



News Release

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY- FOCUSED BUSINESS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) is excited to announce an entirely new lineup for the Thursday February 9, General Session, at 10:30 a.m. at the 2006 N.G.A. Annual Convention & Supermarket Synergy Showcase (S³).

The session is titled “**Independent Business in a Global Economy: being the biggest doesn’t guarantee being the best**”. The grocery industry continues to dramatically change. The last five to ten years have been earmarked by a move towards consolidation as some of the industry’s largest companies have tried to keep up with Wal-Mart’s growth through mergers and acquisitions. However, many of these transactions have not lived up to expectations. **David Schoeder**, *Principal, The Food Partners*, will analyze the significant opportunities that are available to independent community focused retailers.

Providing global perspective **Stuart Varney**, *renowned CNN and CNBC journalist and Financial and Economic analyst* will build on the principle that you don’t have to be the biggest to be the best, as he discusses “**A new era in America: Its economy, its politics, its culture**”.

N.G.A. is also pleased to announce that we will be honoring **Dr. Thomas Haggai** *Chairman & CEO, IGA, Inc.* with the **Great American Award** in recognition of his distinguished career as an American patriot and great industry leader.

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N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating in a variety of formats. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family and others are employee owned. Independents are the true “entrepreneurs” of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers, state grocers associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. For more information about N.G.A. and the independent sector of the industry, see the N.G.A. website: www.NationalGrocers.org