

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Hormone Disruption Research Act. We owe it to future generations to pursue this scientific research, which has implications for every one of us.

# NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as part of National Small Business week, I rise today to recognize all the men and women who work in or for a small business in America. Small business is the heart of our economy and culture. It is where the American Dream time and time again is realized.

Prior to my election I was a small business owner. I started like millions of entrepreneurs with a vision and lifefavings. My wife Cathy and I started with \$7,000 and founded Directed Electronics and within 10 years built a company that is an industry leader in automobile security products. I understand the workings of small business and want to take this time not only to commemorate, but to remind everyone the important role that small business plays in our economy.

Small Business is not only the backbone of our economy, but has also changed our culture. More small businesses are owned by women and minorities. There are now 9.1 million firms owned by women: these firms employ 27.5 million Americans. Minority-owned firms are the fastest growing segment from less than 7 percent of all U.S. firms in 1982 to 15.1 percent in 1997. Women and minorities are changing the face of business by helping break old sentiments of prejudices.

I appeal to my fellow colleagues to work to help small business to continue to flourish so that all Americans are able to realize their dream. Right now, small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employers and employ 52 percent of the private workforce. This is a large block of the American people.

The President, in March, announced his small business agenda which included tax incentives for small businesses, making affordable health care available to more employees, and making the federal contract process more accessible to small businesses.

Small business is America. It is the future of our economy and culture. Let's not strangle it with regulation, but continue to help hard-working American workers and entrepreneurs by supporting the President's plan to help small businesses.

# IN HONOR OF MAX RODRIGUEZ

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Max Rodriguez, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) "2002 Community Service Awardee of the Year". He was honored by the NAACP, Hempstead Branch & Youth Council at their

22nd Annual Freedom Fund Luncheon on May 4, 2002, at the Nassau County Bar Association.

Mr. Rodriguez was appointed to the Board of Trustees of Hempstead Village in 1994, and elected to the Board in 1995, making history as the first Hispanic Trustee to serve, not only in Hempstead Village, but also in Nassau County. In 1997, he was appointed Assistant Director for the Office of Minority Affairs. Currently, Mr. Rodriguez is a Project Manager for One Source, and a Representative for Best Business Corp. Realty.

A leader in the Hispanic Community, Mr. Rodriguez contributes to many organizations, including: the NAACP; Silver Life; the Cuban American National Foundation; the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; La Hermandad del Senor de los Milagros; Hempstead for Hofstra Scholarship Board; the Interfaith Nutrition Network; and the East Meadow Kewanis Club. He is the Northeast Regional Representative of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly; serves on the President's Advisory Board on Multicultural Concerns at Molloy College; and is Commissioner of Recreation and Parks in Hempstead Village.

For his initiative and outstanding service, he has received numerous awards, including: the American Red Cross Peter Bon Berg Humanitarian of the Year Award; Hofstra for Hempstead Unispan Award; United States Postal Service Award; Hempstead Chamber of Commerce Public Servant of the Year; West Indian-American Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award of the Year; and countless others.

Mr. Rodriguez holds a Bachelor's Degree from Adelphi University, and a B.A. in Business Management/Communication.

Mr. Rodriguez is married to Gladys, father of three daughters, Vicky, Jennifer, and Monica, and proud grandfather of Nicholas.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Max Rodriguez for his selfless dedication and positive contributions to our community.

# IN MEMORY OF COLONEL FRANCIS S. GABRESKI, WORLD WAR II ACE

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remember to my Colleagues and to this great Country a most extraordinary Veteran who passed away this year.

Col Francis S. Gabreski, 83, America's air ace in Europe in WWII and an ace in the Korean War died January 31, 2002 of a heart attack.

One of five children, Gabreski was born in Oil City PA on January 28 1919. His parents were Polish immigrants. He would fly 266 combat missions in two wars destroying 37.5 enemy aircraft in World War II and 6.5 in Korea.

Flying single engine P-47 Thunderbolt fighters, Mr. Gabreski downed 28 Messerschmitts and FockeWulfs over France and Germany between August 24, 1943 and July 5, 1944, and destroyed three more German aircraft on the ground. He was captured in late July 1944 after crash-landing near Koblenz, Germany on

what was to have been his last mission, and spent ten months as a prisoner of war. He became an ace (a pilot shooting down at least five enemy planes) in the Korean War as well, flying an F-86 Sabre jet. He shot down six Soviet-built MIG-15 fighters and shared credit for the downing of another.

His flying days began after he graduated from basic training in March, 1941 as a second lieutenant, and joined a fighter unit at Wheeler Field in Hawaii. On the morning of December 7, 1941, he was shaving when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He scrambled to a P-36 fighter but by then the Japanese aircraft were nowhere in sight.

Because he spoke Polish and "I felt strongly about what the Nazis had done to Poland," he asked to be assigned to a Polish fighter unit attached to the Royal Air Force. He flew some two dozen missions over Europe with Polish pilots early in 1943 before joining the United States 56th Fighter Group in Britain.

After the war and a hero's welcome home, Gabreski worked for Grumman Aerospace and was head of the Long Island Rail Road, the nation's busiest commuter line.

Gabreski once said, "A pilot can contribute physical acumen, good eyesight and alertness. You have to be calm, cool and collected. Freeze, and you frighten yourself. But beyond that you need some luck to survive."

Gabreski lived in Dix Hills, NY. He is survived by three sons, six daughters, two sisters, eighteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Among Gabreski's decorations were: The Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with nine Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with four Clusters, the Bronze Star, The French Legion D'Honneur and Croix de Guerre with Palm, Polish Cross of Valor, the British Distinguished Flying Cross and the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

# IMPROVE CHILD SURVIVAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution along with my colleague, Representative CONNIE MORELLA, voicing this body's commitment to improving the health of mothers and children around the world. This resolution illustrates that an increased commitment to improving the health of the world's mothers and children will have a long-term impact on the political, economic, and social progress of developing countries. The stability of our own nation depends significantly on the economic and political situation of developing nations. Their economic and political progression cannot be realized unless the health of their people is improved. The global community acknowledges this need.

On May 8-10, representatives from over 179 countries met at the United Nations Special Session on Children. During this meeting, they reviewed the progress made since the 1990 World Summit for Children and renewed their pledge to improve the lives of the world's children over the next decade.

Our Administration also acknowledges that investing in better health increases a country's

ability to prosper. President Bush made a wise decision when he proposed increased funding for global HIV/AIDS programs at USAID. But it is disconcerting that his budget also recommends a \$25 million decrease in support for maternal and child health programs. Difficult choices must be made, understandably, but funds should not be shifted from one essential health program to another.

At this precarious time in our world, we cannot lose sight of the health of women, the primary caregivers who instill values and provide hope for their children, the future of every society. Every year, over 500,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth. The vast majority of these lives could be saved by low-tech, low-cost interventions. The health of a child and her mother are closely intertwined, and good maternal health is essential for the survival of both mother and child. In developing countries, a mother's death in childbirth due to malnutrition, or inadequate prenatal and delivery care, means almost certain death for her newborn child.

We must also invest substantially more in programs that improve the health of young children. Every year, nearly 11 million die needlessly before their fifth birthday—almost all from diseases easily prevented or readily treated. For example, pennies worth of antibiotics could save three million children who will die this year of pneumonia.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution calls for increased funding for basic child survival and maternal health programs of at least \$500 million dollars. This figure is just a small investment when the dividends would be political stability, international security, and a renewed hope for the future of mothers and children around the world. Representative MORELLA and I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this important resolution.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF  
RABBI MORDECAI WAXMAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the work of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, one of America's great citizens, who is retiring from his position as senior rabbi at Temple Israel in Great Neck, New York. On Sunday, May 19, Temple Israel will hold a dinner to celebrate and honor Rabbi Waxman for his 55 years of devoted service not just to the Jewish community on Long Island, but to the Jewish community throughout America and around the world.

Well-known throughout New York, Rabbi Waxman will be remembered in human history as one of the key figures in the effort to heal the painful breach between the Jewish people and the Roman Catholic Church. Working with two Popes, Rabbi Waxman played a key role in the Second Vatican Council's publication of the *Nostra Aetate* document, which transformed modern relations between Jews and Catholics.

Rabbi Waxman has not only been a leader between religions, but also a key figure in the U.S. Jewish community over several decades. Beginning with his ordination at the Jewish

Theological Seminary in 1941, Rabbi Waxman has continuously sought opportunities for leadership, first, as the founding rabbi at Congregation Shaare Tikva in Chicago, Illinois and then, only a year later, serving as a U.S. Army chaplain from 1943 to 1946.

Following his service to our nation, Rabbi Waxman went on to lead Temple Israel, along the way becoming editor of the *Journal of Conservative Judaism*, the president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the president of the World Council of Synagogues, the chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultation, the chairman of the National Council of Synagogues and even the first rabbi to become a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great due to his vital role in Jewish-Catholic rapprochement.

Mr. Speaker, America is not a great nation because a small corps of heroes do great deeds. America is a great nation because our charter of freedom has enabled thousands of ordinary men and women to do extraordinary things.

Rabbi Mordecai Waxman is just such an ordinary doer of extraordinary things. As a citizen, as a U.S. Army chaplain, as a leader of the Jewish community in America and internationally, and as a husband to the late Dr. Ruth Waxman, the father of Hillel, Jonathan and David Waxman, and the grandfather of five wonderful grandchildren, Ariya, Amir-Kia, Lailee, Jessye and Avir, Rabbi Waxman has represented what we all know is best about our nation and our society.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the whole House to rise and join me in thanking Rabbi Mordecai Waxman for his contributions to our country and its citizens, and in wishing him a retirement of peace, contentment and good health.

ON PASSAGE OF THE CONFERENCE  
REPORT TO H.R. 2646, THE FARM  
SECURITY AND RURAL INVEST-  
MENT ACT

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, On May 2, 2002, the House approved the conference report to H.R. 2646, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, also known as the farm bill. I could not support this measure, for it represents a complete reversal of the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, legislation that I have long supported.

The 1996 Freedom to Farm Act was a six-year attempt to wean farmers off government support, taking agriculture out of the hands of government control by eliminating subsidies and letting the market dictate prices and production levels. I acknowledge that the Freedom to Farm Act was not perfect, but instead of improving upon this approach and building on its early success, the conference report completely abandons the free market principles of Freedom to Farm and returns to government subsidies and hands-on government management of agriculture.

The Chicago Tribune ran an editorial on May 6, 2002, entitled "Congress at the trough," which reflects the sentiments many of us share with respect to the conference report

to H.R. 2646. I bring the editorial to my colleagues' attention and ask that it be included in the record of debate on the conference report.

CONGRATULATING SBC

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that these are challenging times for our nation's economy. All of us are looking for solutions. And many of those solutions will come from America's small businesses, whose ability to grow and prosper is crucial for today's commerce.

Today, I would like to recognize a company, which does business in my district and many other congressional districts, for its role in helping small businesses—and, in particular, diverse businesses.

That company is SBC Communications, which earlier this month [May 7] received a Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership. This presidential award, named for the late Commerce Secretary, is presented to companies that have demonstrated a deep commitment to initiatives that empower employees and communities.

SBC was honored specifically for its excellence in promoting economic development through supplier diversity. Last year, the company spent 23.5 percent of its \$12 billion procurement budget with businesses owned by women, minorities or disabled veterans. At the award ceremony, Commerce Secretary Don Evans praised SBC for its program and noted, correctly I think, that SBC "has set the standard for supplier diversity."

Beyond the immediate economic benefit for small and diverse companies, SBC's diversity program also ensures that these firms learn how to compete in a high-tech world. SBC doesn't just place orders with diverse companies—it actually recruits and trains them, offers special loan programs and makes available educational opportunities.

SBC wins from this commitment by broadening its supplier base and making sure that it is reaching out to all segments of society. Smaller, independent companies, especially those firms owned by women and minorities, win by gaining improved access to the world of big business. This is good for SBC, good for economic vitality and diversity, and good for America.

I congratulate SBC on this much-deserved award.

THE STOLEN ASSET RECOVERY  
ACT OF 2002

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2002*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce The Stolen Asset Recovery Act of 2002. This bill would facilitate the identification of assets that have been stolen by dictators and other corrupt officials in developing countries and laundered in American financial institutions.