

The House

**MENTORS, COMBAT VETERANS,
POLICY WONKS AND PIONEERS
MEET THE LAWMAKERS**

DIANE BLACK
REPUBLICAN, TENNESSEE

From her spots on the Budget and Ways and Means committees, Black often mixes it up in debates on fiscal and tax issues.

Self-confident and informed, the third-term Republican is happy to delve into detailed policy talk on revamping the tax code or creating market-based approaches to health care. Her background as a nurse gives her particular sway when discussing her stalwart opposition to President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

After spending 12 years in the Tennessee state legislature, Black, 64, knows how to effectively make her case and turn her ideas into legislation. It did not take long for party leaders to realize her value on a team, and she has led communications efforts for the National Republican Congressional Committee and is an active member of its program to mentor female candidates.

Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg

