

The Tax Code under the Republicans was made more complex and more unfair every year they were in charge. They showered more tax breaks on the wealthy and corporations, and enhanced income inequality.

They had an iron grip on the average taxpayer, denying even basic customer service through the IRS. They exploded the deficits—a trillion dollars a year for as far as the eye can see—and refused to enforce the Tax Code on people who cheat, leaving hundreds of billions of uncollected tax dollars unavailable to reduce the deficit or fund government service.

For 8 years, they even refused to listen to the vast array of infrastructure stakeholders on how to rebuild and renew America, a sorry legacy I am confident we will improve upon as Democrats. We couldn't do any worse.

CONGRATULATIONS MONTICELLO HIGH SCHOOL SAGES ON WINNING THE STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Monticello High School Sages and Coach Cully Welter on winning the State football championship last week.

The Sages capped off an undefeated season with their 24-20 victory over Byron High School in the Class 3A championship game. This season's championship was the first in Monticello's history, and also the first time its football team has played in a championship game.

Monticello's 2018 season was a record-breaking season, and it will be remembered for years to come. Before the championship game, none of Monticello's opponents had finished within three touchdowns of the Sages.

I want to send a special message to the Sages' defense. As someone who watched this game comfortably from my home, I clearly saw that the Byron running back fumbled the ball at the goal line, and it was a very bad call. But you recovered, and you won the championship.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to follow the Sages' championship season, and I congratulate the team and the entire Monticello community on this well-deserved title.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CALIFORNIA SENATOR ROBERT PRESLEY

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of California State Senator Robert Presley. His life's work represents some of the best of what Riverside can produce.

He was a war hero and was awarded the Bronze Star in World War II. He was an honorable law enforcement officer, and earned the reputation of being a fair truth seeker, even during times of unrest in Riverside. He was an honest public servant. He accomplished great things for Riverside, and moved our State forward as a California State Senator.

When I was in my twenties, Bob gave me a chance. He named me as his alternate to the Central Committee of the Riverside County Democratic Party, which allowed me to follow my passion for public service, and for that, I will always be grateful.

Bob will be dearly missed, but his name, his work, his Democratic spirit, and the legacy he left behind will be cherished by our community forever.

HONORING GRACE LEARNING CENTER ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grace Learning Center in Franklin, Pennsylvania, for 20 years of service to the community.

Grace Learning Center is an after-school program dedicated to providing children with a safe, fun, and educational environment each school day.

In the late 1990s, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church began exploring the possibility of offering a free after-school program for families in need. They were licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and opened their doors in 1999.

At Grace, children have the opportunity to expand their intellectual and creative abilities, while gaining an appreciation for their families and community.

Grace Learning Center maintains close ties with the local schools in order to encourage scholastic achievement in all areas. Grace welcomes children of all socioeconomic levels and gives special regard to children in need.

Grace provides a loving, caring, and secure environment where children are taught to make wise and responsible choices.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Grace Learning Center on 20 years of providing a safe after-school environment for elementary school students and helping them reach their full potential.

AVOID GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of New York's 25th Congressional District to voice my strong opposition to a senseless and entirely avoidable gov-

ernment shutdown that would hurt my community and millions of people across the country.

What is particularly alarming is that this looming shutdown has been triggered over a potential border wall that is not only ill-conceived, but would squander our limited resources, and fail to address the most pressing challenges facing our Nation.

In my district, what we want instead is to take a unified approach to ensuring quality, affordable healthcare; protecting Social Security and Medicare; create more good-paying job opportunities; and addressing the gun violence epidemic that is devastating our communities.

Over the coming days, I implore all parties to come together in a spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation to focus on what is more important to the American people and avoid a needless government shutdown that would impair those priorities.

WORLD AIDS DAY

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observation of World AIDS Day which is celebrated tomorrow, actually, in the United States and around the world. Thanks to bipartisan investments in programs like PEPFAR, we have made significant strides in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

In the 15 years since PEPFAR was passed, over 2.4 million babies have been born HIV free, and over 14.6 million people have been supported with antiretroviral treatment. But we cannot let these numbers lull us into complacency.

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Know Your Status." More than 9.4 million people living with HIV around the world do not know their status. In the United States, more than 1.1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV; 14 percent, mind you, of whom do not know their status.

We know that tens of millions of people in the United States and around the world will require sustained access to treatment for decades to come. Without robust investments and a strong recommitment to programs like PEPFAR, Ryan White, and the Minority AIDS Initiative, we could see a backslide in the important gains that we have made in the fight against HIV.

We can't afford to let that happen, so I invite you to join me in commemorating World AIDS Day and recommitting to achieving an AIDS-free generation.

JUSTICE FOR DIANE RWIGARA

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, on December 6, a Rwandan court will decide the fate of human rights activist Diane