



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Source: U.S. Association of Veterans in Business
Contact: Megan Pollard (800) 505-1083
CommerceForTheDefender@USAVETBIZ.org

USAVETBIZ to Urge Congress for Government-Wide Preference Contracting & Set-Aside Programs for all Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

National Poll of Vets in Federal Business Provides Clear Marching Orders

WASHINGTON, DC | May 14, 2009 – The United States Association of Veterans in Business (USAVETBIZ) has announced that it will take the lead in championing an historic Federal initiative and seeks the support of all Veteran Service Organizations and the general public to the campaign.

“New law is needed that clearly finds and declares that military Veterans have earned and deserve preference and priority consideration in the award of government small business contracts and subcontracts,” says Richard D. Ramirez, President of USAVETBIZ. “No group of American citizens is more deserving of preference opportunity to do business with the United States of America than the men and women who have defended her –nobody. More and more military Veterans mirror the great melting pot of America and they must be afforded enhanced opportunity based on their service and sacrifice to our country.

“It’s time to broaden the program, and solidify once and for all mandatory first consideration of all qualified veteran-owned small businesses (VOSB’s). The government’s current policies regarding preference and set-aside contracting only for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB) is insufficient and not inclusive. Veterans need to be the Nation’s first choice for federal contracts and other federally funded small business contracting opportunity. Above all other federal socio-economic groups and programs, doing business with military Veterans small business owners must take top priority.”

USAVETBIZ completed a national survey of VOSB and SDVOSB engaged in the federal marketplace. Ninety-six percent (96%) of all responders supported this inclusive initiative. “It’s time to end the opportunity divide between Veteran small business owners who are service-disabled and those that are not. Congress created the divide arbitrarily excluding preference and set-aside opportunity for the vast majority of Veterans seeking federal work,” says Ramirez, himself a two tour service-disabled Vietnam Veteran.

“Our country is losing military Veterans at a rate three times greater than the rate of current and projected discharges of men and women from active duty military service. The population of military Veterans and Vets in business is in steep decline. We must be sure that the landscape of federal preference opportunity for all military Veteran small business owners is secured for the future, now. It’s all about *Commerce for the Defenders* – business opportunity for the great men and women who put their lives on the line to preserve our cultural and economic way of life.”

USAVETBIZ is a non-profit membership trade Association dedicated to enhancing awareness of and opportunity for veterans in business in all channels of commerce, public and private. More information about USAVETBIZ is available at www.USAVETBIZ.org .

####