



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Small Business Administration - San Diego District Office - George P. Chandler, Jr., District Director
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Small Business Awards Luncheon Honors Local Business Owners

(San Diego, CA) – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will publicly honor thirty-three local small business owners and advocates on Friday, June 11, 2004, at the annual Small Business Awards Luncheon to be held at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina on Harbor Drive in downtown San Diego. SBA is co-sponsoring the event with San Diego's Regional Chamber of Commerce. One thousand attendees are expected to participate in the celebration.

Each year, the President of the United States designates one week to recognize the contributions of small business to the American economy. This year is SBA's 50th anniversary, and special events are being held all year throughout the country. SBA's National Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo are being held in Orlando, Florida, May 19 - 21. For more information or for Expo registration, interested parties can visit the Expo website at <http://www.sba.gov/50/expo2004.html>.

SBA San Diego District Director George Chandler said, "2003 - 2004 is SBA's 50th Anniversary year, an important milestone and excellent opportunity to celebrate those small businesses that have helped make our Nation great. Since its inception in 1953, SBA has helped over 20 million Americans start, grow and expand their business – placing tens of billions of dollars in loans into the hands of entrepreneurs in all sectors of the economy. Small business is an enduring symbol of the American Dream." Chandler said, "Small Business Week recognizes outstanding small business owners for their personal achievements and contributions to the nation's economy." Trade associations, chambers of commerce and business organizations typically nominate candidates. "SBA is proud to honor the men and women whose entrepreneurial spirit, dedication and hard work have helped to create jobs and fuel this economy. Small business represents 99 percent of all employers in America. Small business truly *is* where America works, and these successful small business owners and advocates deserve recognition for their achievements," said Chandler. "We are especially delighted to be co-sponsoring this event with San Diego's Regional Chamber of Commerce for the 24th consecutive year," he said.

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2004 SBA AWARDS

SBA will present awards to the following San Diego area business owners and advocates:

Small Business Person of the Year

Robert Young, Motivational Systems, Inc.

Small Business Exporter of the Year

Joseph Gelman, Orgil International Greenhouses, Inc.

Women-Owned Small Business of the Year

Sharon Smith, Jean's Posh Pantry

Minority Owned Small Business of the Year

Aldrica Lattimore, Accurate Engineering Integrated Construction Services, Inc.

Family-Owned Small Business of the Year

Andres Garcia, Garcia Foods, Inc.

Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year

Victor Castillo, Southwestern College

Small Business Development & International Trade Center

Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year

Frank Whitton, Small Business Development Center, North San Diego County

Financial Services Advocate of the Year

Al Arias, A.V. Arias & Co.

Small Business Lender of the Year

Kurt Chilcott, CDC Small Business Finance

Small Business Lender of the Year

Rick Benito, Bank of America

2004 PRIME AND SUB-CONTRACTORS OF THE YEAR

In addition to SBA's Small Business Week awardees, nine large prime contractors will recognize nine local small subcontractors for outstanding service, and a government-purchasing agency will recognize two local small prime contractors for outstanding service.

Prime Contractor of the Year Awards

Javed Chak, Geomat Engineering, Inc.

Sponsor: U.S. General Services Administration

Kenneth Lawrence, Symvionics, Inc.

Sponsor: U.S. General Services Administration

SBA Region IX Sub-Contractor Award of Excellence

Bob Hannah, Pell Mell Supply, Inc.

Sponsor: National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO)

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Sub-Contractors of the Year

Bob Hannah, Pell Mell Supply, Inc.

Sponsor: National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO)

John Mason, Commercial Box & Pallet

Sponsor: BAE Systems Mission Solutions, Inc.

Brian Murray, Compucraft Industries, Inc.

Sponsor: Goodrich Aerostructures

Shirley Hamilton, Controlled Precision Manufacturing, Inc.

Sponsor: Lockheed Martin Marine Systems

Su Young Ye, Ace Industries, Inc.

Sponsor: Northrop Grumman Corp., Space Technology, Radio Systems

Ben Garrido, Metal Master

Sponsor: Raytheon – Integrated Defense Systems

Jim Lasswell INDUS Technology, Inc.

Sponsor: Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)

Mark Zavadil, Darmark Corporation

Sponsor: Solar Turbines Incorporated

Nina & Bill Raridan, Ramtech Engineering

Sponsor: VIASAT, Inc.

2004 BID BUSINESS OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Also, the San Diego Business Improvement District (BID) Council will announce its BID Business of the Year from the following individual BID Businesses of the Year, who are, in turn, the nominees for the overall BID Business of the Year:

Robert Leiker, Platt College

Sponsor: College Area Business District

Barbara L. Pake, Ortinine Hardware

Sponsor: Diamond CDC dba: BID

Jay Brewer, North Shores Printery

Sponsor: Discover Pacific Beach

Dan O'Brien, Octopus Clothing

Sponsor: Downtown San Diego Partnership

Ricardo Alvarez-Malo, El Pollo Loco

Sponsor: El Cajon Boulevard BID

Mr. David Rea and Mr. Harry Sillen, David's Coffeehouse

Sponsor: Hillcrest BID

Ms. Gayle E. Stone, Simply Italian

Sponsor: Little Italy

Eric Munro, Travelwise International

Sponsor: North Bay Association, Inc.

George Lofland, San Diego Art Department

Sponsor: North Park

Richard Grosch, Ocean Beach Hotel

Sponsor: Ocean Beach Main Street BID

Sami Ladeki, Ladeki Restaurant Group

Sponsor: Promote La Jolla, Inc.

Bertha Alicia Gonzalez, Bertha Alicia Gonzalez, Inc.

Sponsor: San Ysidro Business Association

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The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce will also present awards to 5 San Diego area businesses.

Luncheon seats are still available. For tickets to the event, please contact the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, which produces the Small Business Awards Luncheon in conjunction with the U.S. Small Business Administration. To register, please call the Chamber at (619) 544-1339, or register online at: www.sdchamber.org. For further information call (619) 544-1335.

Media attendance, participation and coverage of this special awards banquet are encouraged. Additional information on SBA's Small Business Week Awards program is available from SBA's Cynthia Harris at (619) 557-7250, extension 1155. (Lunch is complimentary for Media.)

*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640 or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov. The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*

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NOTE: More detailed descriptions of each small business winner are available. Please call Cynthia Harris, SBA, at (619) 557-7250, extension 1155, if you would like to receive it.