



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 1, 2019

**CONTACT:** Nikki Lyon

Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

[nlyon@novachamber.org](mailto:nlyon@novachamber.org)

703-752-7521

## **Northern Virginia Chamber Announces the 2019 Distinguished Service Awards Finalists**

*Winners to be Announced Live at the [Distinguished Service Awards](#) breakfast on October 22 at 7:30 a.m.*

**Tysons, Va** –The [Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce](#) (Northern Virginia Chamber) has announced finalists for the 2019 Distinguished Service Awards.

“The 2019 Distinguished Service Awards finalists are unsung heroes in the Northern Virginia business community employing thousands of veterans and civilians alike,” said Julie Coons, Northern Virginia Chamber president and CEO. “Veterans are a vibrant part of Northern Virginia’s robust economy and their contributions are integral to growing our region. “

The Distinguished Service Awards honor those who have made meaningful contributions to help veterans succeed. The award categories include: **Veteran-Owned Business of the Year** in three categories, **Veteran Employee of the Year** in one category, **Veteran Service Organization of the Year** in one category, and one **Lifetime Distinguished Service Award**.

### **The 2019 Distinguished Service Awards finalists are:**

#### **Veteran-Owned Business of the Year:**

##### **Emerging** (less than 5 years in business)

- IT Depot LLC
- GCubed, Inc.
- RavenTek

##### **Maturing** (between 5 and 10 years in business)

- AbleVets LLC
- Firebird Analytical Solutions and Technologies
- Gritter Francona, Inc.
- Heartland Consulting
- HigherEchelon, Inc.
- OBXtek, Inc.



**Established** (more than 10 years in business)

- B3 Group, Inc.
- Intelligent Waves LLC
- ITility LLC
- Knight Solutions
- Perfecta
- VARCom Solutions

**Veteran Employee of the Year:**

- Hillary Boyce, IntellectTechs, Inc.
- Brooke Chelette, Novetta
- Christopher Duffley, American Red Cross, National Capital Region
- Shaun Duling, Washington Gas
- Richard Ferry, LMI
- Wes Hall, C2S Consulting Group
- Gene Hammond, iDirect Government
- Lieutenant General (United States Army, Retired) Frank Helmick, SOS International LLC (SOSi)
- Charles Kuyk, Deloitte & Touche, LLP
- Brian McGuinness, JK Moving Service
- Charles Miles, PenFed Credit Union
- Maggie Pollard, Accenture
- John Pross, Criterion Systems, Inc.
- Michael Quinn, EY (Ernst & Young)
- Jovani Santana, Leidos
- Herbert Valle, Axiologic Solutions LLC

**Veteran Service Organization of the Year:**

- 360 Veterans' Association
- Association of the United States Army (AUSA), George Washington Chapter (GWC)
- The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes
- Code of Support Foundation
- Easterseals DC MD VA
- Hope for The Warriors
- Operation Renewed Hope Foundation, Inc.
- Operation Second Chance
- PenFed Foundation
- Veterans Next Mission
- Workhouse Arts Center



Phillip Panzarella, Chief Operating Officer of Easterseals DC MD VA, will be recognized as the **Lifetime Distinguished Service Award** recipient. Panzarella served as the President for Siemens/ENTEX Government Services, Inc. and Senior Engineering Manager and Sales Executive for IBM. He also served in the U.S. Army for ten years.

“The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive as we introduced a new Veteran Employee of the Year award,” said Ben Rodgers and Bob Eisiminger, co-chairs of the Northern Virginia Chamber’s Veteran and Military Business Council. “We were highly impressed by all the finalists and their efforts to advance the veteran and military community.”

James Schenck, President & CEO of Pentagon Federal Credit Union, will be the keynote speaker at the annual awards breakfast on October 22. Schenck is a Legion of Merit recipient and served on the Army Staff in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. Later he was selected to serve as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army.

More information about the Distinguished Service Awards can be found [here](#). Follow the conversation on Twitter through @NovaChamber with hashtags: #DSA2019.

###

**About the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce:** *The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce (Northern Virginia Chamber), The Voice of Business in Northern Virginia™, is the preeminent Northern Virginia membership organization for businesses to grow through relationship building and partnership engagement throughout the Greater Washington region. 700 organizations and 500,000 employees strong, the Northern Virginia Chamber is the largest chamber of commerce in Northern Virginia and has been working hand-in-hand with regional businesses, government, and academia to build a robust and innovative business community for more than 90 years. To learn more about the Northern Virginia Chamber, please visit <http://www.novachamber.org> and follow the Northern Virginia Chamber on Twitter: [@NOVAChamber](#) and [@NOVAChamber\\_CEO](#).*