

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Small Business Council of America (SBCA) held its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Affairs Day and Congressional Awards Reception in Washington, D.C. this May. The SBCA is a national non-partisan nonprofit organization which has represented the interests of more than 100,000 privately-held and family-owned organizations on federal tax, employee benefit and health care issues for the last five decades.

While Washington, D.C. has become notorious for its partisanship and cynicism, the Congressional Awards Reception shone as a beacon reminder that there are good people in Congress and throughout the country working across the aisle to make the system work for small businesses. The sense of purpose and optimism coming out of the event will continue to fuel the SBCA and its members in the coming year.

During the Congressional Awards Reception, the SBCA highlighted the achievements and contributions of members of Congress and small business owners through the presentation of the following awards:

**Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)** was awarded the SBCA's Congressional Award in recognition of his support of small businesses as a member of the Senate Finance Committee. In particular, Senator Brown was applauded for his efforts to promote legislation, like the Restaurant Revitalization Tax Credit Act, to help America's small businesses continue to recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Senator Angus King (I-ME)** was awarded the SBCA's Congressional Award for his independent spirit and his efforts to promote American innovation. Senator King was honored for his commitment to helping small and locally owned businesses and industries continue to thrive through challenging economic times.

**Congressman Ed Case (D-HI)** was awarded the SBCA Special Congressional Award in recognition of his ongoing commitment and leadership in protecting interests of small businesses and bringing the critical issues that face small businesses to the fore. He was also recognized for his participation in the Problem Solvers Caucus. Congressman Case is a prior recipient of the SBCA's Rising Star Award and Congressional Award and this Special Congressional Award has only been awarded a few times by the SBCA over the last forty years.

**Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)** was awarded the SBCA's Congressional Award for his leadership as co-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus. Congressman Fitzpatrick was lauded for his commitment to setting partisanship aside and promoting dialogue and common sense solutions to the most challenging issues facing our nation. His remarks were noteworthy for his steel determination to see the United States continue its position in the world, his historical perspective and his overall optimism in finding ways to make Congress work in a bipartisan fashion. **Congresswoman Sharice Davids (D-KS)** was awarded the SBCA Rising Star award for her contributions and clear appreciation for small business issues as a member of the Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access. The SBCA Rising Star Award is presented in recognition of a member's work on behalf of small businesses during their first or second terms in Congress.

The SBCA's Mort Harris Small Business Person of the Year Award was presented to **Steven and Julie Weintraub** of Clearwater, Florida, for exemplifying an entrepreneurial spirit and the success of small business. Mr. and Mrs. Weintraub are the owners of Gold & Diamond Source, a company that they built from the ground up and that now has seventy employees. In addition to their business success, Mr. and Ms. Weintraub were recognized for their philanthropic work in the Tamp/St. Petersburg area through their non-profit Hands Across the Bay which helps persons and families in need.

The SBCA's Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to **Joseph Gallagher** of Altamonte Springs, Florida. A small business owner himself, Mr. Gallagher is the founder of Ali's Hope, an extraordinary non-profit organization which works to promote awareness of mental health concerns and improve the quality of life for adolescents and young adults living with mental health challenges through education, support and advocacy.

The SBCA's Special Achievement Award was awarded in absentia to SBCA's longtime Treasurer and Board Member **Charlie Johnson** in recognition of his more than 40 years of dedication and exemplary service to the organization. The award will be formally presented in person to Mr. Johnson at the SBCA's 2024 Annual meeting in January.

The SBCA offers congratulations to all of its 2023 award winners.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

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