



Will my mother-in-law be okay?

Dear Dave,
My mother-in-law is 60. She works hard and has no debt, but she also has no savings or retirement accounts. However, she owns a couple of paid-for rental properties that are worth about

\$350,000 each, and her home is worth \$700,000. What can I do to help her plan for the future?

Paul

Dear Paul,
The best plan would be to first see if she's already got a plan. I understand you're worried about her not having

any savings or retirement. That makes you a good son-in-law. But it sounds to me like she's got the makings of a pretty good retirement situation lined up, even if she didn't go the traditional route to get there. You just told me she's sitting on nearly \$1.5 million in paid-for real estate. Dude, she's a millionaire!

If the time comes where she decides she doesn't like landlording anymore or just wants to retire, she can always sell the rental properties, invest that big pile of cash in mutual funds, and live off the income. I've got a feeling this lady isn't going to be starving or depending on Social Insecurity.

If you're concerned about things, just sit down with her and let her know. Ask her if she needs any help with her money situation and plans for retirement. If she doesn't want to talk about it right now, that's fine, but making the offer shows you care. And, having a good, strong game plan means fewer worries!

Dave

Get dialed in

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have two kids and one on the way. We're debt-free except for our home, and we have our emergency fund in place. We've also been saving for retirement, with me putting 15% into a 401(k) and her putting 10 percent into her retirement account. On top of all this, we're putting a little money toward college funds for the kids. We talked the other night, and after that we started thinking about pulling back from retirement saving and getting the house paid off. What do you think about that?

Callen

Dear Callen,

I teach people to start investing 15% of their household income for retirement after they've completed Baby Step 3, which is saving three to six months of expenses for an emergency fund. Baby Step 4 would be both of you putting 15% of your income into retirement, and you're not quite doing that yet. Saving for college comes next in Baby Step 5.

I don't teach people to put less than 15% of their income into retirement in order to pay off the house a little earlier. It's tempting when you've got the debt-free bug, but it's not the shortest distance between where you are right now and wealth. The average person who follows my plan—the Baby Steps—can pay off their home in about seven years.

You've got offense and defense to think about, Callen. Defense is getting rid of debt,

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Senate resumes work on major priorities

Congress takes up annual defense bill, government funding and judges

With less than two months remaining in the 116th Congress, the Senate is working to complete several important priorities for Mississippi and the nation. These include an annual military authorization bill and funding for the federal government. We are continuing to confirm Trump-nominated judges to lifetime appointments on the federal bench. And the Commerce Committee, which I chair, is finalizing several important bills that I hope will be considered by the full Senate before January.

Funding the Federal Government

House and Senate leaders are negotiating a final version of the National Defense Authorization Act, the annual bill that funds our military. This year's legislation would fund the construction of several new ships, which would strengthen our naval fleet and keep Mississippi's shipbuilders busy. As this bill comes together, I am pushing for additional measures to protect our defense industrial base and provide certainty to military suppliers. We cannot let the pandemic jeopardize our national security.

Congress will also need to fund the federal government into the new year. Government funding is set to expire on December 11, and I hope congressional leaders can reach a long-term agreement. In the future, Congress needs

and the offense is building wealth. You don't want to let your guard down on offense in order to just play defense and get the house paid off. What you're talking about is a normal reaction for lots of folks in your position, but it's not what I would recommend right now.

I love your fire, but follow the Baby Steps as they're laid out. My goal isn't just helping people get out of debt. It's to teach people how to become wealthy as a result of being out of debt and encouraging them be outrageously generous along the way!

—Dave

**Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

to get back to the practice of passing individual appropriations bills on time. Threats of government shutdowns, short-term bills to continue funding at current levels, and massive last-minute agreements have become the norm in recent years. Getting back to regular order would result in smarter policies, benefit our national security, and protect taxpayers.

Commerce Committee Advances Key Bills

As chairman of the Commerce Committee, I am working to bring several important bills to completion. One of those bills is NASA reauthorization. This legislation would advance NASA's deep space exploration program and maintain the Stennis Space Center as the world's premier rocket testing facility. We are also moving legislation to speed up broadband deployment in rural areas. We have approved substantial funding for the Coast Guard, which is vital to protecting American commerce at sea.

Another important question before the committee is what to do about the growing number of states that now allow college athletes to be compensated for their name, image, and likeness. The various state laws have created a patchwork of different rules that could put some student athletes at a disadvantage and give some schools an unfair recruiting edge. I will soon introduce legisla-

tion to set national standards for college athletes who earn money through private contracts and endorsements. This legislation is needed to ensure a level playing field across the country for all college athletes and prevent corruption in college athletics.

Confirming President Trump's Nominees

In the last four years, the Senate has made historic progress in confirming more than 220 of President Trump's judicial nominees. That number is set to expand as the Senate takes up new nominations in the final weeks of this Congress. Two of the President's nominees – Kristi Johnson and Taylor McNeel – are Mississippi natives who have been selected to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. Both individuals bring impressive records of experience and a conservative judicial philosophy. I believe they will serve our nation well for many years to come.

The final weeks of the legislative calendar are always busy, and this year is no exception. I am confident we can use this time to yield lasting benefits for the American people.



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RONNIE PAUL ENGELMANN, SR.

Ronnie Paul Engelmann, Sr. of Starkville, MS was born on March 19, 1955 and left a legacy here on Earth when he passed from here to Heaven on Sunday, November 15, 2020.

With his love for his children and grandchildren, he lived a life before them worthy of their following. He taught them about God and His love for them.

With his wife of 31½ years, he and Relda always had a housefull. With never a dull moment and always cracking his corny jokes, he kept us all anticipating every day and with nine kids he stayed busy.

Along with his wife he is survived by a quiver full of children and grandchildren. From the top we start with Paul-(Kelli) Sydney and Myles, Dale, Todd-(Luz-Marina) Clara, Stephen-(Lindsay) Stephen II, Akemi, Jake, Charlotte and Jaegar, Tiffany-Morgan, Madison, Karlee, and Kaleb, Timothy-(Estela) Suzette and Johann, Gregory-Julian, Samantha-Gabby, Anna, and Izzy, Jamie-(Holly) and Max. His first great-grandbaby is due to enter this world

in April, 2021. He is reunited with two grandchildren, Wyatt and Sawyer, along with his two parents Marvin and Grace and his two brothers, Ray and Jimmy. He leaves two sisters- Linda and Betty, nieces and nephews (too many to count) and a loving church family at Fellowship Baptist Church.

His life was full of many things he loved. Some of them include: Teaching Sunday School, riding his motorcycle, camping, Sci-Fi movies, chocolate milk and twinkies, Mustang cars, drag-racing (from his younger years), EVERYTHING in the Heavens, and his job doing autobody repair and re-finish (which he perfected).

With many years teaching Sunday School, he has instilled the word of God in many lives. His favorite verse is Proverbs 27:17 - "Iron sharpeneth iron; So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend". His knowledge of the Bible was astronomical. He studied it, lived it and loved it.

He will be missed by all that know him and that includes Ryleigh and Louie (the four-legged companions).

Visitation will be at Fellowship Baptist Church located at 545 Frye Road, Starkville, MS on Friday, November 20th 9:00-11:30 a.m. followed by a graveside service at Coxburg Cemetery in Lexington, MS at 2:00 p.m.

The pallbearers are: Jeff Engelmann, Brent Butler, Scott Grice, John Lee, Jimmy Bonner, and Bill Lott.

Potted plants would be greatly appreciated instead of cut flowers due to their longevity of living.

You can leave the family a condolence at: www.welch-funeralhomes.com.

