



MEMORANDUM

TO: SBCA Members

FROM: Matthew F. Kadish, CEO

DATE: December 10, 2019

RE: Mort Harris Small Business Person Award - 2020

Each year the Small Business Council of America (SBCA) honors a business person with the Small Business Person Award. This Award was renamed “Mort Harris Small Business Person Award” in 2017 in honor of SBCA co-founder Mort Harris who passed away in 2015.

The Mort Harris Small Business Person Award for 2020 will be recognized and honored in person at our 37th Congressional Awards Reception including dinner held at a place to be determined in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. The award honors an American businessman or woman for outstanding accomplishments in promoting a favorable environment for the small businesses of America.

We are seeking nominations from SBCA members who have been in good standing for at least one year. Nominees do not have to be members of the SBCA, but must be U.S. citizens. To nominate someone for this Award, please send us a full biographical description of the nominee and a narrative statement with specific information about the nominee's qualifications for selection, together with any supporting endorsements from business and government leaders, employees, etc. Your narrative statement should include explain how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- Dedication to small business in America as evidenced through promotion of a climate favorable to free enterprise;
- Promotion of a positive image of American business through excellent business, civic or corporate leadership; and
- Leadership in advancing the interest of small business in America evidenced by efforts and accomplishments in affecting the legislative and regulatory environment.

To allow adequate time to evaluate the nominees, nominations must be received by by **March 1, 2020**. Nominations should be mailed to: Small Business Person of the Year Committee, c/o Leanne Redstone, Small Business Council of America, 2751 Centerville Road, Suite 401, Little Falls Centre Two, Wilmington, DE 19808. Alternatively, you may email your nominations (with attachments in PDF format) to lredstone@shanlaw.com.

The award winner will receive a stipend of up to \$1,000 to pay for his or her travel expenses to Washington, D.C. and will receive national, regional and local publicity relating to the Mort Harris Small Business Person Award itself.

The award winner will also receive complimentary SBCA memberships for calendar years 2020 and 2021

From time to time we have been asked for more information on who should be nominated (beyond the general criteria listed above). Due to the diverse nature and impact of small businesses, it is not really possible to define one type of person who will receive this award in any given year. However, it may help to highlight a few of our past award winners:

- The recipient in 2014 was Susan Preston of Seattle, WA. Susan, a general partner of CalCEF Clean Energy Angel Fund, was recognized for her efforts in the advancement of angel investors and women entrepreneurs. Ms. Preston and her company work to help small business ideas become a reality by providing promising entrepreneurs with early-stage investments.
- In 2016 the Award was presented to Troy Guard from Denver, Colorado. Mr. Guard is head chef and owner of more than nine restaurants in the Greater Denver area providing jobs for more than 400 people. His unwavering commitment to small businesses, has paid off with consumer reviews and constant growth. Troy has helped stimulate a vibrant Denver community which has seen unprecedented economic growth in a time where the nation economy has struggled.
- In 2017 the recipient was Michael Lastoria from Washington, DC. Mr. Lastoria is the CEO and Co-Founder of the D.C. based fast-casual pizza restaurant &pizza®, which now has eleven locations in D.C. and over twenty locations around the Mid-Atlantic region. At the helm of &pizza, Mr. Lastoria has championed an employee-friendly approach and has been a strong supporter of increasing federal and state minimum wages.
- In 2018, Becca Riker of Cleveland, OH was honored with the Award. 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.
- Last year, Kenneth Hoffmann of Casselberry, Florida, was presented with this award. Mr. Hoffmann is the co-founder of DynaFire, Inc., a fire alarm company now employing over 260 people dedicated to providing the best fire alarm, sprinkler, security and suppression systems to commercial facilities in Central Florida. It now has 7 offices throughout the State of Florida and employs a very diversified group of people who are passionate about what they do.

As you can see, our award winners hail from many parts of the country. We encourage you to nominate a small business person for the SBCA's Mort Harris Small Business Person Award. Nominations should be in letter format along with any other written materials from outside sources to support your nomination.

Nominations are due no later than March 1, 2020.