

of choice for vacationers and sports enthusiasts from around the nation and the world.

His efforts on behalf of the homeless and dozens of charitable organizations ranging from the Special Olympics to the Epilepsy Foundation to the Humane Society are not well-publicized, but they point out that, when it comes to community service, Ron Book is all business. In the highest traditions of public service, he is most generous with his time and attention in helping people who cannot themselves solve the problems that they face.

I have known Ron Book since he was just a youngster, making a name for himself working on local campaigns. As is the case today, everyone who met him then was impressed with his intelligence, hard work, devotion to principle and leadership capabilities. No one was surprised that Ron served as Vice President of his High School Class, or served in the University of Florida's Student Senate, or that he started working for a Florida legislator before he even graduated from college.

Because of his interest in government and desire to develop his own considerable capabilities, law school was a natural next step for Ron, as were his service as a Special Assistant to Governor Bob Graham; his employment in two of Florida's preeminent law firms; and the creation of his own law firm.

On December 14, 1999, Ron Book's achievements will be recognized at a testimonial dinner sponsored by the American Association of Bikur Cholim Hospital, Jerusalem's first hospital and one of Israel's preeminent medical care facilities. Mr. Book will be presented Bikur Cholim's International Brotherhood Award in recognition of this outstanding contributions to both his profession and our community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join with me in congratulating Ronald L. Book on this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI GERSHON AND  
SHARENE JOHNSON

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Gershon and Sharene Johnson in honor of their "Silver Celebration" at Temple Beth Haverim in Agoura Hills, California. This loving couple has spent 25 years as leaders in the Jewish community, both spiritually and educationally.

Rabbi Gershon Johnson has served as Rabbi at Temple Beth Haverim since 1988. He is described by many as the temple's incomparable spiritual leader. His devotion and expertise as a Rabbi are evident in his presence as a chaplain for the Southern California Board of Rabbis. He has always been extremely interested in passing on his love for and knowledge of Judaism. The Elderhostel program at the Brandeis Bardin Institute has benefited from Rabbi Gershon's knowledge, and he is one of their most popular teachers. He also has been instrumental in introducing religion to beginners through his "Introduction to Judaism" class sponsored by the University of Judaism.

Sharene Johnson is the wife of Rabbi Gershon, and has worked for the betterment

of the Jewish community in many different ways. She has taught at several Jewish day schools throughout the United States, and has been involved in programming and consulting at Jewish resource centers as well. Her leadership has shone through as chairperson on the Principal's Council at the Bureau of Jewish Education. For the past 11 years, she has passed on her wealth of experience and knowledge as Director of Education at Temple Ner Marev in Encino, California. The Jewish community also enjoys her teaching through adult workshops and her conducting of a women's Torah Study class at Temple Beth Haverim.

In addition to their devotion to the temple, they have become a model of excellent family life and values. Rabbi Gershon teaches the "Making Marriage Work" program at the University of Judaism. Sharene leads several family workshops each year, and has spent much of her time working with families and children. They have been happily married for 27 years and have raised 3 wonderful children—Gavi, Rachel, and Aliza.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Gershon and Sharene Johnson. They are both deserving of our utmost respect and praise.

HONORING EDWARD WEISS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, public service, when performed wisely and well, is the most noble of callings. I speak today to honor a man who has been in public service and who performed in just those ways. Edward Weiss is retiring from the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, after 30 years of service.

In his many capacities with the Department, Ed has received outstanding performance ratings from every United States Attorney General under whom he has served since 1981. He is well known for his ability to prepare and litigate cases. He also coordinated the Criminal Alien Program for the New Jersey District.

Ed received his BA degree from Syracuse University and graduated from Brooklyn Law School. He and his wife Susan have two daughters; Robyn, in a pre-doctorate program in Religion at Hebrew University, and Karen, studying law at George Washington University.

Ed is retiring to follow his other passions, hiking and traveling. He is a dedicated professional of who we can all be proud. I join his many friends in wishing him and his family many happy years in his retirement.

CAL BIO SUMMIT CEO SATELLITE  
CONFERENCE WITH MEMBERS OF  
THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ON OCTOBER 26, 1999

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD:

RICHARD WILLIS. Good morning, I am Richard Willis, the Regional Manager of ComDis Co. Laboratory and Scientific Services. We are delighted to participate in this first ever BIOCOM Satellite CEO Conference. I think it is a compelling measure of the progress that is being made by so many dedicated people here in this business in San Diego over the past few years. ComDis Co. has a strong presence and a long presence in San Diego. The short commercial is that we offer services ranging from venture finance for early stage entities through to life cycle management services for more advanced companies in this business. We have a local representative here, Gail Obley who is presently working with many of you. Again, we are delighted to participate as a sponsor and wish you well in this activity. Thank you.

NARRATOR. Welcome to the Satellite CEO Conference with the Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. In San Diego, on today's panel are: President and COO, Alliance Pharmaceutical Company, Ted D. Roth, President and CEO, IDUN Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Steven J. Mento, Ph.D., President and CEO, BIOCOM/San Diego, Joe Panetta, President and CEO, California Healthcare Institute, David L. Gollaher, Ph.D., Chairman, President and CEO, IDEC Pharmaceutical William H. Rastetter, Ph.D., Founder and CEO, INNERCOOL Therapies, Inc., John Dobak, M.D., and your moderator for today, Chairman and CEO, Alliance Pharmaceutical Company, Duane Roth.

DUANE ROTH. Let me start and just briefly introduce our panel members: First, Ted Roth who is President of Alliance Pharmaceutical, Bill Rastetter, who is Chairman, President and CEO of IDEC Pharmaceutical, Steven Mento who is President and CEO of IDUN Pharmaceuticals, David Gollaher who is President and CEO of the California Healthcare Institute, John Dobak who is the Founder and CEO of INNERCOOL Therapies, and Joe Panetta who is President and CEO of San Diego's BIOCOM. Let me suggest that we go into the issues, if that's OK with you, that we would like to have a discussion or a dialogue with you on. And for that we've got a moderator for each topic. Congressman, did you want to say anything?

CONGRESSMAN BILBRAY. I need to inform you, before we get started, that the transcript of this panel will be entered into the congressional record. So don't say anything that you don't want your grandchildren to read. But, seriously, we want for this dialogue to reflect the fact that these are issues that the biotech industry needs to have addressed and wants to have addressed. So you have been duly warned.

DUANE ROTH. We have been warned, and I guess that changes just about everything. However, let me turn to Ted and let him get the first issue on the table.

TED ROTH. Good morning Congressman, or afternoon I guess out there. Thank you for participating in this program. The issue that I would like to discuss briefly is the access to capital as the issue we are facing right now. As you know, San Diego has about 250 companies that are engaged in the various aspects of bioscience. We employ nearly 25,000 people. And spend over a billion dollars a year in research and development. We are the third largest concentration of biotech companies in the nation, or the world for that matter. All of these companies are similar in their issues to the roughly 1,300 other biotech companies in the United States.

Yesterday we had a panel of analysts who talked about the financing environment, both in the public and private markets. As most of us know, they talked about the difficulty in raising money with companies having valuations under approximately between 750 and a billion dollars. I think it is