

Today, businesswoman and civic leader **Supha Xayprasith-Mays** (Pronounced Sai-Pri-Sith-Maze) announced her candidacy for the **Democratic nomination for Governor of Arkansas**.

"I am running for Governor of the Great State of Arkansas because I cannot stand on the sidelines while so many Arkansans - and their families - are struggling. Arkansas ranks 48th in household income and, as a result, too many of our children are going to bed hungry. Jobs have been lost along with our sense of optimism," said Xayprasith- Mays.

The Supha For Governor campaign is rooted in growth, inclusion, education, healthcare, and empowerment. She will put people first and work to unite our deeply divided state.

Her proposals will include the expansion of Arkansas technology centers, specifically focusing on industries relating to Artificial Intelligence and universal broadband for all of Arkansas. She will champion efforts to develop a green technology manufacturing corridor in Arkansas that will set the example for the nation.

"Public service is about helping people live their best lives. I will make a promise today that I will always put our people first," said Xayprasith- Mays.

Xayprasith- Mays arrived with her family in Northwest Arkansas from Southeast Asia at the age of six. She arrived with her widowed mother and three sisters who had fled Communist oppression in her native country of Laos. Her late mother, who was fluent in seven languages and had a Master's Degree in Education, took a job in the assembly line at Tyson Foods at minimum wage to support her family.

The challenges Xayprasith-Mays's family faced as immigrants from a very different culture were offset by the support and encouragement the family received from welcoming Arkansans.

She is the product of the Northwest Arkansas public school system. Her path eventually led to the Wal-Mart headquarters Bentonville, where she rose through the ranks to eventually manage and supervise store operations generating more than \$100 million annually.

Xayprasith-Mays left Wal-Mart to establish a career as an entrepreneur in multiple business sectors including publishing, business consulting, retail, restaurants, television networks, oil exploration in North Dakota, career empowerment seminars, and several other business interests. As a result of her entrepreneurial success, she believes that free enterprise and capitalism are the surest paths for the eradication of poverty.

"My experiences at Wal-Mart taught me that Arkansas has limitless talent among its people; what we need is a government that works with both business and ordinary citizens to prepare Arkansas to take its rightful place as a national economic leader" said Xayprasith- Mays.

Xayprasith-Mays, age 51, is married to former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice, Richard L. Mays Sr., who was appointed by then-Governor Bill Clinton. She is a mother of four children and has four adult stepchildren with Mays. She lives in Little Rock where her company publishes

INCLUSION Magazine. She hosts youth and women empowerment seminars and conferences throughout the state.

She is active in civic affairs and has served in several leadership roles, including being a member of the Urban League of Arkansas, former elected president League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) for the Northwest Arkansas Chapter, the Arkansas Orchestra Symphony Board (AOS), former elected MBEIC Chairwoman for Arkansas, Mississippi Minority Supplier Development Council, the Multicultural of Student Affairs board of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and the Arkansas Asian Business Enterprise (AAIB).

Xayprasith-Mays was appointed by then-Governor Mike Huckabee to The Martin Luther King State Commission, an organization created to promote equal justice for all and racial harmony. She and her husband are generous contributors to Arkansas's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Arkansas Baptist College, Shorter College, and Philander Smith College.

Xayprasith-Mays's civic work and philanthropy is acknowledged by numerous accolades, including the prestigious "YES WE CAN SAM AWARD," which is awarded by the CEO of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., for corporate excellence; The Fifteen Fabulous Females in Northwest Arkansas in The Morning NEWS; Woman of the Year, by Arkansas Life Magazine; among many others.

Her hobbies include golfing, gardening, reading, cooking, and ALL things Razorback.

"I will work, tirelessly, to bring a better tomorrow for Arkansans. And I want to give back to a state that has given me, and my family, so much," said Xayprasith- Mays.