

corporate rate in the industrialized world—the TCJA Conference Report would help our economy grasp the growth that's well within its reach. Provisions similar to those included in this Conference Report have been projected to boost GDP, create new jobs, lift after-tax income for middle-class families, and encourage greater investment in our country. The RATE Coalition strongly urges Senators and Representatives to deliver those wins for American workers by sending this legislation to President Trump's desk for signature as swiftly as possible."

NATIONAL MILK
PRODUCERS FEDERATION.

NMPF STATEMENT ON TAX REFORM LEGISLATION FROM JIM MULHERN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NMPF

ARLINGTON, VA—"National Milk has worked closely with House and Senate members on the tax reform conference package to achieve a positive outcome for dairy farmers and their cooperatives, and we're pleased that conferees have completed work on a package that should provide important relief. The final compromise to address the loss of the Section 199 deduction will help protect farmer-owned businesses from a major tax increase at a time when America's farm sector is struggling with low commodity prices and reduced incomes.

"America's dairy farmers, who overwhelmingly rely on cooperatives to market their milk, appreciate the determined efforts by Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND) and John Thune (R-SD), as well as multiple House members, including Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX), to seek a fair and reasonable solution to this challenge. Their efforts will help prevent a higher tax bill for cooperatives and avert the loss of economic activity in rural communities that these businesses help generate. We're also grateful for the numerous senators on both sides of the aisle who elevated this issue during the debate.

"At issue is the loss of the benefit that both farmers and cooperative businesses enjoy from the Section 199 deduction, also known as the Domestic Production Activities Deduction (DPAD). This important provision of the tax code applies to proceeds from agricultural products marketed through cooperatives, making the Section 199 an important means of reducing taxation for farmers and cooperatives alike. Cooperatives pass the vast majority of the benefit—nearly \$2 billion nationwide—directly to their farmer owners, then reinvest the remainder in infrastructure improvements for the marketing and processing of food products.

"The final tax package released on Friday repeals the DPAD, but the legislation allows cooperative members to claim a new 20-percent deduction on payments from a farmer cooperative. Cooperatives would also be able to claim the 20-percent deduction on gross income less payments to patrons, limited to the greater of 50 percent of wages or 25 percent of wages plus 2.5 percent of the cooperative's investment in property. This favorable treatment for gross income will help minimize any potential increase in the tax burden on farmer-owned cooperatives.

"NMPF believes that this provision, plus components of the bill that increase exemption levels from the federal estate tax, enhance depreciation and expensing opportunities for producers, and preserve farmers' ability to deduct interest expenses, should help farmers and cooperatives alike. The fix offered by Sens. Hoeven and Thune recognizes that farmer cooperatives play an indispensable role in our nation's economy and need to be treated fairly in the final tax legislation."

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
MICHAEL IRA WIESNER

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and tribute to Michael Ira Wiesner, who passed away April 19, 2015. This past May 30 Michael's family, loved ones, and community celebrated what would have been Michael's 70th birthday.

Michael was a wonderful husband to his wife Beth, and a great role model and confidant to his children: Amy, Adam, Ben, Ana, and Ashley. Michael had great love for his family and always supported everyone in their journeys to grow and learn. Throughout his life, Michael enjoyed playing golf and spending time in Vermont and always shared his interests with his wife and children.

I am proud to honor the life and legacy of Michael Ira Wiesner for his remarkable character, love of country, and care for his family—which includes his wife Beth Wiesner, Oliver Schwab, my Chief of Staff, his wife Ana Schwab, Ashley Ellis, Amy Wiesner, Adam Wiesner, and Ben Wiesner.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD KIRKE

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 Gerald Kirke of Des Moines, Iowa, for his induction into the 2017 Iowa Business Hall of Fame.

The Greater Des Moines Committee founded the Iowa Business Hall of Fame in 1975 to honor Iowans who have helped to enhance the state's business climate. Gerald is the Chairman and CEO of Kirke Financial Services, L.L.C., an investment, real estate and consulting firm he founded in 1999. His other business ventures over his long career include owning a company that manufactured patient fixation and tumor targeting software, a carbon fiber composite manufacturing plan, and an entertainment company that operates three casinos in Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Gerald on his induction into the 2017 Iowa Business Hall of Fame and commend him for his dedication to our great state. It is with great pride that I recognize him today and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this outstanding achievement and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF FALCON
STEEL AMERICA

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Falcon Steel America and its employees for their efforts to aid in the recov-

ery and relief of Montgomery County in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

In 1963, Falcon Steel America was founded as a small steel shop in Haltom City, TX. Since its creation, Falcon Steel has grown to be considered one of the most dependable suppliers of structural steel in Texas. Additionally, Falcon Steel serves as the only producer of high-voltage, steel-lattice towers in the United States.

On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, carrying its wind, rains, and flooding across the state and devastating homes and families throughout the greater Houston community.

As the flood waters receded, donations of food, water, clothing, toys, and necessities came pouring into the community from across the United States. To coordinate the distribution of these supplies, Falcon Steel America partnered with Interfaith of The Woodlands and hundreds of local volunteers to organize a massive distribution center in its Conroe factory. With over 225,000 square feet of life-saving supplies, Falcon Steel's willingness to donate its facilities allowed thousands of affected residents to receive much needed assistance. This effort has now become known as one of the largest distribution efforts Montgomery County has ever witnessed.

Falcon Steel's core values of ethical behavior, excellence, and teamwork were reflected in their actions after Hurricane Harvey. Through its willingness to come to the aid of our community, Falcon Steel provided an outlet for thousands of local residents to receive life-saving assistance.

On December 21, 2017, Falcon Steel will complete the renovation of its new manufacturing facility in Conroe, TX. I am proud to join the entire Eighth Congressional District of Texas to congratulate Falcon Steel on this achievement and thank them for their continued commitment to serving our community.

TRIBUTE TO ROLLING HILLS BANK
AND TRUST

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 Rolling Hills Bank and Trust of Anita, Iowa, for celebrating over 140 years in business. Founded in July of 1876, Rolling Hills Bank has remained dedicated to family traditions and committed to making its community better. Their motto is: "A Homeowned Hometown Bank Investing in People."

Originally named the Anita State Bank, its name was changed in 1989 to Rolling Hills Bank and Trust. They have seen a lot during their time in operation, helping customers through the Great Depression and the Farm Crisis of the 1980s. The bank has expanded with branches in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wyoming. Bank officials are committed especially to helping students and families in agriculture through their Heifer program. Each year, they purchase ten heifers then select students to raise them so they can experience the responsibility of raising the heifers, maintaining records, and the cost associated with it. After five years, the students pay back the bank in

cash or with bred heifers that are passed on to the next year's recipients.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Rolling Hills Bank and Trust for their many years of dedicated and devoted service to their customers. It is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in applauding their accomplishments and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING MR. DARRELL
SUPAK

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to recognize the illustrious career of Mr. Darrell Supak on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Supak is retiring after twenty-five years of exemplary service to Granite Associates, LP in Liberty, New York.

I cherish the commitment of those distinct individuals who have tirelessly devoted themselves to their community, and Mr. Supak is no exception. Mr. Supak exemplifies compassion and leadership as a dedicated man of faith, an advocate for the arts, and a fierce defender of health care. A valued member of his community, Mr. Supak's regular involvement with numerous organizations and projects to further the causes he believes in, as well as to safeguard the wellbeing of his friends and neighbors, has set a high standard for others to follow.

As a graduate of Texas A&M University's ROTC program and a retired U.S. Army Colonel, Mr. Supak is a fervent patriot, actively committed to supporting his fellow veterans. I am fortunate to have him, a man of great wisdom and experience, as a longtime member of our Congressional District's U.S. service academy panel.

A true testament to his steadfast loyalty to country and community, Mr. Supak has received countless civil and military awards and decorations, including the prestigious Walter A. Rhulen Award for Business, Community and Humanity from the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development.

Mr. Supak's legacy of hard work and philanthropy is a source of inspiration, instilling the values of determination, confidence, and civility in his community. I am grateful for Mr. Supak's years of dedicated service to the 19th District and to New York state. I wish Mr. Supak continued happiness as he embarks on this new chapter, and I am confident that even in retirement he will continue to be actively involved in service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF OFFICER FREDDIE
CRAWFORD

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and public service of retired St.

Petersburg Police Officer Freddie Crawford, one of the "Courageous 12," who put his career and life on the line in the fight against discrimination and segregation.

The Courageous 12 were the first African Americans employed by the St. Petersburg Police Department, who bravely served the residents of the city for many years. In the face of constant threats in the field and discrimination within their department, these 12 officers withstood both professional and physical risk to keep the peace and ensure equality and justice in their communities.

In the early 1960s, Officer Crawford and his fellow black police officers serving on St. Petersburg's police force were only permitted to police black neighborhoods. The segregation of authority even went so far as to mark patrol cars with a 'C' for "colored" to designate that it was a black officer inside. Officer Crawford and his colleagues attempted to express their grievances to the Chief of Police on multiple occasions, only to be ignored and swept aside. After persevering through years of segregation in both his civilian and professional life, Officer Crawford and his colleagues in the Courageous 12 took their fight to the judicial system. Despite the personal and professional risk, Officer Crawford and his fellow officers sued the city of St. Petersburg in 1965.

Baker vs. the City of St. Petersburg did not initially receive a favorable ruling for the Courageous 12. But in 1968, a federal appeals court overturned the decision. In one year's time, Officer Crawford was patrolling a primarily white area in North-East St. Petersburg. The monumental efforts by Officer Crawford and his colleagues would inspire black officers in nearby areas, creating a domino effect of positive change in communities throughout the Tampa Bay region.

Even after retiring from the St. Petersburg Police Department, Freddie Crawford continued his efforts to address and eradicate segregation. He went to work for the Community Relations Services division at the U.S. Department of Justice where he used his experience with conflict resolution to resolve racial tensions in various communities across the country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me once again in commemorating Officer Freddie Crawford's life, and thanking him for his contribution to the cause of justice. He leaves behind a legacy of tireless dedication to equality and serves as an inspiration to the city of St. Petersburg and to our country.

TRIBUTE TO REGGIE GREENE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Reginald Greene, a longtime and outstanding staffer for the Committee on Ways and Means, who passed away on December 11, 2017.

Known around the halls of the Ways and Means Committee as simply "Reggie," for four decades he held job titles ranging from staff assistant to documents clerk. But around the committee he was really Mr. Everything. He could make out-of-print documents appear out of thin air, and whether it was manning the

doors, handling special requests, or enforcing committee procedures, you name it, Reggie did it.

No one was fiercer than Reggie in protecting our committee and making sure that everyone respected its rules and procedures. Reggie never condoned sloppiness and always frowned on carelessness. He could be stern with staff—and more than a few Members—if they strayed from the rules. And he could silence disorderly conduct in our hearing room with a single look. So much so that you might think that the Ways and Means hearing room was really Reggie's hearing room—and you would be right. There he was both respected and feared by staff, lobbyists, and even Members when they entered his domain. Any photographer who stayed too long, or Member or staffer who dared to cross the dais without proper attire, or drink from a can of soda with the logo visible to the cameras—a little-known violation of our committee's rules—would soon hear about it.

But underneath his outer tough-guy demeanor, Reggie was also a friendly and warm soul with a generous laugh. He would always encourage children visiting the committee hearing room to sit in the chairman's chair for a once-in-a-lifetime photo opportunity. Reggie had so many friends on the Hill, and he created a network of relationships to get our work done. He always had a kind word or joke at the ready when you needed it. His humor was dry, and legendary. If you asked him if he needed anything, he would say "a million bucks and a hot tub for my office." At times like this, if you asked him when he thought Congress would complete its work for the year, he would say "not soon enough."

More than anything, Reggie's career celebrated his deep love for the Ways and Means Committee, its traditions, and its enormous responsibilities to the American people. That is a love he surely inherited from his father, who preceded him on the committee staff. And like the proud grandfather he was at home, Reggie also prided himself on helping raise the next generation of staffers to share in and carry on his profound respect for the committee. Whether through a gentle tug on the elbow or a low whisper, young staffers might get that day's lesson in committee decorum, history, or tradition.

On behalf of the entire Committee on Ways and Means, I offer our sincerest condolences to the Greene family on Reggie's passing. And I thank them for sharing Reggie with us for so many years of outstanding service to the committee, its Members, and our great country.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily