



# NEWS RELEASE

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## SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARD WINNERS-2007

“The winners for National Small Business Week have been selected,” announced Manuel Gonzalez, District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Houston District Office. Winners for the Houston District, which covers 32 counties, are as follows:

SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR – Bruce Smith, Safety Vision  
FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR – Rhonda Lewis, Wells Fargo  
HOME-BASED CHAMPION OF THE YEAR – Sheila Lee Coates, Chuck Wagon Svcs.  
MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR – Constance Jones, HMBC  
SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTER OF THE YEAR – Lisa Phillip, Hybas International  
SBA YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR – John Hernandez, H Wheel & Tire  
SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR – Alfredo Giraldo, Rumbo  
VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR – Tommy Tucker, Graco Awards  
WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR – Valerie Boudreaux-Allen, First Step  
FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR – Michele Falzon, F. W. Gartner Thermal Spray

Gonzalez stated, “We will salute these outstanding individuals at our Small Business Week Awards Luncheon at noon on Friday, May 11, 2007, at the Marriott Houston Westchase Hotel, 2900 Briar Park Drive.”

The Awards Luncheon is sponsored by SCORE, a resource partner of SBA and Counselors to America’s Small Businesses. Keynote speaker for the luncheon is Dr. Bernard Harris, a former astronaut who went on two space missions and was the first African American to walk in space. For additional information regarding the Awards Luncheon, please call 713/773-6527.

For more than 43 years, the President has designated a week as Small Business Week and we will be saluting the achievements of the nation’s 25 million small businesses in this process. President Bush said, “America’s economy is the most prosperous in the world, and the small business sector is one of its great strengths.”

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