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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 10, 2018

**SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL OF AMERICA  
HONORS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS DURING  
35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS DAY AND CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS RECEPTION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 10, 2018)** – On May 9, 2018, the Small Business Council of America ([SBCA](#)) held its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Affairs Day and Congressional Awards Reception in Washington, D.C. The SBCA is a national non-partisan nonprofit organization which represents the interests of more than 100,000 privately-held and family-owned organizations on federal tax, employee benefit and health care issues.

The Public Affairs Day and Congressional Awards Reception featured remarks and presentations from members of Congress, congressional staff members, and a political reporter, discussions about the critical issues facing small businesses, and the presentation of the SBCA's annual awards.

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

**Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)** was awarded the SBCA's Congressional Award for his commitment to small business issues and his efforts to help protect the retirement security of all Americans as a member of the Senate Finance and Health Education, Labor and Pensions Committees and the Senate's Special Committee on Aging.

**Senator Tim Scott (R-SC)** was awarded the SBCA's Congressional Award for the first hand understanding that he has brought to small business issues and his commitment to ensuring that Congress does not lose sight of the importance or needs of the country's small businesses.

Following the conclusion of Public Affairs Day, the SBCA presented the following awards during its Congressional Awards Reception:



**Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV)** received the Congressional Award in recognition of his reasoned approach to governance and efforts to find bi-partisan solutions that help America's small businesses.

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) with SBCA Chair Paula Calimafde and Brian Glasser.

**Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA)** received the Special Congressional Appreciation Award in recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of small businesses as Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, including his recent letter to the IRS regarding the significant increase in VCP user fees for small businesses. Congressman Neal was previously recognized with the SBCA's Congressional Award.



Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA) with SBCA President Gary Kushner



**Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH)** received the Congressional Award for his leadership as Chair of the House Small Business Committee and his sponsorship of the Small Business Owners' Tax Simplification Act of 2017 (H.R. 3717) which would reverse the IRS's discriminatory rules against small business owners and allow small business owners to participate in cafeteria plans.

Congressman Steve Chabot (R-OH) with SBCA CEO & Vice President of Legislation, Matt Kadish and SBCA Vice President of Membership Karen Rotgin

**Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA)** received the Rising Star Award in recognition of his strong leadership during his first three years in Congress and his dedication to America's small businesses, including helping small businesses protect against and respond to 21<sup>st</sup> century threats such as in the area of cyber security.



Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA) with SBCA Board Member Neil Carrey



Jeremy Hale (right) and Molly Hale (via video link) with SBCA Board Member Neil Carrey

The SBCA's Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to Molly and Jeremy Hale of Penn Valley, CA. Mr. and Mrs. Hale were honored for their work as co-owners of Ability Production, LLC, a spinal cord injury design and consulting nonprofit founded in 2004 which provides services, information and resources for individuals managing spinal cord injuries. 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 Ability Production with a significant contribution from the Chris Carrey Charitable Foundation.



The SBCA's Mort Harris Small Business Person of the Year Award was presented to **Becca Riker**, of Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Riker is the owner of The Mutt Hutt, which is a cage-free canine care center in Cleveland, Ohio. In conjunction with the Mutt Hutt, Ms. Riker also runs Second Hand Mutts which is a non-profit animal rescue. The award was presented to Ms. Riker by SBCA Board Member, Christy Woskobochnik.

Becca Riker (right) with SBCA Board Member Christy Woskobochnik

The SBCA presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to SBCA Board Member **Sam Gilbert** in recognition of the countless hours that he has dedicated to advocating on behalf of the small business retirement plan system over the course of his successful career. This is only the second Lifetime Achievement Award that SBCA has presented in its more than forty years in existence.



SBCA Board Member and Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Sam Gilbert

The [SBCA offers congratulations to all of its 2018 award winners.](#)

For more information, please feel free to contact:

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