

USA REP CHRIS PILTZ: Thank you guys, so

much. Thank you, General President Hadel. I actually just found out yesterday that I was going to be coming up here to speak to all of you fine individuals today. My boss, Walt, sends his regards but he is under the weather, so I got the privilege of talking to one of my favorite International Unions, so it was not too hard to take that responsibility on.

I believe we're going to have a slide show going up here. We're going to use Walt's slides and my words but this is very easy because, as I said, this is one of my favorite groups to be around.

As I walk up here on stage and out there in the audience, I see a lot of friendly faces, faces that I see all over the country and that is why we are so proud to be in partnership with the United Union of Roofers and Waterproofers. You guys just really, really embody what it means to support the cause that the USA is doing all year, every year all across the country.

And I think President Hadel touched on a few of those things that you guys are responsible for. I've got to give another huge shout out to Mark in Roofers Local 96 for hosting the best shoot every year. Let's give Mark and that group a huge round of applause.

(Applause.)

It is just -- it's just so awesome to work with a group of people who make our job easy, make it easy to fulfill the mission of the USA, and it's proven every year out there in Minnesota.

And let's see, if someone can help me with the slides. Am I controlling them up here?

So let's move on here.

For those of you guys that are not aware, our mission is to unite the unions through

preservation of the North American outdoor heritage.  
And we do that all year, all across the country.  
And one of the places that we do that, as I  
mentioned, is out there in Minnesota where we host  
the largest sporting clay shoot. This year we broke  
our record again with over 250 shooters, had an  
amazing time.

And then were able to follow that up  
with one of the greatest events that the USA hosts  
ever year and that is our Get Youth Outdoors Day in  
Minnesota. And this year, again, broke a record and  
now have hosted the largest Get Youth Outdoors Day  
event.

And right here we're showing pictures  
of 2022. I believe we will have some of 2023 on  
this slide. But because of this amazing event, we  
were able to present an award, which I will get to  
here shortly. I want to play a quick video for you  
guys to see.

(Video presented.)

(Applause.)

Thank you, guys. After watching that  
video, I'm going to just say something to you guys  
that I say every single shoot when we pass out the

high overall youth award. It is so amazing to see these young men and women come out with their parents, their uncles, their friends, their neighbors and be introduced to not only the outdoors conservation and just what life can be outside away from a screen but also to rub shoulders with the greatest labor force in the world to see what you guys do every day to improve your communities and just to see that there's an amazing life out there in the union world. And it speaks volumes. You guys saw a lot of friendly faces in there, a lot of faces that you guys know and see every day. We can't do what we do without them.

And so if we could please give all of those that participated in there a big round of applause for making that such a big event.

(Applause.)

And it is because of the success and the impact of that event that at the past gala we were able to hand out an award to one of your very own, and the Conservation Project of the Year Award went to the 2022 Minnesota Get Youth Outdoors Day event.

(Applause.)

And as you can see, the impact it's made. And what we're talking about right now is the 2022 event. That event wasn't even the one that broke the record. Our record was broke this year as we made it even that much more successful. And I had the pleasure of handing that award over to your very own Mr. Mark Conroy with Local 96.

Mark, if you could stand up, let's give him a massive round of applause for what he does every single year.

(Applause.)

It's guys like Mark that make our job easy. It's unions like the International Union of Roofers and Waterproofers that make our job easy, that give us the ability to succeed in our mission every single year.

And it has just been an absolute pleasure to work with each and every one of you. I would love to sit up here and name names but I'd be super afraid that I would forget someone.

But on behalf of the USA, myself, our events teams, General President Hadel, I have to thank you for giving your services to us, allowing your members to do what they do and help us every

single year to achieve our mission.

So from the bottom of my heart and the  
USA's heart, thank you guys so much for being such  
an amazing support system to the USA.