

while it will be a star-studded event with various entertainers performing on the plaza, the biggest star of all is from State College, Pennsylvania: the Christmas tree.

The 75-foot-tall Norway spruce was chosen as the yuletide centerpiece. The 12-ton tree was trucked into Midtown Manhattan earlier this month from State College. Rockefeller Center's head gardener was visiting State College a few years ago for a high school football game. He saw the tree from the road and knocked on the homeowner Jason Perrin's door to ask about the spruce.

Mr. Perrin is a Penn State graduate who worked for the State College Area School District for 17 years. He believes the tree is about 80 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to State College's tree playing a starring role in tonight's festivities. Merry Christmas.

WE NEED BIPARTISAN TAX REFORM

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, look, I, like every Member in this House, recognize that we need to do something about taxes. We need bipartisan tax reform that actually works for everybody, but what the Senate passed through committee and what the House passed here a couple of weeks ago is not tax reform. It is a great big tax cut financed by middle class Americans and huge debt that will be passed on to our kids.

It is just not right. We shouldn't do this just to put points on the board. I mean, if we are going to get this right, we should do it in a bipartisan way, and many of us stand ready to do that.

What this shows—and the facts matter—is that every independent analysis, including our own analysis here in Congress that we have depended upon for years, shows that millions, tens of millions, over 80 million middle class Americans, will get a tax increase, all to finance massive tax cuts for billionaires and corporations, people at the very top of the economy.

This is a massive shift of wealth from hardworking Americans to people at the very top. We ought to do this right. We ought to do it right. We ought to stop this nonsense, go back to the process that we were elected to follow, and get this done in a way that is good for all Americans. This bill is not that.

THANKING DR. ROBERT MARTINO

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Robert Martino of Clarksburg, West Virginia.

In 2013, Dr. Martino began a unique program, generously providing one day of free dental services to local Active-Duty military and their families. He

wanted to give back to those who have sacrificed so much, and he has continued to do so each and every year, thereafter, and has spread this idea throughout his professional network.

This day of service has now swept across the Nation, with over 500 businesses now offering our soldiers everything from dental services to accounting. It has become known as Freedom Day.

But that isn't enough. I want to challenge more businesses to participate. Visit freedomday.usa.org to find out how to get involved.

Dr. Martino, thank you for the example you set for America. You are truly a great American.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, Native American Heritage Month affords us the opportunity to honor the Native American veterans who fought for this great country.

I rise today to celebrate the indispensable contributions of all Native American code talkers. Throughout much of the 20th Century, Native American soldiers used their native languages to develop unbreakable codes for military operations. Their actions were critical for many Allied victories.

Every day, I am reminded of the contributions of the code talkers who served at Iwo Jima. A tribute to their service hangs in my office, and it contains this quote from Major Howard Connor, a signal officer for the Navajo code talkers: "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines never would have taken Iwo Jima."

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the brave code talkers who served with honor and our veterans.

One of the founding principles of this country is the celebration of the diversity of its people. When we recognize that, we truly are a more perfect union.

TAX RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN TEXAS

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, across America, was Small Business Saturday, a yearly event that highlights American Main Street businesses by encouraging consumers to shop in their local shops.

Forty-five percent of all companies in Texas are small businesses. They provide jobs to 4 million Texans. They are our neighbors, our family members, and our friends. They provide jobs to more than 4 million families as well as the 4 million Texans.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provides small businesses in my north Texas

district with the lowest tax rate since World War II, allowing them to invest in their community, hire more people, and, as the National Federation of Independent Business says: This tax bill will lead small businesses into a better position.

We highlighted small businesses last weekend, and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act follows through with a Tax Code built for increased wages and long-term growth.

□ 1215

TAX BILL IS A LOSS FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the lost opportunity for real bipartisan tax reform. There were lots of Democrats, Mr. Speaker, who were ready to make a deal to make our Code simpler and more competitive. There were lots of Democrats who would have said, yeah, let's lower rates, but let's do it responsibly so that we don't balloon the deficit. And there were lots of Democrats who said let's eliminate that incentive for companies to operate abroad.

But instead, we are where we are today, where we have a bill here and in the Senate that will raise taxes on millions of middle class Americans, that will deliver a huge windfall to the wealthiest Americans, and that will send a tsunami of cash to American corporations.

For what purpose?

American corporations, today, are swimming in cash. They are profitable like never before. There is this fantasy that they will hire more people, but let's actually listen to the corporations. Cisco, Pfizer, and Coca-Cola have said they will take this money and they will return it to shareholders as, quite frankly, they probably should, since it is shareholder money. It is not going to go to new jobs. And remember—this is the kicker—35 percent of shareholders of American corporations are foreigners.

This is not a win. This is a loss for the American people.

RECOGNIZING LUBBOCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce and congratulate them and their 2,000-plus members as they gather for their annual awards ceremony this week.

For over 100 years, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce has brought these hardworking men and women together to better our community. Their commitment to excellence has earned them national recognition as America's first and only chamber to be two-