

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 10, 2019

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

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 10, 2019)** – On May 8, 2019, the Small Business Council of America (SBCA) held its 36<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 for forty years has represented 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, which has long been the highlight of the SBCA's annual calendar, featured discussions about the critical issues facing small businesses and the presentation of awards to members of Congress and small business owners.

The SBCA presented the following awards during its Congressional Awards Reception:



Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) with  
SBCA Chair Paula Calimafde

**Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)** received the SBCA's Special Congressional Appreciation Award in recognition of her active and dedicated leadership on behalf of the country's small businesses as Chair of the House Small Business Committee. The Special Congressional Appreciation Award is the SBCA's highest Congressional Award and has been presented just a handful of times during the SBCA's distinguished history. Congresswoman Velázquez previously received the SBCA's Congressional Award in 2002.

**Congressman Ed Case (D-HI)** received the SBCA's Special Congressional Award Appreciation Award in recognition of his keen understanding of small business issues and his dedication to promoting fiscally responsible solutions in Congress. Congressman Case previously received the SBCA's Congressional Award in 2006.



Congressman Ed Case (D-HI)  
with SBCA CEO Matthew Kadish

**Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA)** received the Congressional Award for her work as a member of the House Small Business and Ways and Means Committee and, in particular, her commitment to expanding small business opportunities and access to capital.



Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA)  
with SBCA Board Member Neil Carrey

**Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)** was awarded the SBCA's Congressional Award for his commitment to small business leadership on behalf of small businesses in this country as a member of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. Senator Rubio was in his home state of Florida touring disaster areas and was unable to accept his award in person. The Senator's Project Director on the Small Business Committee, Caleb Orr, accepted the award on the Senator's behalf.



Kenneth L. Hoffmann (center) with his wife (left)  
and SBCA Board Member Sandra Turner (right)

The SBCA's Mort Harris Small Business Person of the Year Award was presented to **Kenneth L. Hoffmann** of Casselberry, FL, for exemplifying an entrepreneurial spirit and the success of small business. Mr. Hoffmann is the CEO of DynaFire, Inc. which provides fire alarm system solutions to commercial facilities in Florida. In just fifteen years, with Mr. Hoffmann's leadership, DynaFire has grown to seven offices across Florida with over 260 employees.

The SBCA's Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to **John Nicholas DeCaire** of Newark, DE. Mr. DeCaire has worked tirelessly to develop and expand inclusive opportunities for individuals within his community, particularly children. Mr. DeCaire's most recent efforts include the funding and construction of a 6,000 square foot fully accessible playground in Newark, DE. Mr. DeCaire's father, Havi DeCaire, received the Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2006 for his work on behalf of Operation Smile and the American Cancer Society. 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. DeCaire with a significant contribution from the Chris Carrey Charitable Foundation.



John Nicholas DeCaire (center) with SBCA  
Board Members Neil Carrey (left) and  
Peter Shanley



The SBCA's Connie Murdoch Award was presented to SBCA Co-Vice President of Membership and Board of Directors Member **Karen Rotgin-Bialek, Esq.** The Connie Murdoch Award, which is named in honor of one of the SBCA's founders, is the only award presented by the SBCA to one of its own members. Ms. Rotgin-Bialek received the award in recognition of her unwavering dedication to growing the SBCA's membership and her poised and thoughtful approach to promoting the interests of America's small businesses.

SBCA President Gary Kushner and award recipient and SBCA Co-Vice President and Board Member Karen Rotgin-Bialek, Esq.

The SBCA offers congratulations to all of its 2019 award winners.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

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