

for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1). NRCA has long supported pro-growth tax reform that lowers rates for all types of employers and better enables roofing industry entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and create more high paying, family-sustaining jobs. We believe the final version of H.R. 1 will increase incentives for productive investment in our industry and ultimately expand economic growth in the U.S.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of professional roofing contractors worldwide. NRCA's 3,600 member companies represent all segments of the roofing industry, including contractors, manufacturers, distributors, consultants and other industry employers in all 50 states. NRCA members are typically small, privately held companies, but our membership includes businesses of all sizes. During peak season, the average member employs 45 people.

NRCA applauds your leadership in advancing tax reform through the House and Senate. We are pleased to see that the final bill provides lower tax rates for both corporations and businesses structured as pass-through entities; expands expensing capabilities for qualifying property, including commercial roofs; doubles the death tax exemption; and improves accounting methods for small businesses, among other provisions. We are especially pleased to see progress made on improving the new tax credit for passthrough employers and ensuring that family-owned businesses that utilize trusts are not excluded from benefiting from tax reform.

Again, NRCA supports the conference report on H.R. 1 and commends you for your leadership in advancing tax reform that will strengthen the roofing industry. We urge members of the House and Senate to approve this legislation so it may be signed into law by the president. Thank you for your consideration of NRCA's view on this crucial legislation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of an important issue facing our nation and community: the rise of human trafficking.

The United States was founded on basic notions of human rights: that all people are born with an inalienable right to freedom, liberty and self-determination. Human trafficking is a crime against a person whereby through exploitation an individual is compelled to work or engage in a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion, thereby being stripped of his/her fundamental human rights.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers target vulnerable populations, including men, women, children, citizens and non-citizens, forcing them into servitude and/or the sex trade. Traffickers typically use multiple means to control their victims, including: beatings, rape, isolation, drug and/or alcohol dependency, document withholding, and psychological and emotional abuse.

The International Labor Organization estimates that globally there are 20.9 million vic-

tims of trafficking. Nationally, the criminal enterprise of human trafficking is second only to the illegal drug trade, in terms of the speed of its growth and being among the most lucrative international crimes.

Human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states and reported cases of trafficking increase each year, with 7,621 cases reported and 26,727 calls made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2016. Sadly, the State of Florida consistently ranks third in the number of calls made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. In 2016, Florida, with 550 cases reported, had the third highest number of human trafficking cases in the country.

Human trafficking is a crime that impacts Pasco County, Florida. Through the Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking, our local community unites to combat this modern-day slavery, bringing together nonprofits, government and non-government organizations, private sector businesses to aid in the prevention, prosecution, education and awareness efforts needed to restore freedom and dignity to survivors.

Just last month, my responsibilities on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology allowed me to question experts on the human trafficking crisis and the growing usage of the Internet to facilitate illegal activities as well as combatting criminals. At that hearing, my colleague even told a harrowing story of how his own daughter was nearly kidnapped while traveling overseas. I fully hope that these exchanges not only shed a light on human trafficking, but provide more ammunition for law enforcement to save people from their captivity.

More awareness, education, and advocacy is needed, as it is crucial to eradicating human trafficking in our local communities, state, and nation. To this end, January is declared as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and January 11th is declared as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Every community and every individual is needed to fight human trafficking wherever it exists. Let us declare as one that slavery has no place in our world, and let us finally restore to all people the most basic rights of freedom, dignity, and justice.

TRIBUTE TO MARSHA AND MIKE FISHER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marsha and Mike Fisher of Adel, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on November 25th, 2017.

Marsha and Mike's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them

many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

WWI CHRISTMAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded into silence along the Western Front. It was December 25, 1914, five months into the first World War.

As dawn approached, German soldiers slipped from their trenches and made their way to no-mans-land, calling out Merry Christmas in the Allies language. The allies raised their weapons, fearing it was a trick.

But upon seeing the enemy unarmed, the soldiers climbed out of their trenches, and began shaking hands with their foe. The men exchanged small gifts: cigarettes, beer and plum pudding, and sang carols and songs. Others used the break in war to collect their war dead, heroes of the war.

The war would eventually claim 15 million lives. Mr. Speaker, this is one of the last examples of chivalry between enemies in warfare. For those few fleeting moments, there was "Peace on Earth and goodwill to men".

Not even a World War can destroy the Christmas Spirit.

And that's just the way it is.

INTEREST DISALLOWANCE AND THE AGRICULTURAL EXCEPTION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today Congress is moving to reform the country's tax code and will thereby create a tremendous economic engine that will produce major job expansion and economic growth. But with any piece of large legislation, there are inevitable refinements that can be made. If we do move a technical corrections bill next year, I am hopeful that we will address one aspect of the interest disallowance contained in the current bill. I am concerned that there are agricultural companies in North Carolina that will face challenges unless this matter is addressed, and a minor definitional correction will address this situation. The farming exception included in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is limited to small companies growing crops and does not currently include the interdependent farming businesses which support them in processing and packing their crops. I believe that the agricultural exception should be expanded to address companies that also process and prepare crops, in addition to those that grow crops. This minor change would recognize a unique and necessary sector of the farming industry, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue going forward.