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**Private Sector Industry Leaders Step Up To the Plate to
Help Military Veteran Business Owners Hurt by the War**

USAVETBIZ to Grant Free Membership and Knowledge Institute to Provide Free Resources to National Guardsmen and Military Reservist Small Business Owners

WASHINGTON, DC | February 4, 2008 – Fueled by concerns over the costs that Veterans in business are experiencing as a result of being called to serve in the War Against Terror, the United States Association of Veterans in Business (USAVETBIZ) is announcing that effective immediately, all National Guardsman and military reservist business owners who are serving or have served in Afghanistan and Iraq, may receive USAVETBIZ membership benefits at no charge.

“Veteran men and women small business owners are seeing their enterprises decimated as they are pulled away by the call to active duty,” says Mr. Ramirez, USAVETBIZ founder and president. “This is an unprecedented event representing severe compromise and economic loss among veteran entrepreneurs, their families and their communities and we are pleased to be able to offer valuable needed and timely help.”

USAVETBIZ is engaged in a range of advocacy activities and networking opportunities for veteran owned business ventures at the national level through a membership-based association. With the support of an experienced Board of Directors made up of veterans, USAVETBIZ provides members with access to decades of national and international experience in business, government, academia, media relations, public policy and community advocacy.

Joining Mr. Ramirez in addressing this growing concern is Board Member, Dr. William Osgood, a veteran himself and an internationally renowned expert in small business development and education. As president and CEO of Knowledge Institute, Inc., Dr. Osgood is making available an online venture development curriculum and mentoring program at no charge through the much acclaimed www.BUZGate.org business resource network.

“It’s virtually impossible to assess the scope of the economic losses brought about as a result of our military service personnel responding to the call of duty at the expense of their professional lives,” says Dr. Osgood. “By joining forces with USAVETBIZ to provide targeted, interactive support and access to experienced business mentors at no charge, we can at the very least, offer assistance that is tailored to the current requirements and aspirations of our veteran entrepreneurs.”

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

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