



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Connecticut District Office
330 Main Street 2nd. Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-1800
Tel. (860) 240-4700
Website: www.sba.gov/ct

Contact: Debra Dillon
Public Affairs Specialist
Tel: (860) 240-4654
Fax: (860) 240-4659
Email: Debra.Dillon@sba.gov

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U.S. Small Business Administration Selects Groton Resident As 2006 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

Groton – Edward H. Hill, Small Business Liaison Officer at the Electric Boat Corporation (EB) in Groton, CT was selected the 2006 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. A fulfilled commitment to advancing small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces, advisory activities to improve awareness among veterans’ groups of small business opportunities, and demonstrated success in obtaining support within the community for the establishment of veteran-owned small businesses are some of the criteria looked for in winners of this prestigious category.

As the liaison for EB, a major prime contractor to small business owners, Ed serves as the initial point of contact for hundreds and thousands of entrepreneurs looking to sell their products and services to one of our nation’s largest naval contractors. A veteran himself with a 28-year active/reserve military career, Ed has a particular devotion to the needs of veterans and disabled veterans who have developed businesses of their own. He has been tireless in working to assist veteran’s to “learn the ropes” of government contracting as well as sub-contracting to prime contractors of the government. His engaging style, complimented by a keen knowledge of the issues affecting veterans and small business owners has earned Ed the respect and acclaim of government contracting staff throughout New England.

In 2003, Ed organized Electric Boat’s open-house matchmaker event targeting Veteran owned firms and initiated a corporate effort within the General Dynamics Corporation, the parent of EB, to identify, locate, and communicate with Veteran and Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses. Through Ed’s guidance, the vendor base of veteran owned small businesses was increased and allowed the buying teams of EB to record over \$27 million dollars of sub-contracts with veteran owned businesses in 2005.

Ed is the chair of the Small Business Subcommittee for the General Dynamics Corporate Supply Chain Management Council. As chair, Ed has raised the profile of the high quality work provided by veteran-owned businesses throughout the General Dynamics organization. He is also currently working to build a partnership to encourage Connecticut’s veteran-owned small business community to participate in the Small Business Innovative Research program and with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology to transition Navy-developed technology from concept to commercial use.

In addition, Ed gives his time and expertise to many other efforts to improve awareness and improve business expertise among veteran and disabled veteran owned small businesses. He co-chair’s the planning committee for VET BIZ NOW!, at Gateway Community College, which promotes awareness within the veteran community of the numerous resources available to start, maintain, and grow small businesses. Ed also continually makes time in his schedule to share his expertise as a public speaker and presenter at various workshops and programs designed to assist small business owners of all shapes, sizes, and experience levels through a variety of business support organizations throughout the state and New England.

He resides with his wife Margaret Carroll Hill and their three children in Groton Long Point, CT.

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*An award celebration for the SBA 2006 award recipients will be held Thursday June 15, 2006 at 4:00p.m. at The Belvedere, New Haven CT, for more information contact Greta Johansson at (860) 240-4672 or Hugh Curley at (860) 240-4650.
For information on SBA programs and services visit www.sba.gov or call (860) 2404700*