

The National Association of Realtors®, “The Voice for Real Estate,” is America’s largest trade association, representing 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

**Remarks by Charles McMillan
2009 NAR President
Before the NAR Board of Directors
May 16, 2009**

I want to take just a few minutes now to provide my report.

First, I think we all can agree that NAR’s *Real Estate Summit: Advancing the U.S. Economy*, which we held this past Tuesday, was a resounding success.

Not only did we get a lot of great insights on the economy and the real estate market to share with our members, but so did the rest of America. In fact, more than 250 news articles featured NAR’s Summit, reaching more than 61 million people. That is a record for our organization.

Most importantly, the event clearly demonstrated just how respected NAR is at the highest levels of government.

From the White House to Congress, and all of the regulatory agencies in between, we have the ability to influence the people who have the power to shape policies that impact the economy, our industry and all those we serve.

Think about it...What other organization could bring together such a line-up of global leaders?

I am especially proud that the keynote speakers and panelists all recognized the vital role that REALTORS play in our communities. They wanted to hear from us, just as much as we wanted to hear from them. And, you certainly delivered.

The National Association of Realtors®, “The Voice for Real Estate,” is America’s largest trade association, representing 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

I thank all of you who attended the Summit for listening and for sharing your questions and experiences. I encourage each and every one of you to share what you learned with your fellow members when you return to your states.

As leaders, it is our job to make sure our members know just how powerful they are and help them get involved in our advocacy efforts. Now, more than ever, we need everyone to participate.

NAR’s Real Estate Summit is just the latest in a series of remarkable achievements we have made as an organization since we last met in November.

NAR has worked tirelessly during the last six months to address some critical challenges in the real estate market and to give members the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Raising the conforming loan limits, keeping large banks out of our business, and the new homebuyer tax credit are just a few examples of our HUGE successes so far this year.

Although it is true that these accomplishments were realized in 2009, they didn’t happen overnight.

As with any major achievement, the path to success began many years ago, on someone else’s watch. What we have achieved is the direct result of their hard work – work that includes electing candidates who support our positions, countless meetings with lawmakers and regulators, and in some cases, temporary victories that laid the groundwork for permanent success.

The National Association of Realtors®, “The Voice for Real Estate,” is America’s largest trade association, representing 1.2 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all of the leaders who came before me – who worked just as hard, if not harder, to build the bridges that we cross today. Would all of the past presidents in the audience today, please stand? Let’s give them a round of applause.

Ghandi once said: “Every worthwhile accomplishment, big or little, has its stages of drudgery and triumph; a beginning, a struggle and a victory.”

Today, we share some beginnings, some struggles, and some triumphs.

The important thing is to remember that our triumphs are the result of the beginnings and struggles of those who came before us.

Likewise, the beginnings and struggles we face today will prove to be the triumphs that future leaders and members will enjoy.

I thank you all for your service. With your continued leadership, I am certain that we will move our organization and America forward, United Toward Tomorrow.