



## NEWS RELEASE

### WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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### ***Barry Gasdek Named Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year 2003***

**Casper** – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Barry D. Gasdek, Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year 2003.

This award is given to an individual who has fulfilled a commitment to advancing small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Evaluation criteria includes active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses; evidence of increased business opportunities for veterans as a result of the nominee's actions; advisory activities to improve awareness among veterans' groups of small business opportunities; advocacy of special consideration for veteran-owned small businesses in government policymaking; demonstrated accomplishment in obtaining support within the community for the establishment of veteran-owned small businesses and other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective advocacy of veteran owned small businesses. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Mr. Gasdek is a highly decorated Vietnam Veteran. Among his numerous service awards are the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Soldier's Medal, Legion of Merit, 17 Air Medals, two Purple Hearts, 5 Bronze Stars for Valor, the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross for valor in combat (second only to the Medal of Honor). He has been associated with the Wyoming Veterans' Affairs Commission since 1996. He was named Wyoming's first State Veterans Service Officer in 1999 and has been serving veterans of the state ever since.

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