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## **Congressman Charles B. Rangel to Speak at Opening of JA New York Show**

*Powerful Ways and Means Committee Chairman will address  
tax and trade issues of concern to the jewelry industry*

New York, NY – Jewelers of America, the national association of retail jewelers, has invited Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) to be the guest speaker at the opening ceremony of the JA New York Summer Show, on Sunday, July 29, at 9:15 AM, at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City. Rangel's remarks will immediately precede the JA New York Show opening at 9:30 AM, after which he will briefly walk the show floor and meet various industry members.



Rangel is the Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, considered the most powerful committee in Congress, due to its jurisdiction over tax and trade legislation, including Social Security and Medicare. Ways and Means has considered legislation of crucial interest to the jewelry industry over the years, including luxury tax measures and changes to the Generalized System of Preferences.

In this current session of Congress, Ways and Means is also likely to have jurisdiction over legislation that would permit the individual states to require collection of sales taxes by Internet and other remote retailers. The passage of such legislation is critical to the industry, as it would act to level the playing field between bricks and mortar retailers and Internet-only retailers.

“Jewelers of America is grateful to the JA New York Show for providing this opportunity for Chairman Rangel to address our industry,” says JA President and CEO Matthew A. Runci. “He will preside over legislation on a variety of issues that Jewelers of America is tracking in Washington, D.C.”

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JA New York Show Director Drew Lawskey welcomed the upcoming Rangel visit. "The JA New York Show is delighted to host Chairman Rangel at the opening ceremonies of our summer show. We welcome the chairman to walk the aisles of the show and view the wide array of products and services our exhibitors have on offer."

**ABOUT JEWELERS OF AMERICA**

Jewelers of America is a public affairs leader in the jewelry industry and regularly monitors legislation in Washington, D.C. that affects the retail jewelry community. For more information about Jewelers of America, visit [www.jewelers.org](http://www.jewelers.org).

**ABOUT JA NEW YORK**

The 2007 JA New York Summer Show, a premier international jewelry industry event, is expected to attract more than 1,700 designers and manufacturers and more than 13,000 retailers. JA New York runs July 29 – August 1, 2007, at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City. For more information about JA New York, visit [www.ja-newyork.com](http://www.ja-newyork.com).

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