

# Jubilee USA NETWORK

*Celebrating Jubilee Champions*

*November 10, 2016*

*Washington, DC*

Friends,

Next year, Jubilee USA will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Congressional Quarterly cites our efforts as among the last bipartisan work taking place on Capitol Hill. We're proud of everything we've accomplished since our founding, but also deeply humbled to walk with a diverse political group that works to change the structures that cause poverty.

Tonight we are honoring some amazing people who made this all possible. I would use the word "heros" to describe **Chairman Emeritus Spencer Bachus, Ruth Messinger, Archbishop Silvano Tomasi and Kent Spriggs**. You can see the legacy of these heroes still continues when you look at what we accomplished for Puerto Rico. The leadership of Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi continues to be powerful on Jubilee USA's efforts. In a special way, tonight we also want to recognize the leadership of **Rep. Maxine Waters** of California and **Rep. Sean Duffy** of Wisconsin.



Eric LeCompte  
Executive Director

[www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org)  
212 E Capitol St NE  
Washington, DC 20003

## Spencer Bachus



A native of Birmingham, Alabama, House Financial Services Chairman Emeritus Spencer Bachus served the state's sixth congressional district from 1993 to 2015. In Washington, Rep. Bachus served on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Financial Services Committee, where he served as Chair or Ranking Member from 2006 to 2012.

For more than a decade, Rep. Bachus partnered with Jubilee USA to champion debt relief for the world's poorest countries. He was instrumental in shepherding legislation through Congress that led to over \$100 billion in debt relief for more than 40 countries. According to the World Bank, infant mortality rates dropped in every country receiving relief. World Bank President Jim Kim cites Jubilee's debt relief work as one of the two most important factors propelling economic growth in Africa.

As Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, Rep. Bachus championed the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation. He played a critical role in passing the legislation with bi-partisan support through the House of Representatives in 2008 and sponsoring legislation to stop "vulture funds."

Chairman Bachus graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama School of Law.

## Ruth Messinger

*Ruth W. Messinger was President of American Jewish World Service (AJWS) from 1998 to July 2016, and is currently the organization's inaugural Global Ambassador. Ruth's remarkable 18-year presidency at AJWS began after a 20-year career in public service in New York City as a city council member and Manhattan Borough President. In 2015, she was named one of the 50 most influential Jews in America by Forward Magazine.*



*In the late 1990's, under Ruth's leadership, AJWS helped to found Jubilee USA and opened up their office in Washington DC with a mandate to pass debt relief legislation. For the past 20 years, Jubilee USA has been honored to work hand-in-hand with Ruth and AJWS to build an economy that serves the most vulnerable.*

*In 2012, AJWS and Jubilee USA partnered to stop predatory hedge funds from changing New York law to make it easier for them to repeatedly sue poor countries over old debt. Ruth led the fight that ultimately defeated the proposed bill in Albany.*

*A New York native, Ruth holds a B.A. from Radcliffe College and an M.S.W. from the University of Oklahoma.*

## Archbishop Silvano Tomasi

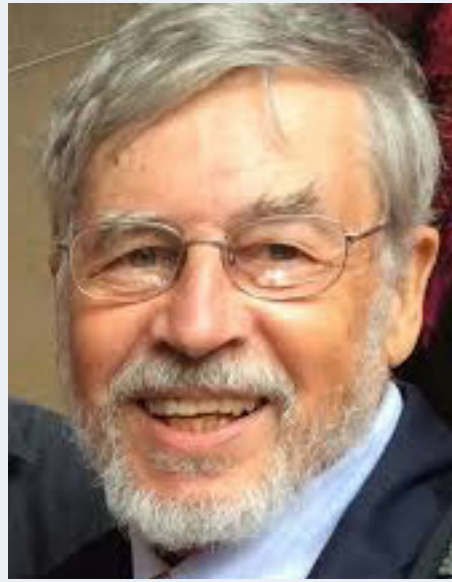
*Archbishop Silvano Maria Tomasi, C.S., currently works for the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace. He served as Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and Specialized Organizations in Geneva and to the World Trade Organization from 2003-2016. From 1996 to 2003, Archbishop Tomasi served as Apostolic Nuncio to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti and as Observer to the African Union, formerly the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Archbishop Tomasi has also performed pastoral work in New York and at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.*



*Archbishop Tomasi has been an eloquent and consistent voice for economic policies that protect the vulnerable. He played a key role in advancing the Multi-Lateral Debt Relief Initiative with world leaders and at the United Nations. Within the Catholic Church and at the United Nations, in just a few years, Tomasi advanced key global Jubilee policies on debt, tax and trade work. His efforts were a part of winning more than \$100 billion in debt relief for the world's poorest countries. He played a pivotal role in securing the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Doha Mandate in 2012 to promote solutions to debt and financial crisis.*

*A native of Casoni di Mussolente, Italy, Archbishop Tomasi was ordained as priest of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles in 1956. He earned his PhD. in sociology from New York University and co-founded the Center for Migration Studies.*

## Kent Spriggs



*Kent Spriggs is an attorney in Tallahassee, Florida, where he's practiced for over 46 years. During his career, Kent has specialized in civil rights law and complex litigation and was recognized by the National Law Journal as "One of the Best Employment Discrimination Lawyers in America."*

*In 2014, Kent was the lead author of Jubilee USA's Supreme Court amicus curiae brief in the case of the Republic of Argentina v. NML Capital, et al. Jubilee USA submitted the brief on behalf of 80 national religious organizations and faith communities. The brief argued that the court should strike down a lower-court ruling that upheld predatory debt practices by so-called "vulture funds."*

*In the brief, we argued that "using law to dispossess the poor for the pleasure of the powerful offends not only the sense of justice embodied in United States policy, but the even more ancient principles of biblical justice revealed in the scriptures of our faiths." Our brief was possible only because of Kent's tireless and skilled efforts.*

*Kent earned his B.A. degree from Bowdoin College with Honors in Government. He is a graduate of New York University Law School.*

## *Jubilee USA is So Grateful to Its National Religious Partners and Founders*

*American Jewish World Service*

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*The Episcopal Church*

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