

Another Win for NFDA and Family-Owned Funeral Homes

On the first day of 2013, the House voted in favor of an amendment in the nature of a substitute to a previously passed House bill passed by the Senate in the early hours of the day that would, in part, address the so-called "fiscal cliff" issue. The bill H.R. 8, the "Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act of 2012," addresses only the tax issues and pushes the spending sequestration and debt limit votes for two months and into a new Congress. Happy New Year 113th Congress!

A key provision in this bill of extreme importance to NFDA and its members deals with the estate tax. Congress has agreed to make permanent the current estate tax law except for raising the tax rate from 35% to 40% for amounts that exceed the exclusion limit of \$5 million for an individual and \$10 million for a couple. The exclusion is indexed for inflation and the provision retains the current stepped-up basis and spousal transfer (portability) provisions.

NFDA, along with other small business trade associations and groups representing ranchers and family farms have actively advocated for this over the past several years. While our ultimate goal was to repeal the estate tax entirely, we knew the best we could get in this political environment was exactly what we achieved. It was a hard fought battle, but in the end, we won!

This is a major victory for NFDA and its members as well as all family-owned businesses, ranches and farms across America.

In addition, the bill also extends for one year the accelerated "bonus" depreciation for business investments in new property and equipment. Another provision that NFDA advocated be included in the final bill.