



In Appreciation of the American Spirit



Coming up at the Chamber

[View all upcoming events on our Web calendar.](#)

TUE | Nov. 28
Referral Network
Grow Your Business
[more info](#)

TUE | Nov. 28
Transportation & Goods
Movement Committee
Meeting
[more info](#)

TUE | Nov. 28
Joint Transportation & Goods
Movement and
Environmental Quality
Committee Meeting
Featuring L.A. City Council
President Pro-Tempore Wendy
Greuel
[more info](#)

TUE | Nov. 28
Holiday VIP Reception
[more info](#)

MON | Dec. 4
Mobility 21 Coalition
Meeting
[more info](#)

TUE | Dec. 5
Multiple Pathways to
Success: Preparing Students
For College, Career &
Beyond Community Summit
[more info](#)

TUE | Dec. 5
Southern California
Visionaries Luncheon
[more info](#)

WED | Dec. 6
Small Business Owners
Roundtable
[more info](#)

FRI | Dec. 8
Health Care Committee
Meeting
[more info](#)

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org

350 S. Bixel St.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.580.7500 tel
213.580.7511 fax
info@lachamber.org

Two weeks ago, millions of Americans exercised our most fundamental right – the privilege to vote. In polling places around the country, we chose to change the direction of our government. But in many places around the globe, it is not that easy.

As millions of Americans gather with family this Thanksgiving week and give thanks for our many blessings, we should also take this moment to give thanks for the ease by which we, as Americans, have control over our destiny as a people through democratic elections to select our government representatives.

And as we give thanks for the rights that we sometimes take for granted, let us give thanks for those brave Americans who risk their lives to make those same rights available for people around the world – the men and women of our armed forces.

These men and women are among the best and brightest our country has to offer. They risk their lives, their families and all that is theirs in this world because our nation's leaders tell them that it is important to America. Some do it in the heat of battle – like those in the Middle East. Others take similar risks in humanitarian missions to help those who often don't even have dinner, much less a Thanksgiving feast that many of us will enjoy.

What makes Americans, especially our youngest in the prime of life, step up to the plate and accept the responsibilities and risks they face? What makes them put themselves and their welfare subservient to those of pure strangers in distant lands? The American spirit teaches us that we have a fundamental responsibility to protect our nation from harm and care for all those who inhabit the earth right along with us.

The same spirit compelled first responders who entered burning and collapsing buildings on Sept. 11, and those who do it every day in our cities and towns.

So while we prepare to give thanks for those we love, let us also give thanks for the men and women of our armed forces and our first responders. Their personal sacrifice in the threat of danger, taken for those who they do not and may never know, preserves our way of life and gives opportunity to the men, women and children of the world.

And that's *The Business Perspective*.

Gary L. Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

The Business Perspective is a weekly opinion piece by Gary Toebben, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, produced with the input of Senior Policy Advisor Rusty Hammer.

by Gary
Toebben,
President &
CEO, Los
Angeles Area
Chamber of
Commerce

L.A. Business THIS WEEK

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