

remarkable ability to achieve difficult and worthy goals. Her work serves as an inspiration to us all.

ON THE PASSING OF SIMON  
WIESENTHAL

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Simon Wiesenthal, a man who survived the atrocities of the Holocaust and dedicated his life to ensuring that the world never forgets the more than six million Jews who perished during one of the darkest periods in human history.

Mr. Wiesenthal brought to justice more than 1,000 Nazi war criminals. He will be remembered for his fight against ignorance and anti-Semitism through a dedication to teaching others about the origins and realities of the Holocaust. He spent his life working to ensure that the unfathomable savagery of the Holocaust would not be repeated.

Today as we mourn the loss of Mr. Wiesenthal, we celebrate his spirit and honor his life and work by vowing to carry on his mission of eradicating intolerance and injustice.

A TRIBUTE TO BLM DESERT DISTRICT  
MANAGER LINDA HANSEN

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bureau of Land Management California Desert District Manager Linda Hansen, a dedicated public servant who has been a leader in balancing the protection of our vast public lands in the California desert with the needs of our public to use those lands in the most beneficial way.

Throughout my years here in the House of Representatives, I have had the honor and pleasure of representing much of the Southern California desert lands, which range from the Sierra Nevada on the north to the Mexican border. The land itself is some of our nation's most unique and unspoiled, and the people who live, work and recreate there are very unique in their own ways. Many desert peaks provide vistas of hundreds of miles in every direction with no sign of civilization. But often a short drive down a canyon road can reveal a group of homes, a working ranch or rare mineral mine that are every bit as vital to the desert experience.

It takes a special leader to balance the needs of the desert lands and their users. For the past 3½ years those needs have been very well balanced by the capable hands of Linda Hansen, the manager of the 10.5 million-acre California Desert District of the BLM. She has found ways to protect desert dunes and grant access to off-road vehicle riders. She has helped preserve desert wildlife like the Bighorn Sheep and met the needs of the thousands of hunters who know those arid lands so well.

Linda Hansen joined the BLM by chance 28 years ago, taking a job as a receptionist in the Carson City office after her family moved there. She worked her way up through the ranks over the years, serving in both the state and national offices, and was finally named in 2002 to be the first female director of the Desert District.

During her three years, the BLM has completed regional land use plans to guide management of public lands in the Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert, Coachella Valley, and the Imperial Sand Dunes. She also oversaw the final stages of development of the largest Habitat Conservation Plan in the United States in the West Mojave Desert, slated for completion by the end of 2005.

She has improved the working relationship with her federal management partners, including the Forest Service, National Park Service, Department of Defense, and Fish and Wildlife Service. An Imperial Valley native, she has helped forge a compromise that allowed off-road enthusiasts to use the Imperial Dunes, while at the same time protecting much of the Dunes' fragile eco-system. At the same time, she has forged the United Desert Gateway, helping communities like El Centro and Brawley reap the benefits of the increased visitation there. Along the way, she has gained a reputation for being fair and patient in dealing with everyone who is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the desert.

Mr. Speaker, after 31 years of federal service and 28 years with the BLM, Linda Hansen will soon be retiring. Please join me in thanking her for her dedication, patience and perseverance, and wishing her well in her future endeavors.

IMPLEMENTING THE MICROENTERPRISE  
RESULTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2004

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 20, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I chaired a hearing examining the implementation of PL 108-484, the Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act of 2004.

Earlier this year, I traveled to coastal areas of Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka which had been devastated by the tsunami. The destruction from those 50-foot-high waves was almost total, and the vast majority of individuals affected were fisherman and other working poor whose boats and nets and livelihoods had been completely swept away. While they gratefully received the emergency food, aid and shelter which our military and our USAID disaster relief teams so efficiently provided, in the medium term, what these folks really needed and wanted was a small loan to enable them to rebuild their businesses and become self-sufficient again.

The same could be said of areas in our own country which have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. While I am not aware of any microloan programs operating in New Orleans, having read Dr. Morduch's testimony which he will give later today, I do know that a microcredit group, Accion New York, serves over 6,000 customers in the New York metropolitan area.

Whether here or abroad, I have long been a fan of microcredit programs because I have seen them work. The term "foreign aid" often has a bad connotation—and there are some good reasons why, too. Many times in the past, foreign aid was delivered in a topdown manner to corrupt governments and organizations, where it never really reached the intended recipients.

Microenterprise, on the other hand, takes a totally different approach. It's a "trickle-up" approach that focuses on helping the poorest people on the planet build themselves up, little by little, into self-sufficiency by giving them access to financing. The success of microenterprise lending programs to empower entrepreneurs and borrowers in the developing world cannot be overstated.

Over two million clients are currently benefiting from USAID-assisted programs that provide the necessary capital through small loans, usually of a few hundred dollars or less, for entrepreneurs to start and expand their own small businesses. It is estimated that 97 percent of microenterprise loans are successfully repaid and 70 percent go to women, who are often very vulnerable, subjected to abuse, and in need of economic opportunities in the developing world. Microenterprise is a key vehicle to assist victims of trafficking and to raise the social and economic status of women around the world.

Microenterprise also complements the principles President Bush has outlined for more effective foreign aid through the Millennium Challenge Account, and is a key component for fulfilling the UN's Millennium Development Goals to eradicate world poverty by the year 2015. Business owners assisted by micro-lending are not only able to increase their own incomes, but through their own efforts, they create jobs and help economies grow.

Success stories from the beneficiaries of microenterprise are quite numerous. Take for example, Dorothy Eyiah from Ghana. Dorothy was resourceful, but she had no idea how she was going to support her AIDS-stricken sister and family when she brought them into her home in Ghana. She used to support herself selling ice, but that wasn't going to pay for the food and medicines she now needed. She started praying. All doors seemed shut until Dorothy met some women within her village who were part of an Opportunity International Trust Bank. The Trust Bank could help her grow a small business—providing her with financing, training, support. Five loans later, Dorothy is the secretary of her Trust Bank and runs three businesses, employing nine people from her village. She is content. Her sister is comfortable, all the children are in school, and their needs are being met. "God has been so good to me," she says.

Success stories such as this are what microfinance and the Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act of 2004 are all about. By building the best possible microenterprise program, we will be able to reach the greatest possible number of poor people with services that truly have an impact on their lives. As we compare the effectiveness of various methods of implementing microcredit programs, success will be measured by the ability to reach very poor people and other underserved populations, including women, and by the kind of impact these programs have on poor families. We are concerned not only with the efficient delivery of financial services, but also with the