

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 Neomi 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 Neomi 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.

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 Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING THOSE KILLED OR WOUNDED IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in honor of those who have been killed or wounded in service to our country and all those who serve and their families.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HISTORIC PASSAGE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

(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, last month, at Fort Drum New York, surrounded by brave soldiers, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the signing of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, by President Donald Trump, fulfilling promises made, promises kept.

This critical legislation, thanks to the leadership of House Armed Services Committee Chairman MAC THORNBERY, passed the House and Senate, bipartisan, in record time, becoming law before the start of the fiscal year for first time in 20 years.

As Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee chairman, I appreciate that the NDAA begins and enhances training, spare parts, equipment, and weapons systems maintenance, promoting safety and effectiveness.

The NDAA has an important part for South Carolina by promoting Fort

Jackson and its role as the largest initial entry training facility of the U.S. Army, which is commanded by Brigadier General Milford Beagle.

Also important are the missions of the Savannah River National Laboratory, which is a bipartisan effort by Congressman JIM CLYBURN from South Carolina and a bistate effort by Congressman RICK ALLEN from Georgia.

I am also grateful that Fort Gordon has been reinforced to continue as the U.S. Army Cyber Command headquarters.

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

TONAWANDA COKE NEEDS TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on September 3, first responders were called to a fire at Tonawanda Coke in western New York. As they approached the blaze, the company blocked them from entering the plant.

This obstruction of firefighters from the blaze threatened the health and safety of first responders, plant employees, and the surrounding neighborhood.

Tonawanda Coke has a long history of this kind of erratic corporate behavior and is in violation of Federal and State environmental laws, including dozens of provisions of the Clean Air Act.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation needs to put an end to Tonawanda Coke's reckless actions.

Tonawanda Coke needs to be made to comply with the letter of any and all environmental law, or they should be shut down.

MAKE PENSION SECURITY A PRIORITY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, every American who works hard and plays by the rules should be able to retire in dignity, supported by the pension that they have earned.

Instead of protecting these hard-working Americans, this Republican-led Congress prioritized tax cuts for the biggest corporations and the wealthiest Americans. Now some of the largest pension plans for workers are on the verge of collapse; 1.5 million Americans, including 43,000 in my home State of Michigan, are at risk.

These workers have earned their pensions. They worked a lifetime contributing to them, and now they are having the rug pulled out from under them?

Patricia from Michigan is one of those retirees. Here is what she told

my office: "I was a single mother raising one child. I thought putting money into the pension was my security. Now you want to take it away. I was never on welfare—I worked. If I lose my pension, I will not be able to pay for the basics: utilities, taxes, car insurance, food."

So unless Congress steps up, pensions for Americans like Patricia will be cut. Let's vote on bipartisan legislation that I cosponsored, the Butch Lewis Act, which addresses this pension crisis. This legislation ensures that multi-employer pension plans remain solvent and continue providing retirees and workers with the retirement benefits that they have earned. It is long past time to take up this legislation.

TIME TO STRATEGICALLY ENGAGE WITH TRADE PARTNERS

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's erratic trade policies, including abrupt tweets on new tariffs or exemptions, are hurting American workers and making it harder for American businesses to compete.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit eight businesses in my district to better understand the impact of these tariffs. While each business was distinct, all shared a common message: Tariffs are creating uncertainty, raising the cost of doing business, and making it harder to hire and expand.

These concerns were true across the businesses I visited, from a large manufacturer in Wheeling that saw a 30 percent to 40 percent increase in the price of domestic steel, to an educational toy and game company in Vernon Hills that had to redesign upcoming products.

We certainly must hold bad actors who take advantage of trade rules to account, but President Trump's tariffs on our allies are not working for the American people. It is time, instead, to strategically engage with our trade partners; end the misguided trade wars; and, instead, enact sensible, enforceable trade agreements that support American workers, American businesses, American intellectual property, and our environment.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of