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## Jeff's 2016 Year Highlights

January 11, 2017

The year began with the continuation of the exodus of refugees from Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Afghanistan to Europe and beyond.

On January 22, 2016, Winter Storm Jonas hit the East Coast and affected more than 103 million people.

The 2016 presidential campaign continued with Bernie Sanders dropping out leaving Hillary Clinton as the Democratic front runner and for the Republican side Donald Trump persevered and became the Republican nominee. Hillary Clinton chose Tim Kaine from Virginia as her Vice Presidential running mate and Donald Trump picked Mike Pence of Indiana, to be his running mate.

In the 2016 Super Bowl held on February 7, 2016, the Denver Broncos defeated the Carolina Panthers 24 to 10. Peyton Manning then retired from football. In baseball the Chicago Cubs defeated the Cleveland Indians and ended a 108 year drought as the World Series winners. The Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Golden State Warriors in the NBA finals. As for hockey, the Stanley Cup went to the Chicago Penguins who defeated the San Jose Sharks. Andy Murray was the new Wimbledon Champion and Serena Williams won the Wimbledon title again on the women's side.

The summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro was the highlight of the year. Our women's gymnastics team won the gold medal and Michael Phelps continued his dominance in the pool. Katie Ledecky from Bethesda, Maryland a 19-year-old became the new darling winning four gold medals in swimming.

On June 12, 2016 we witnessed a mass murder in Orlando, Florida where 49 people died at a gay nightclub.

The Black lives matter movement had a peaceful protest. The Zika virus spread to the US with victims in Miami, Florida.

In June, the British people voted to leave the European Union and what was known as Brexit. On July 15, 2016 there was a failed coup in Turkey to overthrow the government.

Self-driving cars thought of as futuristic became current with Google leading the way.

Mylan industries raised the price of its Epi-Pen by 500% with calls for congressional investigation into price-fixing: Wells Fargo was found guilty and fined for creating over 2 million fake bank accounts.

Megan Kelly of Fox News became the center of attention in connection with her role in the presidential debates. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's marriage unraveled as Angelina filed for divorce.

The unemployment rate improved from 5% at the beginning of the year to 4.7% at the end of the year. The stock market started off the year very poorly but the Dow Jones industrial average after starting the year at 17,591 ended the year at 19,762. The price of a barrel of oil at the end of the year was up from \$37.04 at the beginning of the year to \$52.62 at the end of the year. The real estate market continued to improve as the prime interest rate was raised by the Federal Reserve in December from 3.50% to 3.75%.

The movie "Spotlight", won the Academy Award for best picture of the year and Leonardo DiCaprio won for the best actor for his role in the movie "Revenant". Brie Larson won best actress for her performance in "Room". The play "Hamilton" leapt off the stage and became a phenomenon.

On November 8, 2016 the American people voted to elect a new president. The election results were unbelievable to the more than 120 million people who voted. Donald Trump won the election with 290 electoral votes as to Hillary Clinton's 228 electoral votes. However, the popular vote went to Hillary Clinton 47.7% to Donald Trump 47.4%. The world was stunned by the election results and the transition and the acceptance of our new businessman president has just begun.

In 2016, a number of famous people died they included Attorney General Anthony Scalia, Arnold Palmer, Mohammed Ali, David Bowie, Prince, Simon Perez, Gordie Howe, Elie Wiesel, Gene Wilder and Gary Marshall.

There were no significant changes in the income tax regulations in 2016, but we expect many changes in 2017.

We appreciate your business and welcome your referrals. It is our hope that 2016 will be a happy, healthy, and prosperous year for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,  
*Rosenbloom & Butler, CPAs, P.C.*