LAAFB Regional Alliance
By Congresswoman Jane Harman

Since the end of the Cold War, the Pentagon has been reducing the number of military bases throughout the country and abroad by a process called Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). In four previous BRAC rounds, from 1988 through 1995, base closures resulted in the loss of 173,919 base-related jobs – 54% of which were in California. During that time, the South Bay saw a net loss of more than 23,500 jobs.

The Department of Defense is expected to release another BRAC list on May 13, which could include the Los Angeles Air Force Base’s (LAAFB) Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) – a facility we have successfully defended in previous BRAC rounds.

For this BRAC round, I have again joined with community leaders and local elected officials throughout the South Bay to rally support for the base. We created the LAAFB Regional Alliance (www.laafballiance.com) to keep SMC right where it belongs: in El Segundo.

In determining which bases to close, the Pentagon puts less weight on the economic impacts closures have on the community. It has mandated that military value be the primary criterion. Clearly, the economic value of SMC to Southern California and the entire state is enormous. But, although it is a powerful economic engine, SMC’s most important contribution is to our national security – and the battle to save SMC must be won on this turf.

As the Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Committee, I know that shuttering SMC would significantly weaken our efforts in fighting the war on terror. SMC has had an unprecedented string of 42 consecutive successful, operational launches of the satellites critical to safeguarding our homeland and fighting our enemies abroad.

Surrounding and strengthening SMC is a powerful collection of academic institutions and private firms that create an unmatched intellectual synergy found nowhere else in the country. Bolstering this strong foundation is 50 years of intellectual capital cultivated by our national space program and aerospace giants like Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Computer Sciences Corporation and The Aerospace Corporation.

Moving SMC to Colorado or New Mexico also risks a severe “reverse” brain-drain. In its recently re-released report, The California Council on Base Support and Retention found that 90% of senior engineers would be unwilling to relocate should SMC’s function be sent elsewhere.

Chamber members know all too well about the importance of institutional knowledge and staff retention. The key personnel at SMC and the private sector constellation around it are helping train the next generation of aerospace and satellite scientists. Their knowledge is invaluable and irreplaceable, and it cannot be replicated at a new location. A single launch failure would offset any savings achieved from relocation. To prevent that, we must protect the infrastructure, regional cooperation and knowledge base that successfully delivers the intelligence we need.

The importance of SMC cannot be overstated, and keeping its home in El Segundo is not only good for business – it’s critical to our national security. This is a battle California can’t afford to lose.

For more information on SMC and the BRAC process, please contact info@laafballiance.com

Jane Harman (D-Venice) is serving her 8th term in California’s 36th Congressional District.

Things are happening at the El Segundo Chamber of Commerce.

Our Committees are very active and we are looking forward to hosting Mayor Kelly McDowell’s first State of the City address on May 4th.

I want to single out for special thanks Deidre Murray, the new chairperson of your Chamber’s Membership Committee. Deidre has been a terrific addition to our volunteer leadership. I encourage you to join Deidre and her Committee for one of the many great events they have planned to strengthen membership networking.

We are also continuing to improve our communications with members. We are following the lead of the California Chamber of Commerce in now distributing our newsletter via the Internet. This not only makes sure the news gets right to your desktop, but also saves the Chamber money and those resources can be redeploped into our programs and services.

I wanted to take a moment in this month’s column to say a few words about our Assemblyman Mike Gordon. As I am sure you have heard, Mike has been diagnosed with a tumor and is in the midst of undergoing treatment.

Mike’s spirits are high and he’s eager to get back to Sacramento. For those of us who have had an opportunity to work with Mike as our Assemblyman or as El Segundo’s former Mayor, we all know that he’s a fighter.

In classic Mike Gordon style, his treatment regime has not stopped him from doing the work we elected him to do. Right after he won election Mike hit the ground running (while others were taking long vacations and relaxing after the election) and he put together a program that is now being aggressively implemented. Highlights of a few a pieces of Mike’s legislative agenda that are moving forward include:

AB 1380: Area Code Conservation and Consumer Protection Act

This bill was created to protect the 310 area code and other area codes in the State from potential splits by establishing guidelines on number conservation, inventory assessment and more efficient utilization of telephone numbers throughout the State. It also requires carriers to disclose their inventory of numbers every six months so that the public can get a true assessment of whether an area code is running out of numbers.

AB 208: Children of Military Personnel Preference

This bill requires that school districts give preference to the children of military personnel applying to attend a school outside of their district of residence. This bill will provide greater access to a quality K-12 education for children of military personnel, thus strengthening the competitiveness of California’s bases in the current BRAC process.

AB 717: Centinela Airport Clinic

This bill will change the status of Centinela Airport Medical Clinic (which is already designated to receive 911 basic life support patients) to emergency department status, allowing it to receive patients through emergency medical services. With the closure of RFK Hospital last December, emergency rooms throughout the South Bay have experienced a 20% increase in patients thereby increasing wait times to over six hours. This bill attempts to relieve the burden on our hospitals by using an existing facility to help service non-urgent care visits.

Mike’s talented staff continues to move his agenda forward from their offices here in El Segundo and in Sacramento. I encourage you to drop Mike a message through his Director, Sandra Lloyd-Jones at Sandra.Lloyd-jones@asm.ca.gov.

Things are indeed happening at your Chamber and I invite you to take part.

David A. Herbst
Chamber President

El Segundo Chamber
427 Main Street
El Segundo, CA 90245

Ph: (310) 322-1220
Fax: (310) 322-6880
www.elsegundochamber.org
**El Segundo Chamber State of the City**

The El Segundo Chamber and Presenting Sponsor the Double Tree Hotel will be hosting this year’s State of the City event on Wednesday, May 4, 2005. Please join our keynote speaker Mayor Kelly McDowell as he presents a forward look into the current climate and future potential of this unique community.

Registration and reception will begin at 11:30 am in the pool area. Program will commence at noon. Seats are limited and available for $50 each. Make your reservation today by calling West Enterprises at (310) 227-8100 or email lwes@westenterprises.info.

**Speaker’s Forum Luncheon**

The Membership Committee of the El Segundo Chamber hosted the first 2005 Speaker’s Forum Luncheon on Monday, April 11. McCormick & Schmick’s Seafood Restaurant in El Segundo provided an incredible venue and luncheon as well as impeccable service. Dr. John Shepard, President of the Shepard Group, presented an informative topic of significant importance to all businesses – “Coaching for Employee Performance.” The topic was directed at providing value for our Chamber members as they seek to encourage development of leadership and motivational skills for their employees. Dr. Shepard is an Organizational Consultant with more than 25 years experience in the field of psychology and has professional expertise in a number of fields including; Strategic Planning, Employee Assessment, Leadership Development, Team Building, Employee Involvement and Outplacement.

Please save the date for our next Speaker’s Forum presentation on Monday, May 16, 11:30 am, which will feature another valued Chamber member, John Laney, President of CM IT Solutions, who will provide us with a significant presentation on “Best IT Management Practices for Small Businesses.” The presentation will be geared to all of our membership who want to get more out of their computer usage and/or have concerns with regard to security.

The cost for the luncheon will be $12 per person (all inclusive). For reservations call the Chamber at (310) 322-1220. Reservations are limited to the first 40 RSVP’s.

For information on becoming a presenter at an upcoming luncheon, please contact the Chamber at (310) 322-1220, or Membership Chair, Diane Murray (Director of Sales and Marketing, Hawthorn Suites, Manhattan Beach) at (310) 546-8942.
New Members

The El Segundo Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the following new members to the Chamber!

American International University (AIU)
12655 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90066
Contact: Darius Lassus
Ph: (310) 302-2613
Email: dl@aiu.edu
Website: www.aiu.edu
Business Category: Education

AIU Corporate Partners offers your company onsite degree programs customized to your business needs. Your company will benefit from a workforce educated in the latest technologies and business applications. AIU Corporate Partners can provide your employees with the specialized skills, techniques and credentials they need to compete and succeed in today’s dynamic market. Your staff gets a convenient degree program that allows them to advance their careers without sacrificing their professional and personal obligations.

A. Michael Breit
417 Standard Street
El Segundo, CA 90245
Contact: Michael Breit
Ph: (310) 535-9269
Email: mikesal760@aol.com
Business Category: Individual

Mike Breit has relocated to El Segundo to participate with his family in this dynamic community. His motto is that to live a full life one must be productive. He finds The Chamber and Rotary offer avenues of “Service above Self” that satisfy his objective.

CarsDirect.com
909 N. Sepulveda, 11th Floor
El Segundo, CA 90245
Contact: Mindy Borghi
Ph: (310) 280-4426
Email: mindy@carsdirect.com
Website: www.carsdirect.com
Business Category: Marketing Agency

CarsDirect.com is a leading on-line automotive research and shopping site, providing new and used automobiles, related products and services, as well as in-demand aftermarket products including extended warranties. The company has been named one of the “50 Best websites” by Time Magazine, chosen as a “Forbes Favorite” three times and selected as a “Top 100 Internet Site” for three consecutive years in PC Magazine.

UBS - Paul Desantis
131 S. Rodeo Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Contact: Paul Desantis
Ph: (310) 291-3806
Email: paul.desantis@ubs.com
Website: www.ubs.com/paul.desantis
Business Category: Financial Planning

UBS, one of the world’s flagship financial firms, is a leading wealth manager, a premier investment banking and securities firm, a key global asset manager and a market leader in Swiss retail and commercial banking. As part of a successful wealth management team, Paul Desantis is able to offer in-depth, integrated investment strategies in areas such as asset allocation and investment planning; lending solutions; single stock risk management; stock option strategies; wealth transfer and philanthropic planning.

Diamond Sports Chiropractic
8632 Sepulveda Blvd., Ste. 101
El Segundo, CA 90245
Contact: George Harraka
Ph: (310) 348-8298
Business Category: Healthcare

Diamond Sports Chiropractic specializes in the conservative management of orthopedic injuries involving joints, muscles, ligaments/ tendons and nerves. Some commonly treated conditions include low back pain, sciatica, headaches, neck pain, disc injuries and strains/sprains. Treatments offered include chiropractic manipulation, soft tissue therapy, rehabilitation/strengthening, massage therapy and various other physical modalities. We also work closely with other medical specialists including orthopedists, internists and neurosurgeons. Some patients come to our clinic for the treatment of a specific problem while others choose preventive care. Whatever your situation – we’re here to assist.

El Segundo Medical Center
455 Main Street
El Segundo, CA 90245
Contact: Arnold Chanin, M.D.
Ph: (310) 322-1611
Email: elsegundobch@sbglobal.net
Website: www.elsegundomedicalcenter.com
Business Category: Medical Center

El Segundo Medical Center has been a member of the community since February of 1988 and is looking forward to many more years of providing quality medical care. Dr. Arnold Chanin is well known and respected as a Family Practitioner. El Segundo Medical Center is thrilled to announce the addition of Dr. Hak P. Wong, Internal Medicine, to our staff. We are planning several new additions to our scope of care as well. Come watch us grow!

Houska Insurance Services
2321 Rosecrans Avenue, Ste. 1290
El Segundo, CA 90245
Contact: Patty Harman
Ph: (310) 297-2700
Email: pharman@houskainsurance.com
Website: www.houskainsurance.com
Business Category: Insurance

Houska Insurance Services, Inc. is a full service employee benefit brokerage firm located in El Segundo, California. We specialize in analyzing, designing, negotiating, implementing and servicing benefit programs for companies ranging from 100 to 5,000. At Houska Insurance Services, Inc., you are represented by personnel with more than 20 years of industry experience. We enjoy and maintain solid long-term relationships with quality group insurance carriers, which translates into competitive benefit programs both in price and plan design.

MCR Federal, LLC
390 N. Sepulveda Blvd., #1050
El Segundo, CA 90245
Contact: Loula Moschonas
Ph: (310) 640-0005
Email: lmoschonas@mcri.com
Website: www.mcri.com
Business Category: Management Consulting

MCR, LLC has a more than 25-year tradition of providing high quality, value-added, customer-focused success to our clients in the area of Integrated Program Management. By focusing on Cost and Financial Management, Acquisition Management, and Schedule and Technical Risk Assessment, MCR is able to provide the Department of Defense, Industry and civilian agencies with know-how, tools, and resources to successfully budget, manage, and track their programs. For our DoD customers, MCR provides the full life-cycle support services, including development of techniques and the application of proven systemic processes. Our techniques include; affordability projections, cost models and databases, cost response curves, Multi-attribute Trade-Off models, COTS cost projections, Activity-based Costing, Earned Value Management, and systems dynamics assessment…to name only a few.

Ted Petit / AFLAC
6089 Bristol Parkway, Suite 100
Culver City, CA 90230
Contact: Ted Petit
Ph: (310) 221-6380
Email: theodore_petit@us.aflac.com
Business Category: Insurance

AFLAC is a unique catastrophe plan that pays its policyholders directly to help pay for family expenses should they face a serious illness or injury. It enhances the organization’s benefits package as AFLAC supplements the health plan already provided in place at no cost to the company. The plans include: Accident, Disability, Cancer, Long-Term Care, Intensive Care, Dental, and Life. This not only attracts potential candidates in a competitive environment, but also promotes loyalty to company employees. AFLAC - no insurance is complete without it.

Read more new member profiles on page 4.
Beginning in the fall of 2005 we will be producing plays and holding showcases for beginning acting classes, comedy improvisation with working comedians, and offering recommendations and localized attention. We service anything and everything in advertising including but not limited to: Banners, Window Graphics, Vehicle Lettering, Menu Boards, Retail Signs, Ad Specialty Items, Digital Imaging, Illuminated Signs and Monument Signs. Please call for a free consultation on how they can help your business grow.
THE GREAT SEPULVEDA CAR WASH

This long anticipated car wash facility is being developed by one of the world’s largest car-wash manufacturers, headquartered here in Southern California, N/S Wash Systems. “We wanted to put our four decades of wash facility design and expertise together to build the industry’s leading high-tech car wash in our own community” said Thomas Ennis, President of N/S Wash Systems. “This is really going to be something the community can be proud of.”

The Great Sepulveda Car Wash, located at 125 North Sepulveda, will have numerous new state-of-the-art features and advantages and the facility will boast an extra long 200-foot wash tunnel that will allow more cars per hour and the industry’s fastest turn-around time of fewer than ten minutes. The site will showcase a new “Flex-Serve” wash process that will allow customers to choose between a full-service or exterior-only wash. The site is designed for a new level of customer appeal, convenience and satisfaction.

The project, over five years in the making, will have an expected grand opening as soon as early summer, 2005. Residents and business members of El Segundo look forward to saving important time as they experience the opportunity of having their cars washed locally.

LOOKING

In their 14th year of business and in the midst of creating their own building and formally launching their ArtGlas studio, Looking is the team partner to hotels and clients as well as popular web sites and e-commerce sites. A company’s business depends on clients and how those clients perceive the company…that’s where Looking is the team partner to turn to for all the necessary items in this area.

BODY SMART ON MAIN

Body Smart on Main is celebrating its 3rd year in El Segundo. They are offering to member businesses of the El Segundo Chamber a super deal on memberships for their employees. It has been proven that healthy employees cost employers less in health-care costs, workers’ compensation expenses, lost productivity and absenteeism. Body Smart is a premier neighborhood gym in Los Angeles and they provide a complete line of weight machines, free weights and cardio equipment. They also offer over 45 classes per week including: Yoga, Circuit Training, Pilates, Boxing, Cycling, Personal Training and 30-minute lunch class. Many of these programs can be provided on-site or at your business.

In their own location at 505 Main Street, they provide full locker room and shower facilities as well as ample parking, and they are only minutes away from most El Segundo businesses. If you are interested in healthy employees and a great membership rate for your employees, contact John Waszak, owner, or Ashleigh Bravo at 310-414-1400.

Prospective School Board Member Candidate Information Forum

Monday, May 2, 2005, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
El Segundo Unified School District Boardroom
641 Sheridon Street

The El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) will conduct an information forum for prospective school board candidates on Monday, May 2, 2005 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The terms of three of the five members of the ESUSD Board of Truste- ee, Jo-Ann Eidelfest, Christine Sherrill, and Kathy Wiley, will expire in December 2005. On Tuesday, November 8, El Segundo voters will elect three board members to serve four year terms.

The informal meeting will provide useful information on the rewards, requirements, and challenges of being an ESUSD school board member in order to encourage interested members of the community to consider this unique form of public service.

The forum will be held in the school boardroom at the district office, 641 Sheridon Street. Parking is available behind the boardroom on Arena Street. Extensive information about ESUSD can be found online at www. elsegundoud.com. Please call 310-615-2650, x226 with questions.