

Minority Business RoundTable

Upcoming Events:

- **Geraldo Rivera luncheon and briefing December 5, 2006**
- **MBRT Board Meeting December 5, 2006**

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MBRT Connected

September - October, 2006

Geraldo Rivera Live at MBRT Luncheon

Geraldo Rivera, internationally known as an award winning journalist and T.V. host of "Geraldo At Large" will be honored at this years MBRT December 5, 2006 Luncheon for his special achievements in media, news and entertainment industry. "On behalf of our Board of Directors, we congratulate your special achievements in the media, news and entertainment industry. As you continue to win the hearts of the American public, the Minority Business RoundTable (MBRT) acknowledges your leadership abilities, creativity and compassion, as just a few components of your international acclaimed success" said

Roger A. Campos, President & CEO of MBRT.

Roger A. Campos said, "In recognition of your Hispanic Heritage and your outstanding achievements in the media, news and entertainment, our Board of Directors and myself would like to present you with our **"Distinguished Media Entrepreneur and Lifetime Charter Member"** Award. Your example and influence will impact future generations of minority entrepreneurs."

In 2005, this award was given to internationally acclaimed recording artist and known throughout the world as "Mr. Las Vegas", entertainer Wayne New-



Geraldo Rivera

ton for his patriotism and humanitarian efforts boosting morale among our military worldwide while serving in Bob Hope's shoes as Chairman of the USO Celebrity Circle.

Luncheon space is reserved and will be limited so you must sign up and RSVP early at www.mbrt.net

MBRT Salutes Charlie Johnson- Big Vision-Big Heart

Those of us who know MBRT Charter Board Member Charlie Johnson know how he simply says his good fortune has been blessed. "I've always felt that God was with me, in everything



Charlie Johnson

I've done," said Johnson. "If you've been blessed, you're responsible to share it."

And that's what he's done since building his trucking company, Active Transportation to \$600 million which was listed as #4 among the top 100 black-owned firms in the United States by Black Enterprise Magazine and then selling it in 2000 and now becoming an important philanthropist, civic leader and businessman in Louisville, Kentucky. As an example of his generosity, Johnson won a \$200,000 Power-

ball lottery and donated it to Benedict College, a small historically black school in Columbia, South Carolina. Johnson, who is Chairman of the school's trustee board didn't stop there. He gave more than \$1 million to help build the Charlie W. Johnson Football Stadium, a 10,000 seat football stadium, which was dedicated in his honor and opened on September 23, 2006.

Johnson, a self made man has never forgotten where he came from growing up in the projects
See Johnson Pg 4

Vote 2006

Country Looks to Regain Momentum with New Legislators

Washington, D.C. – Americans will take to the polls on November 7th to vote in the members of the 110th Congressional session. “The 109th Congress has been plagued by slow-moving bills and gaining the reputation as the “Do-Nothing Congress.” All 435 House seats are up for election and there are 33 Senate seats for election. In the Senate the Democrats need to gain 6 seats to have a majority, and in the House Democrats need to pick up 15 seats to have a majority.

In light of recent events, poll numbers for the Republicans are dropping and the Democrats seem to be in the right

gear to gain the seats that they need. It was a good September for the GOP, with the five year anniversary of September 11th used to make the case that Bush and his party were more resolute in fighting terrorism than the Democrats, and Bush’s approval ratings going over 40%. October came and with the change of seasons came a storm for the Republicans. The Mark Foley Scandal has hit the party quite hard and there was hard pressure on Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert to step down because of accusations that he knew what Foley was doing. The War in Iraq has been given even harsher criticism this month due to high causalities

from Iraq and lack of progress. Every poll from CNN, FOX, Gallup, Washington Post, ABC, Newsweek, and Time show the Democrats with a lead from 2 points to 23 points. The Washington Post reports that in their new poll Americans trust Democrats over Republicans to handle the countries’ biggest problems by a margin of 19 percentage points. The Republicans now say that they anticipate losing seven to twelve seats in the House with the worst case scenario now being the loss of up to thirty seats. The Senate picture is no better with Republican candidates in big trouble in four states and three states are toss ups; meaning if the Democ-

rats win all seven of those races alone they will control the Senate.

Perhaps the best news about the current Congress is that there are more minority members than ever before and next year could be even better. In the 109th, there were 81 minority members, including 43 Black, 29 Hispanic, 8 Asian-Pacific, and 1 American Indian. This is still far short of what should be represented in our legislature *See Vote pg. 3*



Richard Kerr

MBRT Adds Fall Staff

One New Intern Takes On Washington

The Washington Center placed Gerardo Ramos at the Minority Business RoundTable where he have been working as a Government Relations Coordinator for MBRT since September and through December, 2006. He works for the State of Coahuila which is about three hours south of McAllen, Texas. He serve as the Director of Micro, Small and Medium Sized Business called “MPYMES” in Mexico. “When I was talking with Roger about what I wanted to do in Coahuila state, he proposed to help me get an understanding of the Small Business Development Centers which the Small Business Administration oversees throughout the United States.

Considering they are a federal agency, and the fact that they promote the growth of small and medium companies, he knew that I would learn how to integrate and operate a center for the development of the “MPYMES” in Coahuila, Mexico after my internship when I return home.”

“I am interested in promoting better commercial relations between Coahuila state and US businesses. When I get back we are going to start planning a matchmaking event for “MPYMES” from Coahuila state and some small, medium and big companies in the US. We will want MBRT to help us organize this event with organizations across the United States and Mexico, *See Staff pg. 3*

Not Your Average Battle Cry

Washington, D.C. – “Remember the Alamo!” and “No Taxation without Representation!” are famous battle cries that reached into the hearts of American soldiers and made them perform beyond their human abilities and win. Compare those to the current cry of Congress: “Do Nothing” echoing in the halls through out the Capitol, Majority Senate Leader Bill Frist was recently asked to list the accomplishments of the 109th and gave over a 600 word answer which listed only 2 real accomplishments: the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts. Sure, on-line poker has been outlawed, Congress

authorized the building of 700 mile fence to keep out Mexicans, but what about the 12th year of no bill being passed to reform healthcare? 43 million Americans, 15% of our new 300 million person population, are still uninsured. 808 bills have been introduced into the 109th that only include an article about healthcare. Healthcare costs are still out of control for small business owners, energy costs have skyrocketed hindering business, and no meaningful immigration reform and guess worker program was passed. The national trade deficit has reached record highs and shows no sign decreasing. *See Cry pg. 3*

“Mixed Results on Immigration Reform”

Immigration and Congress

President Bush called on Congress to pass a “comprehensive” immigration reform plan, but election year politics and intra-party divisions on the issue thwarted agreement on such a broad measure. Here’s what Congress did and did not do:

Guest Worker Program: NO ACTION

Congress did not enact Bush’s proposal to issue temporary work permits to foreigners coming in to take jobs that U.S. employers had certified could not be filled by Americans.

Path to Legalization: NO ACTION

Congress did not enact Bush’s plan to allow illegal immigrants who had been in

the United States for a long period of time to earn citizenship after paying penalties and back taxes.

Border Security: ACTION

Congress authorized the building of a 700 mile fence along the southwestern border with Mexico and appropriated \$1.2 Billion in emergency funds for the fencing. Law-makers also approved \$2.3 Billion for staffing border patrols, including money for hiring 1500 additional agents. They allocated 13 percent more than Bush requested for the U.S. immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Penalties: ACTION

Congress enacted new criminal penalties for tunneling under the U.S. border and doubled penalties for smuggling people across.



Unfinished U.S.-Mexico border fence, near the San Ysidro Port of Entry in San Diego.



Department of Labor Partner

The Minority Business RoundTable was honored to Partner and participate in the 2006 Opportunity Conference in Philadelphia on October 17th. Over 1000 attended the conference which held workshops for CEO’s, employers and employees ranging from Access of Capital, Jobs, How to Start a Business to Best Practices for Growing Your Business where MBRT President & CEO, Roger A. Campos served as a panelist along with Chiling Tong, Associate Director, MBDA. As CEO and owner of several successful businesses, Campos explained key areas to focus your energy as a business grows: Hiring the Right People-makes the difference between ulcers and headaches; Keeping your Mission Simple-if you can’t state your mission or strategy in one sentence, you don’t have one, at least one that’s viable; Execution of Strategy-the challenge is how to blend an entrepreneurial culture with a disciplined culture without killing either one; and Obtaining Oxygen-cash for the right business with the right person who can sell it to banks, angels, venture capitalists,

etc. utilizing a multitude of federal and private resources at your fingertips.

Similar to the David Letterman Show, Campos gave his top 10 New Year Resolutions for business owners: (1) Review your business plan frequently, (2) Upgrade your technology, (3) Reduce stress, (4) Try new technology, (5) Pay more attention to existing customers, (6) Improve your website, (7) Be a mentor to someone, (8) Join a trade association, (9) Become actively engaged in something, and (10) Buy a gift for the Holidays such as the Rock Novel with 13 song CD-“Sleeping with an Angel” by Roger A. Campos.

Sleeping with an Angel

A portion of proceeds from Roger’s book and music CD will go towards the MBRT Internship Program. All purchases are considered a charitable donation and are fully tax deductible. To order your signed copy, please go to our website at www.mbrt.net and click on the book icon on the home page.

Vote cont. from pg. 2

to reflect our citizenship. Although 81 representatives is the highest ever, it is still only 15% of Congress. The New York Times Reports that there are 64 Congressional races for November 7th that have either a Black or Hispanic Candidate; meaning that 81 could soon and hopefully will grow after November. The Minority Business RoundTable encourages you to educate yourself on your local races and vote for the candidates that will best serve the minority community and our country’s welfare.

Cry cont. from pg 2.

What about reforming Social Security and Medicare. The public has the right to pick Congressional Representatives to produce laws that their constituents deserve.

Staff cont. from pg 2.

including the federal government in Mexico, Coahuila State government, State of Texas, Department of Commerce and SBA in the US.

Through my internship at MBRT and because of Roger Campos’ excellent contacts and help, I am working on the integration and development of a Center to Develop Micro, small and medium companies in Coahuila State. I am hopeful that at the next MBRT event in December, our Secretary of Economic Development in Coahuila State will visit us in Washington.

So far, my work at MBRT has been exciting and this fascinating city has much to offer in politics, business and government networking” said Ramos.

Johnson Cont. from pg. 1

to playing standout football at the University of Louisville and in the National Football League as a defensive tackle with the Baltimore Colts and San Francisco 49ers. Charlie Johnson believes God has given him a vision for bringing jobs and new homes to Louisville's inner city. His face lights up when he talks about his vision, which has led him to establish Driving for Inner City Development through his company, CW Johnson Xpress. Participants in the trucking school are inner city residents who have had financial problems, drug addictions and run-ins with the law. Johnson

believes they can be rehabilitated. And if his plan can be executed, it could add 500 new jobs, \$4 million in payroll and \$75 million in new homes to the city's disadvantaged areas in five years. The program began this spring with classroom training at a community college and driving instruction to prepare and train for commercial truck driver's license. What's unique about Charlie Johnson's program is at the end of graduation, Charlie will hire them all in his trucking company. And, after five years, Johnson will help them secure a home loan and put them in new, \$150,000 houses that he will develop and build.



St John's Press

Roger A. Campos has written an engrossing modern parable about a man's spiritual descent into hell and ultimate redemption. The writing style is excellent with prose, crisp and poetic. The story moves at a rapid pace to an emotional conclusion. This Rock Novel approach, with father writing and son singing, is the first of its kind in the publishing industry. Readers will be enchanted and absorbed in both the words and the music - Editor Robert Broomall.



**Author, Roger A. Campos
Song Writer, Jon Campos**

with the addition of pop/rock music to the scenes of the story. By playing the appropriate track of the CD when it appears in the text, the reader will actually hear the music when the characters do in the novel. Jon's sensitive style of music and inspirational lyrics bring Rogers words to life - President Gary G. Waitt.



Inca Gold Records

Roger and Jon Campos have created a whole new dimension

About MBRT:

The Minority Business RoundTable (MBRT) is a national nonprofit 501 (c)3 membership organization for CEO's of the nation's largest minority-owned companies. It functions as the vehicle for its members to analyze and help formulate effective public policies that impact minority-owned businesses. Membership is by invitation only. Members hold positions equivalent to chief executive officers (CEO) or chairperson in their respective businesses.



**Roger A. Campos
President and CEO**

Our Mission:

Is to promote, support and advocate for our members and their respective industry. Our corporate members work to create sustainable communities and national economic viability. MBRT fulfills its mission of service to its members by providing advocacy, networking, policy initiatives, and strategic partnerships. We are committed to taking minority businesses to another level.

**SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 5, 2006
GERALDO RIVERA,
LUNCHEON, AND BOARD
MEETING**



**Minority Business
RoundTable**

*Taking your minority business to
another level*

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