



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2016

**SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL OF AMERICA
HONORS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS DURING
33RD ANNUAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS DAY AND CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS RECEPTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 17, 2016) – On May 4, 2016, the Small Business Council of America (SBCA) held its 33rd Annual Public Affairs Day and Congressional Awards Reception. The SBCA is a national non-partisan 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 issues.

The Public Affairs Day, held at the historic Willard Hotel, featured presentations by administrative officials, Congressional staff members and political commentators, as well as discussions of critical issues facing small businesses.

During the Public Affairs Day, the SBCA presented the following awards:

Senator Jim Risch (R-ID) received the SBCA's Congressional Award in recognition of his hard work on behalf of small business as a member of the Senate Small Business Committee. The SBCA acknowledged Senator Risch for his detailed understanding of, and advocacy on, the nuanced issues that are critical to small businesses and their owners.

Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) received the SBCA's Congressional Award in appreciation for her advocacy and strong voice on behalf of small businesses. The SBCA applauded Senator Heitkamp for her efforts on the Senate Small Business Committee to seek compromises and look out for the best interests of small business.

Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA) and **Congressman Dr. Charles Boustany (R-LA)** received the Congressional Award in recognition of their introduction and sponsorship of the Small Business Healthcare Relief Act. The SBCA thanked Congressman Thompson and Congressman Boustany for their leadership in promoting common-sense bi-partisan legislation that if passed, will significantly assist small businesses in providing health care for their employees.

During the 2016 Awards Reception, which was held at the Washington, D.C. restaurant Brasserie Beck, the SBCA presented its Humanitarian of the Year, Mort Harris Small Business of the Year and Connie Murdoch awards.



The SBCA’s Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to **Robert Kent** of Rockville, Maryland. Mr. Kent was honored for his work as the founder of the PeaceCamp Initiative. The PeaceCamp Initiative works to build bonds and foster friendships between Jewish and Arab youth by bringing them together and sponsoring their attendance at Camp Susquehannock and teaching them peaceful conflict resolution through the practice of Aikido.

SBCA CEO, Matt Kadish (left), Robert Kent (center), and SBCA Director, Neil Carrey (right)

Thanks to the generous contributions of the SBCA, SBCA Director Neil Carrey and his wife, Karen Carrey, and many SBCA members, the SBCA was able to present Mr. Kent with a significant contribution from the Chris Carrey Charitable Foundation for the PeaceCamp Initiative.

The SBCA’s Mort Harris Small Business Person of the Year Award was presented to **Troy Guard**, of Denver, Colorado. Mr. Guard opened his first restaurant, TAG in 2009 and has since opened a number of restaurants around the Denver area and currently has over 400 employees. The Mort Harris Small Business Person of the Year Award was renamed in honor of SBCA founder Mort Harris who passed away in 2015. This year, the award was presented to Mr. Guard by Mr. Harris’ grandson, Sean McIntire.



Shawn McIntire (left) and Troy Guard (right)



The Connie Murdoch Award was presented to SBCA Board Member **Sandra Turner** of Oviedo, Florida in recognition of her commitment to, and work on behalf of, the SBCA and small businesses across the country. Created in honor of one of the founders of the SBCA – highly acclaimed Delaware tax attorney Connie Murdoch – this award is presented to an SBCA member in his memory and in acknowledgement of his willingness to get involved in the democratic process in order to help small businesses. Ms. Turner is the President and founder of Retirement Plan Services, Inc. a full service administration, actuarial and consulting firm for retirement. The award was presented to Ms. Turner by last year’s Connie Murdock Award Winner, Brad Knox of Washington, D.C.

Sandra Turner (left) and Brad Knox (right)

The SBCA offers congratulations to all of its 2016 award winners.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

Matt Kadish
CEO
216-696-3030
mkadish@khwlaw.com

Paula Calimafde
Chair
301-951-9325
calimafd@paleyrothman.com