they are talking to the American people about.

You are proud of the fact that you passed a bill where 83 percent of the benefits go to the wealthiest 1 percent in America, explodes the debt by more than \$1.5 trillion, then you want to come back to Congress and lecture us about cutting Social Security and Medicare? Are you kidding?

Our For the People agenda will focus on lowering healthcare costs, strengthening the Affordable Care Act, protecting people with preexisting conditions, more than 100 million Americans. They want to take away that protection. We are working hard to dramatically lower the cost of lifesaving prescription drugs. That is the Democratic For the People agenda.

Wage stagnation is still a problem for the American people. The productivity of the American worker over the last 40-plus years has increased by more than 285 percent. During the same period of time, wages have gone up by less than 10 percent.

The productivity gains of the American worker have not gone to the American worker, they have gone to the privileged few. What do the Republicans do about it? Pass a tax bill where 83 percent of the benefits go to the wealthiest 1 percent.

We have a different idea for what should take place. We are fighting for the people through increased pay anchored in a real infrastructure plan that will fix our crumbling bridges, roads, tunnels, ports, mass-transportation system; not a fake plan, it is a real plan. We will invest \$1 trillion, create 16 million good-paying jobs, fight to make sure that everyday

Americans can provide a comfortable living for themselves and for their families.

And, lastly, we are going to fight to clean up corruption here in Washington, D.C.; not talk about it, actually get something done to make sure that Washington works for the American people.

That is what you deserve. That is what Democrats are fighting hard to deliver: lower healthcare costs, increased pay, clean up corruption to make sure that Washington works for the people.

BLACK FAMILY FOUNDATION

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Black Family Foundation of Erie, Pennsylvania.

The foundation was established in 1993 by a very distinguished constituent of mine, Mr. Samuel P. "Pat" Black, III, and his late father, an Erie legend, Mr. Samuel P. Black, Jr., who passed away in 2001 just 4 months shy of his 100th birthday.

According to its mission statement, the foundation exists to fund systemic change.

It proudly focuses on strategic non-profit investments throughout Erie County that leverage resources for the greatest gains in social progress.

Its vision is profound and very ambitious. It exists:

To promote continuous improvements in the quality of life around the globe by investing in projects that offer a high probability of not only transformational value, but also sustainable change.

Over the course of its respected history, the foundation has funded non-profit programs and organizations in the areas of health and welfare, entrepreneurial education, homelessness, environmental sustainability, economic initiatives, and technology initiatives.

Specifically, the organization has supported such initiatives as the creation of the Elizabeth Lee Black School at the Barber National Institute. This is an approved private school that offers state-of-the-art educational programs to children ages 3 through 21 with autism and intellectual and physical disabilities.

Over the last 15 years, Mr. Black and the Black Family Foundation have also supported hundreds of students through scholarships at Penn State's Behrend College and at Mercyhurst University.

In the last decade alone, the foundation has donated more than \$13 million throughout the Erie community and to worthy organizations around the world.

To Mr. Black and his family, we say: Happy anniversary, and may God bless

you for all that you do to help bless others.

RECOGNIZING MARGIE TOWERY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of a teacher who continues to have an indelible impact on Arkansas, Margie Towery, who is this year's Greenbrier School District Teacher of the Year.

Margie has dedicated her life to serving and educating Arkansas' youth.

This is her 26th year of teaching, including seven at the nearby University of Central Arkansas.

Margie is a big advocate for STEM education, particularly for young girls, and even takes her students to local universities to participate in their STEM activities.

She started and led the Rhetoric Society at the high school until she became a full-time sponsor of the student council.

Teachers like Margie prove that education is one of the best investments that America can make.

I am proud to represent her and all the teachers of central Arkansas who are making a difference for our youth.

ARNOLD HAMEISTER RETIREMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a man who has had a major impact on conservation and preservation throughout Arkansas, Mr. Arnold Hameister.

Arnold recently retired after 37 years of service to the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

He started his career with the Forestry Commission in 1981 as a tower operator in Heber Springs, and 6 months later became a full-time ranger.

Arnold then moved his family to Conway, where he served as the county ranger until he was hired by Best Management Practices as a specialist.

He ended his decades-long career as the program coordinator for water quality.

Arnold and his family were recently honored at a celebration at the Department of Agriculture headquarters in Little Rock.

Arnold's service to the State of Arkansas and to environmental conservation will never be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in congratulating him on a remarkable career and a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING TAMIKA EDWARDS

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Tamika Edwards, who has just been named executive director of the Social Justice Institute at Philander Smith College.

Tamika has served her State and her country tirelessly throughout her whole career from her work as a former aide to U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, to her role as the Director of Governmental Affairs for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

A native of our hometown, Little Rock, Ms. Edwards is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and a two-time alumna of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, most recently in 2012 with her law degree.

Ms. Edwards' passion for ensuring all voices are heard will serve her well as she oversees the Social Justice Institute's crucial work of educating students and the community in advocating for equal opportunity, treatment, and respect.

So, again, I would like to congratulate Ms. Edwards on her new position of leadership, and I look forward to working with her.

RECOGNIZING NEOMI RAO

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Naomi Rao, the current Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, for her important work in reducing the power of the Federal administrative state.

Beginning in 2013, I outlined how our economic recovery was subpar in comparison to post-World War II recoveries, in part due to the wet blanket of the avalanche of Federal costs imposed by the previous administration.

In Arkansas, we have seen Federal regulatory agencies have devastating economic effects on our farmers, our small business people, nonprofits, schools, colleges, and State agencies.

Then comes Naomi Rao, and in her first year as administrator of OIRA, she led the way with the delay or withdrawal of 1,579 planned regulatory actions, leading to almost \$8 billion in lifetime savings for the economy and the American people.

These successes have not stopped in 2018, where she has been working with every agency to set a negative regulatory cost allocation to provide our local businesses, farmers, and schools the relief that they need.

I commend Administrator Rao for her work at OMB in cutting red tape in Washington and giving control back to our States, our local communities, and our hardworking taxpayers.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY AND LIFE OF NORA MAE PIERCE GAULDEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday and the life of Nora Mae Pierce Gaulden, born August 27, 1930, in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Nora Mae originally grew up in Cullowhee, North Carolina, in part of what is known as the Nantahala National Forest.

She would grow up on a rural farm during the Depression and experience all the hardships associated with that era. "If you didn't farm, you didn't eat," she would say, and the family would often barter and trade for their needs as they navigated life.

Around the time of her 18th birthday, times began to change, and the family heard about a large company that would be hiring to fill shift work and laborers for a large facility being built down at the Piedmont. That company would be known as Celanese, and it was this turn of events in her life that brought her to her present hometown of Rock Hill, South Carolina.

The family would uproot and set out across the mountain to see what this new place could bring.

As a new employee, employee number 47, Nora was tasked with learning the job and then training others to fill shifts. She remembers sleeping on a bench while others worked and trained during these times, sometimes staying all night while work was ramping up.

She would work there for 21 years, marry, grow a family, and eventually set on a direction leading her to today.

Celanese was going to place her on shift work, so she decided to take a package instead and went to the unemployment office. There, she ran into Woodrow Byrum. "He told me not to even sign the papers, and come with him. I didn't even get to draw my first check." He needed someone to do food for the workers, so of course she went straight to work.

That path led her to M. Lowenstein Corporation's Rock Hill Printing and Finishing plant located in downtown Rock Hill.

She would begin working there in 1959 and would stay on through the many changes, from the height of the textile boom to its slow demise within the Carolinas.

Many role changes and job requirements would come and go. The Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Company would eventually be sold to Springs Industries, and she would see even more changes in her life up until her expected retirement in 1993.

However, one large change was looming on the horizon. That retirement would be postponed due to the loss of her husband, Rufus, who suffered an unfortunate drowning accident 6 months before their retirement. Several friends and family close to her advised her to continue working, so that is exactly what she decided to do.

"I told Rufus to build me a porch, so we could sit and rock and look out once we both retired." She would go on to say, "He never got to enjoy that."

She stayed on with Springs continuing to do the things she had done all of her life: love work, love family, love God, and never treat any one person better than another. That is her defining legacy.

"God made all people," she would say, "and He didn't make one better than the other," with her trademark finger pointing and one eye closed.

Years would come and go. Time marched on, and part of Springs Industries-Springs Creative would be born out of that time in 2007. Many things changed during those days, but Nora Mae did not. "I just stayed with the building."

She has continued to work with Springs and each year mulls over retirement. "Maybe this summer," has been repeated over the last several years, "maybe not." She keeps working hard, calls everyone her children, stays true to God, never changes, and reaches a milestone 88th birthday this year.

For 70 years, she has been a part of the Rock Hill community, sharing herself with her love to everyone she meets and making this world a better place than when she found it. She would say, "God doesn't change. Why should I?"

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to say what a great life this lady has lived. She is a great American, and she represents all that is good with this great country.

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 45 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: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House, that they might judiciously balance seemingly irreconcilable interests. Help them to execute their consciences and judgments with clarity and purity of heart so that all might stand before You honestly and trust that You can bring forth righteous fruits from their labors.

We thank You and so many staff who have worked hard to assist the Members in their work. May their efforts prove fruitful in the production of bills needed to fund the government into a future to benefit our great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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