



## NEWS RELEASE

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**Massachusetts District Office**  
**10 Causeway Street**  
**Boston, MA 02222**  
**Phone: 617-565-5590**

**Contact: Joan M. Trudell**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**Phone: 617-565-5572**  
**joan.trudell@sba.gov**  
**Fax: 617-565-5597**

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### **GROVELAND-BASED UNION MACHINE CO., OF LYNN, INC. WINS SBA AWARD**

**BOSTON** – Groveland-based Union Machine Co. of Lynn has been named the 2004 Family-Owned Small Business of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) according to an announcement made by Mark S. Hayward, Acting Massachusetts SBA District Director.

The Family-Owned Small Business of the Year Award, a new category this year, will be presented annually to a family-owned and operated business with a 15-year track record that has been passed on from one generation to another.

This nomination package was evaluated using the following criteria: (1) Evidence of success as measured by sales and profits. (2) Increased employment opportunities for family and non-family members. (3) Demonstrated potential for long-term business success and economic growth. (4) Voluntary efforts to strengthen family-owned businesses within the community.

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“The SBA awards honor the best small business has to offer, and Union Machine Co. of Lynn and its president Eric Harper, are an outstanding choice,” said SBA Regional Administrator Jeffrey Butland. “This is an outstanding testimonial, not only to Eric Harper’s accomplishments, but to his commitment and dedication to small business success and community service as well. I join my SBA colleagues in congratulating Eric and his staff on this significant achievement.”

Union Machine Company of Lynn, Inc., a manufacturer of jet engine parts and aircraft hardware, has been an important innovator and contributor to the aerospace industry since 1953. The company was founded by Charles Weiler and Waclaw Malhowski, both of whom were General Electric employees at the time. Charles Weiler’s son-in-law, Wes Harper, joined the company in 1955 and together this talented team rapidly secured a foothold in the burgeoning aerospace market. Wes Harper’s son Eric joined the company in 1965 and was named president in 1980 beginning the company’s third generation of family ownership. Union Machine received a \$650,000 SBA-backed working capital loan in 1990 to support a large contract.

“Today Union Machine continues the pattern of quality and innovation that were the hallmark of the company’s founders in 1953,” said Hayward. “Our awards committee thought that Union Machine was a perfect fit for this first-time award because they exceeded all of the eligibility criteria with flying colors.”

Eric Harper will be honored at an awards breakfast at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston on June 10, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. The Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year, Larry O’Toole, president of Somerville-based Gentle Giant Moving Company, Inc., will also be honored along with eight other small businesses and champions from throughout the state. The event is open to the public and those interested in attending should contact Christine Carter at SBA at 617-565-5560.

