



SPEAKER BIOS: SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Charles Baker, MCB Lighting Solutions, Owings Mill, MD

After retiring from the U.S. Air Force, Charles Baker founded MCB Lighting & Electrical, Inc. and Government Logistics Solutions. His company offers unique and innovative construction and product solutions, including green technology. Charles has been actively engaged with both the House and Senate Small Business Committees and the Veteran Affairs Subcommittee, where he has represented Veterans on the issue of procurement regulation changes favorable to service-disabled Veterans.

Andy Cabral, Dunkin Donuts, Washington, DC Metropolitan Region

The son of Portuguese immigrants, Andy Cabral started his business on an SBA loan and now runs 10 Dunkin Donuts stores across Maryland and Virginia that employ 130 people. Like many franchise owners, Andy has recent hit the \$2 million cap on SBA loans and has had difficulty getting commercial loans because of the financial crisis.

Kevin Galvin, Connecticut Commercial Maintenance, West Hartford, CT

Connecticut Commercial Maintenance is a 27 year old property maintenance company which employs seven people, doing commercial property maintenance, local residential repair, and facility management consulting in the Hartford area and throughout the country. As the Chair of Small Businesses for Health Care Reform, Kevin has worked tirelessly to bring small business to the table and give them a voice in the debate over health care reform.

Lani Hay, Lanmark Technologies, Fairfax, VA

Lanmark Technologies evolved from a one-woman consulting firm to a multi-million dollar technology enterprise providing telecommunications, technology and administrative services and systems for clients such as federal agencies, state and city government offices, small businesses and Fortune 500 companies. LMT is an SBA 8(a) certified, Woman-owned, Service-Disabled Veteran-owned, Small Disadvantaged Business. Thanks to a contract received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, LMT was recently able to hire five new employees.

William Ortiz-Cartagena, Gentle Parking, San Francisco, CA

A native San Franciscan with extensive experience in the hospitality industry, William Ortiz-Cartagena founded Gentle Parking with the belief that parking should be a service, not simply a commodity. After being adversely affected by the economic downturn, Gentle Parking found critically needed financing from the Opportunity Fund, a Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution, who received addition funding though the Recovery Act. Gentle Parking has now been enabled to open a new location of their eco-friendly parking lot management company, stimulating the local economy and creating jobs.

Mike Tie, Paramount Building Solutions, Tempe, AZ

Paramount Building Solutions provides comprehensive, high-quality janitorial services for retail locations including national big-box, grocery and drugstore chains. Their focus on customer service, reliability, training, and communication has allowed them to succeed. Over the years, Paramount Building Solutions has benefited from investments by Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs). The company was selected as “Portfolio Company of the Year” by the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies.

Susan Walvius, SHEEX, Chapin, SC

SHEEX designs, distributes and markets luxury bedding products crafted from advanced athletic-quality performance fabrics. The SHEEX mission is to provide health-conscious and active-lifestyle consumers with a superior alternative to traditional cotton sheets and pillowcases through the use of advanced materials that maximize breathability, heat transfer, moisture control and stretchability. SHEEX is in the process of seeking several million dollars in capital as they prepare to launch their product in national retail chains.