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Veterans form Non-profit Association, USAVETBIZ, to Empower Vets in Business

WASHINGTON, DC, July 2, 2007 – The United States Association of Veterans in Business (USAVETBIZ) has announced the launch of their Web site and national membership drive.

Proudly proclaiming the slogan “COMMERCE FOR THE DEFENDERS” and deemed “an historical launch” by founding director and president, Richard Ramirez, USAVETBIZ (www.USAVETBIZ.org) is the first national non-profit trade and promotional league dedicated exclusively to US military veterans in business. “While operations began earlier this year, we were busy building a strong foundation to best serve entrepreneurial Veterans. Our membership drive is now in full swing, and the phenomenal response we have received to date indicates the the need is significant,” states Ramirez.

According to the U.S. Census, Veteran-owned companies represent nearly 15% percent of all businesses in America. However, thousands of small Vet-owned businesses remain undocumented as such because that data is not collected.

The concept of establishing an association by Veterans for Veterans has been a dream of Ramirez’s since his return from Vietnam in the 1970s. With an all-veteran Board of Directors composed of leaders in business, advocacy, government policy, and association management from across the country, USAVETBIZ’s mission is two-fold: To work on state and national levels for achieving advantages for veterans in business; and to position greater public awareness and patronage of veterans in business — *from Main Street to Wall Street.*

“The membership insignia of USAVETBIZ is pointed to become the nationally recognized banner to military veteran entrepreneurs,” said Ramirez. “Vast numbers of our country’s defenders come home to businesses left behind. And in ever increasing numbers veterans are looking to transition to the battlefields of business development after their service to our Nation,” he ads. According to *Fortune Small Business Magazine*, we are in the midst of the largest entrepreneurial surge this country has ever seen.

“Our government and the American public should remember that our freedoms exist because of Veterans. Veterans have earned their distinction in the community and in commerce, and deserve first opportunity to earn this country’s business,” notes Ramirez.

USAVETBIZ will be a pivotal leader working to achieve advantages for Veterans in all publicly funded contracting programs at both the federal and state level. A report stimulated during the 109th Congress suggested that veterans in business should hold top priority among the many socio-economic contracting programs of the government. “It is long overdue for our government to favor veterans in business similar to the statutory preferences for hiring veterans to the federal workforce. It’s the right thing to do,” says James Low, Executive V.P. of USAVETBIZ. *The time is now for these changes.*

Founded and trademarked in June of 2006, the USAVETBIZ all-Veteran Board of Directors is composed of leaders in their respective fields. Mr. Michael J. Hershman serves as Chairman. He is president of The Fairfax Group and is an internationally recognized expert on matters relating to corporate transparency, accountability and governance.

“USAVETBIZ is deeply honored that Mr. Hershman has accepted the first appointed Chairmanship of our Board. He is truly a veteran in business of world stature and a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber,” notes Mr. Ramirez.

Other Members of the Board are Executive V.P.–Mr. James P. Low, CAE, Chairman of Dynamics America, Inc.; Treasurer–Mr. Jerry Paulsen of Paulsen Productions; Mr. John Garcia, President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Nick Bacon, a highly decorated 21-year Army Veteran; Dr. William Osgood, Co-founder and President of Knowledge Institute; and Mr. Joe Punaro, recent Iraqi War Veteran and Director of Federal Client Solutions for Virginia-based Dynology Corporation.

“The vision we hold for building USAVETBIZ as a nationally recognized organization is significant, long-term, and historic. Free enterprise is not really free. It’s been paid for by those who have served this Nation’s people with the hard currency of their sacrifice. Honoring Vets by supporting them in business is long-overdue,” concludes Ramirez.

About USAVETBIZ Founder, Mr. Richard Ramirez

Richard Ramirez is one of the most uniquely qualified and experienced business development, federal contracting, and strategic marketing experts in the country. In 2006 he completed a three-year commitment as the Senior Business Advisor for the Center for Veterans Enterprise at the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2006. Since then he has returned to his Outrider Company business practices and during this time founded the United States Association of Veterans in Business (USAVETBIZ).

A graduate of the Institute for New Enterprise Development at M.I.T , Mr. Ramirez has been engaged on a national level as a transactional and developmental consultant to companies in over forty industries for over twenty-five years. He has earned wide recognition throughout his career, including the DoD Civilian Meritorious Service Medal and the National Award of Excellence from the Small Business Administration.

Ramirez is a two-tour Vietnam Veteran (’68-70). He served as a logistics and supply support aide at the White House and was among the first soldiers in the Nation selected as a U.S. Sky Marshal to combat terrorism on commercial airliners...30 years prior to 9/11.

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