



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Honors Outstanding Disaster Recovery Efforts

ORLANDO – The owners of a Martha’s Vineyard bed and breakfast destroyed in a fire, the director of West Virginia’s Office of Emergency Services, and the owner of a Maryland construction company who built a temporary storefront for displaced business owners were presented with the Phoenix Awards today at the U.S. Small Business Administration’s *SBA Expo ‘04: Celebrating National Small Business Week*, the agency’s three-day conference in Orlando, Fla.

The awards were presented this morning during a breakfast at the Orange County Convention Center, in the Valencia Ballroom, sponsored by Johnson and Johnson.

“During times of crisis these four people displayed selflessness and courage, and made remarkable contributions to the recovery of their communities,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “The Phoenix Award is SBA’s acknowledgement of their heroic efforts.”

Susan and Sherman Goldstein received the Phoenix Award for “**Small Business Disaster Recovery.**” Their Tisbury Inn was a historic landmark on Martha’s Vineyard until a fire in December 2001 gutted the 200-year-old hotel. The Zephyrus restaurant adjoining the inn sustained heavy smoke and water damage. The Goldsteins were determined to resurrect their business. In addition to securing support from local lenders to help finance the reconstruction, an SBA economic injury disaster loan gave them the working capital to keep their key staffers and pay operating expenses during the 18 months the hotel was closed. Within six months, the Goldsteins reopened the Zephyrus restaurant. In July 2003 they were able to reopen their inn, renaming it “Mansion House.”

Stephen S. Kappa, the winner of the Phoenix Award for “**Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Public Official,**” was acknowledged for his extraordinary leadership and dedication as director of West Virginia’s Office of Emergency Services. During his tenure he has tirelessly responded to the needs of disaster victims in a state that has recently been hit with major flooding, mudslides and severe storms. In each instance, Kappa and his team quickly coordinated damage assessments and provided the governor’s office with the accurate information needed to make a disaster declaration request. That quick action and expertise paved the way for federal disaster recovery funds to reach thousands of disaster victims. Kappa also was involved in developing anti-terrorism initiatives, resulting in \$22 million in funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

After the worst tornado to hit Maryland in 75 years devastated La Plata's business community in April 2002, **Paul V. Facchina, Jr.** understood the hardships his fellow small-business owners were about to face.

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Facchina, who received the Phoenix Award for **“Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Private Citizen,”** is the owner and CEO of Facchina Construction Company, Inc. Since 1987, his La Plata based firm has been involved in many high-profile projects, including the construction of the new parking facility at Baltimore-Washington International airport and the expansion of the Georgetown University Law School campus. Facchina Construction Company also worked on the reconstruction of the Pentagon following the September 11th attacks.

With many small businesses struggling for survival after the tornado, Mr. Facchina approached town officials with a plan to construct a “temporary Town Center” in an effort to save the downtown business community. Using his own resources, Facchina cleared a 1.7 acre parcel of land, developed an infrastructure and delivered 21 fully-appointed modular offices to be occupied by displaced businesses at no cost. Within 11 days, two dozen businesses were back in operation in what became known as “Facchina Village.”

Since 1998, the SBA has presented the Phoenix Awards to business owners and individuals who display courage, resourcefulness and tenacity in the aftermath of a deadly disaster, while contributing to the rebuilding of their communities.

The SBA makes disaster loans to homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes. During fiscal year 2003, the SBA approved more than 25,800 disaster loans for \$885 million. More than \$1 billion in loans were made to businesses that suffered losses in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

To find out more about the SBA’s disaster assistance program, visit the Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster.

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