

these vital benefits. Let me repeat that: They worked hard for these vital benefits.

This increase helped more than 80,000 people in my district who are on Social Security. That is more than 10 percent of my constituents.

These are retired workers, disabled workers, widows, and children who need these critical funds to survive. They have earned them. They paid into them.

Social Security and Medicare are a lifeline for our seniors and especially those in my district. We will always defend these programs, and we will always put seniors over politics.

We will never cut Medicare. We will never cut Social Security. We will fight for our working families until the end.

Madam Speaker, House Democrats are creating good-paying jobs for all our American families. Democrats have created a record 12 million jobs since President Biden took office, and we aren't stopping there. Let me repeat that: 12 million, and we are not stopping there. That is almost as many jobs in 2 years as any President has created in a 4-year term.

House Republicans are trying to undermine all this through bad lies and make-up stuff suggesting that President Biden has hurt our economy. He has not.

Republicans want to raise the cost of everything 30 percent while giving the wealthiest Americans cuts on their taxes. This is outrageous and just plain wrong.

While extreme MAGA Republicans hand out tax breaks to the wealthy, Democrats are focused on lowering everyday Americans' costs.

We will continue to fight for working families.

I am not willing to use politics over people. I will always put people over politics and always, always people first.

RECOGNIZING JOHN "BARRY" DAGENHART AS AN OUTSTANDING CITIZEN

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

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedicated service and call to the ministry of Dr. Barry Dagenhart who has served as a pastor for over 40 years.

Dr. Dagenhart grew up in Statesville, North Carolina, and was spiritually nurtured in the New Sterling Associate Reformed Presbyterian (A.R.P.) Church.

Graduating in 1979, he studied economics at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. He also holds a master of divinity degree and a doctor of ministry degree from Erskine Theological Seminary. While at Erskine, he met his loving wife, Sarah Lynn Richie, of Fairfield, Virginia, and they were married on June 26 of 1982.

Dr. Dagenhart had the honor and privilege of serving on various boards and agencies throughout the A.R.P. denomination. He served on the board of stewardship and A.R.P. Foundation, as well as the Erskine College and Seminary Board of Trustees. He was also blessed to serve as the vice moderator of the A.R.P. General Synod.

He currently serves on the Bonclarken Board of Trustees, the conference center for the A.R.P. denomination. In addition to his service at the Synod level, he also has served on various commissions and committees on the Presbytery level in First Presbytery, Second Presbytery, and, most recently, Catawba Presbytery where he served as moderator from 2013 to 2014.

Not only has Dr. Dagenhart generously served on various boards and committees in his community, he also enjoyed being able to use his call to the gospel ministry to impact youth, adults, and individuals with special needs at various week-long summer camps at Bonclarken located in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

Throughout his decades of ministry, Dr. Dagenhart has frequently served as camp minister for Camp Joy, a camp for those affected by physical and mental disabilities. Dr. Dagenhart's caring and generous heart is what makes him stand out as an honorable citizen and follower of Jesus Christ, sacrificing his time to help those around him.

Dr. Dagenhart has an encouraging and loving family—his wife Sarah, son Jamey, and daughter Rachel—who support him in walking his path of placing others above himself.

Dr. Barry Dagenhart has set the gold standard for decades of dedicated service and commitment to his congregation and to the community. He will long be remembered for that.

Madam Speaker, we all join in saying thank you and Godspeed in his well-deserved years of retirement.

TOXIC WASTE IN MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 12th Congressional District and the State of Michigan to say to Norfolk Southern: Don't dump your toxic waste in our State.

Late last Friday, we learned that shipments of solid and liquid toxic waste from the East Palestine train derailment in Ohio were being transported to Michigan for disposal.

Norfolk Southern chose to dispose truckloads of hazardous materials at multiple sites, including one operated by U.S. Ecology, one of our region's most negligent and notorious corporate polluters. These companies treat poisoning our communities as the cost of doing business, and we are done with it.

I am so proud of our residents who spoke up and who helped halt further shipments into our State. I want to

thank every single one of them from the bottom of my heart for speaking the truth and demanding better from all of our officials from the State and the Federal EPA.

We will never give permission for corporate polluters to continue sacrificing the health and well-being of our communities and our families.

Our environmental regulators State and Federal must aggressively protect all of us from this threat and hold these polluters accountable.

DTE ENERGY

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say that DTE Energy, an investor-owned utility monopoly in my district, charges some of the highest rates in our Nation while providing some of the most unreliable service and performs hundreds of thousands of utility shutoffs per year.

Right now many of my residents are in the seventh day of no power: no gas, heat, or electricity.

This past week has been yet another nightmare for more than close to 1 million DTE customers as well as 200,000 consumer energy customers in our State who have endured days on end without power and heat after a completely foreseeable winter storm.

Why?

Because DTE doesn't invest in reliability. It invests in profits and pays for shareholders and executives. The company made \$1.1 billion in profits last year alone.

Investor-owned utilities like DTE will always put profits over the people whom we serve in this Chamber.

During the worst of the pandemic in 2020, Madam Speaker, DTE shut off power to customers more than 80,000 times despite being subsidized by our Federal Government to the tune of \$268 million in CARES Act funding.

The reason?

They paid out \$807 million to shareholders instead of keeping the power on for our residents who were struggling through the pandemic.

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Since 2015, DTE has received over \$775 million in rate hikes, the second highest rate of increase in our Nation, and they just announced their intention to seek another massive rate hike.

DTE has failed to invest in the infrastructure upgrades necessary to prevent outages, instead choosing to maximize profits for its shareholders and spending millions on campaign contributions to avoid real accountability.

I am sick and tired of wealthy corporate executives lining their pockets while our communities suffer and continue to be exploited.

That is why, last year, I introduced the Resolution Recognizing the Human Rights to Utilities with Representatives CORI BUSH and JAMAAL BOWMAN.

Madam Speaker, access to utilities is not a privilege; it is a fundamental human right. People depend on it for medical and for safety, again, in their

own homes. In the richest country on Earth, every single family should have access to electricity, heat, and water. We need public power for all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EVA ALVAREZ

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Eva Alvarez, a community activist who worked to improve the lives of countless immigrant families across southeast Michigan. Her life was suddenly cut short this past weekend in a tragic accident.

Eva worked on public policy advocacy for the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, one of the State's strongest immigrant empowerment agencies, where she championed policies to improve the lives of immigrants, Dreamers, farmworkers, and TSP holders.

She was an incredible leader. Eva will be missed. She is known for her spirit of hope and optimism, which helped her persevere and remain steadfast in her work. She could always be counted on to offer a kind word to uplift others.

Eva's sudden passing will be felt deeply throughout our communities. Please join me in honoring the life of Ms. Eva Alvarez, and please extend our condolences to her family as we mourn her loss. May she rest in power.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JAMES THOMAS BROYHILL

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, right now, family and friends have gathered in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to celebrate the life of a giant of North Carolina politics, Jim Broyhill, who passed away last week at 95.

Mr. Broyhill served in this House for 23 years and briefly as a Member of the United States Senate.

His story began in the town of Lenoir, where he was born the son of James Edgar and Satie Hunt Broyhill, whose Broyhill Furniture had become a thriving business and brand name known nationwide.

Ed Broyhill, Mr. Broyhill's father, despite living in a State where the Republican Party was almost extinct, was a Republican national committeeman. Jim Broyhill listened at the kitchen table as community and business leaders and politicians discussed current events with his father. It sparked Jim's interest.

He attended and graduated from the University of North Carolina, class of 1950, joined the family business, and emerged as a leader of the business community in his own right. He married Louise, and they started a family, raising three children.

Like his father, Mr. Broyhill was passionate about politics. He also believed fervently in competition. More than anything, he wanted to build in North

Carolina a competitive two-party system. In 1962, he materially advanced that ball in a surprise election to Congress.

In the preceding districting process, the Democrat-dominated State legislature drew districts designed to eliminate the only North Carolina Republican in the State's congressional delegation, Charles Jonas of Charlotte, but the plan backfired and elected two Republicans to Congress, Mr. Jonas and Mr. Broyhill.

Once in Washington, Representative Broyhill formed relationships with members of both parties and learned how to be an effective Member. He served patiently his entire career in the minority as Democrats ran Congress, just as he patiently nursed political competition back home. He advocated for lower taxes and less regulation, but he set the gold standard in constituent service.

As a result, after that first bare win in 1962, he never again faced a serious challenge in reelection campaigns. Even now, North Carolina Members pay heed to the Broyhill model for serving constituent needs.

Mr. Broyhill worked across the aisle for more rational business regulation and served as a mentor to fellow Republicans in Congress, meeting one-on-one with freshman Members and instructing them on the importance of constituent service and attending local events in the district.

After his retirement, he briefly returned to Lenoir, and then served as secretary of commerce and chairman of the North Carolina Economic Development Commission. He worked hard to bring new business to the State and had a great deal of success.

Mr. Broyhill leaves behind his wife of 71 years, Louise; son Ed, who serves as a Republican national committeeman himself; daughter Marilyn; 6 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. His son Phil passed away, sadly, in 2014. In addition, he leaves many friends and supporters, grateful constituents, loyal former staff, and Members of Congress who followed him into this Chamber.

Just 15 months ago, I had the privilege to meet Mr. and Mrs. Broyhill myself. It cemented for me the larger-than-life figure of Jim Broyhill, who has long since entered the pantheon of foremost North Carolina leaders.

For all the care he furnished to the Republican Party as it broke one-party dominance in North Carolina, his first priority was Louise, Ed, and Marilyn, his extended family whom he loved.

Jim Broyhill was a distinguished gentleman, a humble public servant, and a loyal husband, father, and friend. It is my honor to pay tribute to his memory today.

Jim Broyhill, rest in peace.

SUPPORTING FTC'S NONCOMPETE BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, our economy thrives on competition and freedom. No employer should be able to block their workers from taking a better job, but that is what noncompete contracts do. They strip Americans' freedom to work at the job that is best for them.

As a result, workers are losing out on nearly \$300 billion in wages every year. Companies stop incentivizing workers to stay because they don't need to. They are stuck.

Noncompetes also drag down the entire economy, hurting even those of us who aren't covered by them. Everyone is harmed when wages are suppressed, innovation is stifled, and competition is prevented.

I am thrilled that the Federal Trade Commission is ending this toxic practice. Banning noncompetes will promote the ideals our country was founded on—open markets, economic mobility, and the right to control one's own life.

Madam Speaker, I commend this effort to make our capitalist economy more fair, free, and prosperous.

STANDING UP FOR RENTAL MARKET FAIRNESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm on the housing crisis crushing millions of Americans.

Skyrocketing rents across the country are pummeling families and squeezing them out of their homes. Let's face it, the rental market is broken and riddled with unfair practices.

Unreasonable background checks, crooked screening algorithms, and anticompetitive information sharing are just some of the many obstacles locking renters out from obtaining safe and affordable housing.

I am grateful that the Biden administration announced new actions to increase fairness in the rental market, protect tenants, and make housing more affordable. Rooting out predatory tactics and developing strong guardrails will help prevent future egregious increases in rent.

As California's watchdog during the last foreclosure crisis, I know it takes fight to keep families in their homes. I urge leaders across government to stand up for renters.

KEEPING AAPI COMMUNITIES SAFE

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to address how our government can address the issues facing our AAPI communities.

Supporting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans requires recognizing the diversity within those communities. Inadequate data limit our ability to serve all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Federal data on AAPI people fail to capture differences across ethnic backgrounds. Grouping all AAPI people into one supercategory erases important distinctions in cultural traditions and lived experiences.

Blunt data instruments cannot produce targeted policy solutions to