

Small Business Owners Reflect on First Year in Congress

Editor's note: U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna (NY-24) was featured in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Magazine, Free Enterprise, as a businessman-turned-Congressman.

BY Sheryll Poe

In 2010, 33 small business owners from both political parties were elected to Congress. That's more than three times the number elected in 2008.

They come from all over the country and all walks of life. Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL) and his family own and operate Saint Giuseppe's Heavenly Pizzeria in Moline, which employs eight people.

Until 2007, Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY) owned and operated Hanna Construction, which grew over 27 years to employ more than 450 people.

Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO) and his brother Joe co-founded Mesa Verde Indian, a 22-employee business that makes and sells Native American ceramics. Tipton was also a state representative in the Colorado House of Representatives before being elected to Congress.

Free Enterprise magazine sat down with Reps. Schilling, Hanna, and Tipton nearly a year after they were elected to see how their experiences in running a small business translate in the halls of Congress.

To read the entire story by the U.S. Chamber's Sheryll Poe [click here](#) .