

times the rate at small businesses than are created in the larger companies with 500 or more employees. In fact in 1995, there were 800,000, 800,000 new businesses started in America, a 5 percent increase over the year before.

Not only do these small businesses help our economy, but they help stimulate the economy in our community as well. They have a ripple effect each time one is created. A business with up to 100 employees not only brings new families and school children to our communities, but they also spin off another retail establishment to help support it. They create over half a million dollars in retail sales within that community and over a million dollars of more personal income to be spent to generate the local economy.

Not only do small businesses stimulate the economy, they always give back to the community in which they live. Employees of small businesses, by research, are more charitable, give back to their communities, give more donations to the service providers that help our community run.

These quiet heroes are all around us. Recently in a local newspaper, the Family Image, which is run by an entrepreneurial company, Ron and Barbara Frazier, who like to reinforce the family values that are the foundation of our country, there is a profile of a small business, of a small businesswoman K.C. Choe. She is owner of Schlotzsky's Restaurant on 1960 West near the intersection with I-45 in north Houston.

K.C. was born in Seoul, South Korea, came to America after high school and in 1979 became a U.S. citizen. After working in the Houston hotel for three years, she caught the entrepreneurial spirit of this country and bought a restaurant in 1984 that her mother helped her buy. That restaurant became Schlotzsky's later in 1995. K.C. and her coworker Tammy Karpas work 70 hours or more a week. Her mom works there as well and helps take care of K.C.'s 12-year-old son Joey, who attends Twins Creek Middle School in Spring, TX, and K.C., Tammy and her mom work there day in and day out providing quality service to their customers.

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She and her family have faced a thousand challenges to keep that company alive and growing and prospering, and like a lot of businesses, it is hard to believe the type of regulation and the challenges they are up against that government helps create.

Recently Herman Cain, who is the chairman and CEO of Godfather's, jotted down in a local magazine, Success Magazine, some of the regulations that they face, just Federal regulations, that a typical restaurant in our communities will face, and it is amazing. Let me read just some of these organizations and agencies they have to comply with.

The Department of Justice, for accessibility to disabled customers; Bureau

of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, for the occupational tax for alcohol sellers; Occupational Safety and Health Administration, for blood-borne pathogen program for employees who give first aid; the EPA, for car pools for employers in high pollution areas and cooking emissions in high pollution areas; Department of Justice, for copyright law and restaurant music; Food and Drug Administration, to comply with egg refrigeration standards; Department of Labor, the Family and Medical Leave Act; the grease trap waste disposal regulations by EPA; health claims and restaurant food regulations by the Food and Drug Administration; health benefit plans and Americans with Disabilities Act by the EEOC; the Immigration Control Act regulates them as well.

Job application forms and the questions they can ask are regulated of their employees are regulated by the EEOC. Their lockout and tagout requirements are complied with through OSHA; minimum wage is determined and audited by the Department of Labor; the national origin discrimination is regulated by the EEOC; the FDA regulates the nutrient-content claims and restaurant food.

The IRS, of course, outlines overtime pay rules and the payroll tax deposits. The Department of Labor has the ban on the polygraph for employee testing. The Department of Labor has regulations on restaurant closings and advance notice to employees; the EEOC, sex discrimination; the IRS, tipping-income audits. The Department of Labor has uniforms and deposits; the National Labor Relations Board, the union contracts; the Department of Labor has the Veterans' employment rights; and earned income credit payment, the IRS regulates that on the W-5 form. And those are just the Federal regulations.

Restaurants also have to, even the smallest restaurants, also have to comply with State permits and regulations, city health inspections, and other registration requirements.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reduce this kind of burden on people like K.C. and other independent businesses, small businesses especially. Again, these are the quiet heroes, Mr. Speaker, that we honor this week.

CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey Mr. PAPPAS is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to small businesses in our country. As many people know, across our country this week we are celebrating small business week throughout the 50 States of our great country. Many of us earlier today participated in a ceremony on the steps of this building with members of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

Many people believe that small business is the engine that is driving our economy. In fact, more than 99 percent of the Nation's employers are employers that are considered small businesses. Most of the job growth that takes place in our economy in the United States is driven by small businesses.

I am very pleased to be a part of a Congress that has committed itself to fostering and moving forward legislation that would be supportive of small business. And when I say supportive of small business, I mean to really allow small business to function, to allow small business to operate unhindered and not to take the approach of throwing stumbling blocks, which, unfortunately in the past, was done. I do not believe intentionally, but that was the practical application of so much that emanated from this city, Washington, D.C.

Joining the 105th Congress was an honor for me and certainly is a privilege and continues to be so, but as someone that is a product of small business, I am very happy to be a part of a group of Members that is trying to be sensitive to the needs of small businessmen and women throughout our country.

I am a member of the Committee on Small Business. When I had the opportunity to submit to the leadership of my party which committee assignments I was interested in serving on, small business was one of my first choices. Some here do not necessarily view the Committee on Small Business as being the first tier, but I certainly believe that it is a first tier because of what it means to so many of our fellow American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I just want to thank the Speaker for the supportive approach he takes personally, and so many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to the functioning of small business. I am looking forward over the next several months to continuing to move forward pieces of legislation that will once again be supportive of the entrepreneurial spirit that has made this country the wonderful country that it is, that enables people to get ahead, to provide for greater opportunities for themselves, for their families and for future generations. That is what our focus should be and that is what one of my main focuses is.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey Mr. PALLONE is recognized for half the remaining time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have been active in trying to provide health care coverage for uninsured children, and since the last Congress Democrats developed the Families First Agenda that basically puts families first and insists that there be, as