



Michael Bowlds Named Advocate of the Year Finalist

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Contact:
Molly Brogan
202-552-2904
press@nsba.biz

Washington, D.C. — NSBA this week honored Silver Spring, Md. small-business owner Michael Bowlds as a finalist for the 2009 Lewis Shattuck Small Business Advocate of the Year Award. Bowlds was recognized among four other entrepreneurs during NSBA's Annual Advocate of the Year Award Luncheon held Tuesday, June 9 at in Washington, D.C.

"In addition to running a very successful business, Mr. Bowlds dedicates countless hours to helping other small businesses succeed," stated NSBA President Todd McCracken. "His work in the greater Washington, D.C. area has made a huge difference to myriad small businesses working to break into the federal contracting arena."

Bowlds, president of Mountaintop Marketing Group, LLC, has been an outspoken advocate for small and minority business contracting concerns. He currently serves on the board of the Montgomery County (Md.) Chamber of Commerce and the National Business League of Greater Washington, and was a founding member of the Government Contracting Network (GovConNet) initiative. Bowlds also serves as board chairman for the National Capital Area Minority Business Opportunity Center.

Bowlds created the "Peak Series CIO Breakfast," a monthly forum to connect small-business technology vendors with federal chief information officers and contracting officials. His tireless efforts in the last year alone have resulted in minority business enterprises securing over \$199 million in government contracts

NSBA recognized three other finalists: Michael Mitternacht, Factory Service Agency, Inc. in Metairie, La.; Susan Ratliff, Exhibit Experts, Inc. in Phoenix, Ariz.; and Robert C. Smith, Spero-Smith Investment Advisers, Inc. in Beachwood, Ohio. Thomas C. Pitrone, CFP, The Integrity Group in Willoughby, Ohio was named the 2009 Advocate of the Year.

The criteria used in determining award finalists was a commitment to small business advocacy, a proven history of volunteer activism on behalf of the small-business community, and success and growth as a small-business owner.

Since 1937, NSBA has advocated on behalf of America's entrepreneurs. A staunchly nonpartisan organization, NSBA reaches more than 150,000 small businesses nationwide and is proud to be the nation's first small-business advocacy organization. For more information, please visit www.nsba.biz

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