



***SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL OF AMERICA  
26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS  
HONORED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS,  
SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS MAY 6***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**--The Small Business Council of America (SBCA), a national nonprofit organization which represents the interests of more than 20,000 privately-held and family-owned organizations on Federal tax, employee benefit and health care matters, presented its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Congressional Awards at a reception on Capitol Hill on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Congressional Award honorees included:



***Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)*** received the 2009 SBCA Congressional Award for his dedication and hard work in protecting and promoting the nation's small businesses. Paula Calimafde, Chair of the SBCA, said while presenting the award, "Senator Hatch's willingness to understand complex tax issues, his desire to be fair and his leadership skills are among the many reasons why it is my privilege to present the Senator with this prestigious Award."



***Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE)*** received the 2009 SBCA Congressional Award for his efforts to stop the unconscionable penalties being imposed on small businesses and their owners through tax code §6707A. Alex Brucker, SBCA Director, said, "Senator Nelson has taken a courageous stance on 6707A since many think it only hurts people involved in abusive tax shelters. He understands that many innocent small business owners are facing bankruptcy because of its unfair

provisions.” He was also applauded for voicing his concern that some of the health care reforms being considered by Congress could lead to socialized medicine and his belief that it is better to fix the current health care system instead of throwing it away.



***Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE)*** received the 2009 SBCA Congressional Award for his understanding of small businesses, their needs and the problems facing small business with respect to health care and taxes. Peter Shanley, SBCA’s CEO said, “The SBCA appreciates Congressman Castle’s tireless efforts to support America’s small businesses and the entrepreneurial spirit of America’s private enterprise system. He understands the

relationship between overly burdensome laws and reduced productivity. Changing our business environment by reducing burdensome and complex tax regulations on our nation’s small business will promote our nation’s productivity and competitiveness in the years ahead.”



***Congressman Joe Donnelly (D-IN)*** received the 2009 SBCA Congressional Award in recognition of his efforts to change the unfair tax code § 6707A penalties, which are threatening innocent small business owners with bankruptcy. His ability to understand complicated tax code provisions and their real impact on hard working Americans is greatly appreciated by the SBCA. The SBCA thanked him for his hard work in Congress and his

dedication to small businesses and small business owners across the country.

The SBCA also presented awards to several individuals in the private sector in recognition of their outstanding achievements on behalf of small businesses and for their outstanding humanitarian efforts. Those honorees included:

**Marc S. Levine, of Houston, TX,** received the 2009 SBCA Small Business Person of the Year Award for his outstanding efforts and accomplishments as a representative of our country's small businesses. Marc is the founder and CEO of the family owned and very successful UnitedCompanies. Today UnitedCompanies has over 300 employees and packages over 2 billion pounds of resin annually for some of the world's foremost



resin producers and plastic distributors. Peter Weinbaum, SBCA Director, said, "Not only is Marc Levine an outstanding business man but he is also someone who gives back to his community and to his employees. He goes the extra mile for his clients and his employees."

**Bryan J. Stone, of Columbus, GA,** received the 2009 SBCA Small Business Person of the Year Award for his successful small business, Columbus Gourmet, Inc. and for his efforts to ensure that all of his employees succeed. Mort Harris, one of the co-founders of the SBCA, said, "Bryan Stone is one of the most talented business men in Columbus, Georgia and has transformed Columbus Gourmet into a dynamic, growing company specializing in gourmet



foods and in providing custom packaging and private labeling. What makes his achievement so remarkable is that he has accomplished so much in such a short amount of time. His work on behalf of his minority employees in particular deserves special recognition."





**David and Michelle Baldacci, of Reston, VA,** received the prestigious SBCA 2009 Small Business Humanitarians of the Year for their ongoing efforts to stamp out adult and family illiteracy in the United States. David and Michelle created the Wish You Well Foundation to support literacy in the United States. Their efforts have already positively affected the lives of thousands across the country. Patricia Donnelly, the Executive

Director of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, acknowledged the efforts of the Baldaccis and introduced Jack Spinner who explained how his life had changed for the better as his ability to read improved thanks to the Literacy Council.



**Alex Brucker, of Los Angeles, CA** was honored with the SBCA Connie Murdoch Award for outstanding leadership, dedication and achievements on behalf of the SBCA. Created for one of the founders of the SBCA – highly acclaimed Delaware tax attorney, Connie Murdoch – this award is presented in his memory and in acknowledgement of all the good work he did for SBCA. Mr. Brucker, one of the leading

retirement plan lawyers in Los Angeles, has served a Director and has worked tirelessly to save small businesses from the unconstitutional and unfair 6707A penalties, which threaten to throw innocent small business owners into bankruptcy.