

# Editorial Opinion

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## Remember those who don't have silent, peaceful nights



**Your Turn**  
Linda Oberhaus  
Guest columnist

Occasionally here at The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, an advocate shares a story that especially touches my heart. This one involves the special holiday wish of a child, whom I will call Isaiah.

Although safe, survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking are often crushed, dazed and disoriented when they enter our emergency shelter. They struggle because peace can take time to process. This is especially true during the holidays when peace on Earth and silent nights are distant memories at best for most survivors.

Throughout the year, our shelter staff does an amazing job of assisting survivors, but during the holidays, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, they go into overdrive, collecting gifts, decorating every nook of the emergency shelter and scheduling parties to help make the

holidays brighter for our participants.

Last year, just before Christmas, a woman named Jessica and her two children came to our emergency shelter. Jessica had found the courage to take her children and leave her abusive boyfriend, but each time she found a family to take them in, he would hunt them down, endangering everyone involved. On one occasion, he found Jessica and beat her so badly that she ended up in the hospital, where medical staff referred her to our shelter.

It was very difficult for Jessica to bring her children to an emergency shelter during the holiday season. Over the course of their first few days in our shelter, a staff member set up a special mailbox to collect children's letters to Santa Claus. The letters allowed the children to share their wishes as well as the opportunity for shelter staff and volunteers to make those wishes come true.

While reading through the letters, one advocate stopped to wipe away a tear. In her hand, she held the letter from Jessica's 7-year-old son Isaiah. It simply read, "Dear Santa, What I want for

### Guest commentaries

A guest commentary can be 600 words or less on a topical subject. Authors must have considerable experience, public involvement or expertise in the subject matter. Due to the large number of guest commentaries we receive, these may be returned to the author with a recommendation to resubmit it as a letter to the editor within the guidelines for letters. Submit to [letters@naplesnews.com](mailto:letters@naplesnews.com).

Christmas is a house for me and my family."

It was his only wish. Something that most of us take for granted — a safe place to live — was the greatest gift this 7-year-old could imagine for himself and his family.

Isaiah received several toys and some new clothes that year, but thanks to The Shelter and its many service partners, he eventually got his special Christmas wish. During her time at The Shelter, Jessica was empowered to take charge of her life. She secured a job and saved

up enough money to move her family into a tiny, one-bedroom apartment. Although small in size, having their own place was a big accomplishment for Jessica and a dream come true for Isaiah.

Each day, with your help, The Shelter works to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence and human trafficking through advocacy, empowerment and social change. One might call these services the gifts that truly keep on giving.

As we each celebrate our reason for the season, we should be mindful of those among us trapped in abusive situations who, sadly, will not have a peace-filled holiday. This year, like Isaiah, may you find true peace and joy in the simple things — a roof over your head, food on the table and friends and family with whom to share these gifts.

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic violence, call The Shelter's Crisis Line at 239-775-1101. For more information on how you can help, go to [www.naplesshelter.org](http://www.naplesshelter.org).

*Oberhaus is CEO of The Shelter for Abused Women & Children.*

### TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2018. There are 22 days left in the year.

On this date in:

**1917:** British forces captured Jerusalem from the Ottoman Turks.

**1935:** The Downtown Athletic Club of New York honored college football player Jay Berwanger of the University of Chicago with the DAC Trophy, which later became known as the Heisman Trophy.

**1940:** British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

**2000:** The U.S. Supreme Court ordered a temporary halt in the Florida vote count on which Al Gore pinned his best hopes of winning the White House.



## THEN & NOW

Where is this in Naples? If you think you know, go to [naplesnews.com/business](http://naplesnews.com/business) to enter your answer.

**Nov. 25 answer:** bha!bha! Persian Bistro, Fifth Avenue South, Naples.

**Nov. 25 winner:** Jane Parks

FILE PHOTO

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor **Kirk Douglas** is 102. Actor-writer **Buck Henry** is 88. Actress **Judi Dench** is 84. Actor **Beau Bridges** is 77. Actor **Michael Nouri** is 73. Singer **Joan Armatrading** is 68. Actor **Michael Dorn** is 66. Actor **John Malkovich** is 65. Country singer **Sylvia** is 62. Singer **Donny Osmond** is 61. Actress **Felicity Huffman** is 56. Singer-guitarist **Jakob Dylan** is 49.

### TODAY'S QUOTE

"I think you should take your job seriously, but not yourself — that is the best combination."  
— Judi Dench

### BIBLE QUOTE

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. — Romans 3:23

## China took a swing at Trump — and whiffed



**Marc A. Thiessen**  
Columnist

WASHINGTON — "When you strike at a king you must kill him," Ralph Waldo Emerson once said. Well, this year China tried to strike at President Donald Trump for daring to launch a trade war with Beijing — and missed the mark entirely.

After Trump imposed massive tariffs on Chinese goods earlier this year, Beijing responded in June with what appeared to be a clever strategy: targeting retaliatory tariffs against Trump voters in rural farming communities across the United States.

China is the largest importer of U.S. soybeans, buying \$14 billion of them in 2017. Three of the biggest soybean-producing states, Indiana, Missouri and North Dakota, not only voted for Trump, but also in the 2018 midterms had Democratic senators, Joe Donnell of Indiana, Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, who were up for re-election. If Beijing imposed painful tariffs on soybeans, Chinese leaders likely calculated, they could create a rift between Trump and rural voters who put him in the White House, give Senate Democrats a boost and force Trump to back down.

But Trump did not back down. He countered by announcing \$12 billion in aid for farmers, threatened to increase his tariffs on Chinese goods and asked his rural base to stick with him while he faced down the economic predators in Beijing. That is exactly what they did. Far from abandoning the president, rural voters hurt by Chinese tar-

iffs rallied around Trump and the GOP. They threw Donnelly, Heitkamp and McCaskill out of office, allowing Republicans to expand their Senate majority.

And while Republicans lost control of the House, few of the GOP losses came from rural districts. Competitive rural districts mostly ended up staying Republican; it was the urban-suburban districts that flipped to the Democrats.

China's tariff ploy didn't just fail to sway the 2018 midterms; it actually backfired. The tariffs made the U.S. soybeans that China depends on more expensive, and Beijing soon found that alternative suppliers in South America could not produce enough to meet Chinese demand, leading to shortfalls.

In other words, China went for a kill shot — and ended up shooting itself in the foot.

That has emboldened Trump in his negotiations with Chinese President Xi Jinping — as shown by news this week that a senior executive of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei had been arrested in Vancouver, at the request of the United States, on charges of violating sanctions on Iran. China demanded her release but nonetheless affirmed that it will still observe the 90-day tariff cease-fire Trump and Xi reached during their meeting last week in Buenos Aires — putting off a scheduled Jan. 1 escalation of U.S. tariffs from 10 percent to 25 percent on \$200 billion of Chinese goods while the two sides negotiate a deal.

Trump has leverage going into those talks. The U.S. economy is booming, while China has just posted its weakest growth in nearly a decade. Moreover, during the Group of 20 meeting in Argentina, Xi saw how Trump has been able to bend his trade rivals

to his will, and deliver trade victories for his working-class political base, when he held an elaborate signing ceremony for the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

China will of course be a much tougher adversary than Mexico or Canada. As my American Enterprise Institute colleague Derek Scissors points out, the Chinese Communist Party controls the economy through state ownership and massive subsidies in dozens of sectors where U.S. goods and services can't compete fairly. Lifting tariffs is easy. Getting China to change its entire industrial policy will be hard — as will stopping China's theft of U.S. intellectual property.

But Trump knows that he has no chance of doing so by filing complaints with the World Trade Organization. So Trump is playing a game of chicken with Xi, appearing to calculate that the United States is in a better position to survive an all-out trade war.

The markets panicked this week over Trump's recent pronouncement that he would be just as happy imposing tariffs as cutting a deal with China, but getting this message through to Xi is the only way to force his hand. As Trump tweeted this week, "We are either going to have a REAL DEAL with China, or no deal at all — at which point we will be charging major Tariffs against Chinese product being shipped into the United States," adding, "remember ... I am a Tariff Man."

He means it. Trump actually believes that tariffs are good for the U.S. economy. The question is whether Xi believes he believes it. The answer may determine whether we get a deal or a trade war.

— *Washington Post Writers Group*