



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Contact

Bonnie Taylor  
703.297.8554

## Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Announces 2023 Distinguished Service Awards Finalists

*The Awards honor service to veterans within the Greater Washington D.C. Business community*

**Tysons Corner, Virginia** – [The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce](#) (Chamber) has announced the finalists for the 2023 [Distinguished Service Awards \(DSA\)](#), an annual awards event honoring individuals, companies, and non-profit organizations for their service to veterans in the Greater Washington business community. Winners will be announced at the September 12th [event](#) held at the Army Navy Country Club, Arlington.

The event's **keynote speaker** will be [Dr. Linda Singh, Major General \(Retired\)](#) and Founder and CEO, Kaleidoscope Affect, LLC and former Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard. The **2023 Lifetime Distinguished Service honoree** is [James Schenck](#), President and Chief Executive Officer of PenFed Credit Union and a decorated Army veteran, Black Hawk helicopter aviator, and U.S. Military Academy West Point graduate. The **2023 Veteran Advocate of the Year Award honoree** is [Karen R. Lowe](#), Corporate Director, Army Customer Relations, Northrop Grumman and member of the U.S. Army's (AUSA) National Awards Committee.

"Northern Virginia's veteran businesses have proven to be innovative, influential part of our our Greater Washington business community. The Chamber is honored to recognize this important group's achievements and contributions through the 2023 Distinguished Service Awards. Congratulations to this year's finalists," said **Julie Coons**, Chamber President and CEO.

The DSA are presented in recognition of community stewardship and business leadership in the following categories: **Veteran-Owned Business of the Year** (at three levels: Emerging, Maturing, and Established), **Veteran Service Organization of the Year**, and **Veteran Employee of the Year**.

"The DSA committee is beyond excited to honor this year's impressive list of finalists. With this year representing the 75th anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, we are honored to announce our keynote speaker for this year's DSAs is Major General (Retired) Linda Singh, former Adjutant General of the



Maryland National Guard,” said **Ben Rodgers**, Private Wealth Advisor, Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management, and member of the Chamber’s Board of Directors.

**The 2023 DSA Finalists are:**

Veteran Employee of the Year:

- Danielle Applegate, IT Concepts
- Scott DeWitt, Forge Group
- Tom Downs, Booz Allen Hamilton

Veteran Service Organization of the Year, Over \$1 million Annual Budget:

- Children of Fallen Patriots
- Easterseals DC MD VA
- HOPE for the Warriors
- Volunteers of America

Veteran Service Organization of the Year, Under \$1 million Annual Budget:

- George Washington Chapter AUSA
- Navy Safe Harbor Foundation
- NVSBC Education Foundation (NVSBC-EF)
- Resolve Solutions Incorporated
- Riverside Research

Veteran-Owned Business of the Year, Emerging Business (Less than 5 Years in Business):

- OneZero Solutions, LLC.
- Phalanx
- ZeroMils

Veteran-Owned Business of the Year, Maturing (5-10 Years in Business):

- Forge Group LLC
- IronArch Technology
- Sanford Federal, Inc.

Veteran-Owned Business of the Year, Established (More than 10 Years in Business):

- D&G Support Services LLC
- Government Tactical Solutions
- HigherEchelon, Inc.
- Intelligent Waves
- KIHOMAC
- MicroHealth, LLC
- Obsidian Solutions Group
- ThunderCat Technology

More information on the DSA can be found [here](#).

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**About the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce**

Originally founded in 1925 as a Fairfax county-focused business advocacy organization, the Northern Virginia Chamber has grown into the Region’s largest Chamber of Commerce, drawing members and impacting policy



across the Greater Washington Region. Today, we represent close to 500,000 employees. The diversity of our community is one of our greatest assets and we actively seek out and offer opportunities from which we can learn from one another and form personal connections that help guide lasting business growth.

The Chamber's goal is to be considered not only a business partner but also an agent of change for our members. We do this through our work in government advocacy, education through events and programs, workforce programs, networking, promotion of member businesses, and recognition through awards. We are proud to have worked together over these many years to build a meaningful association that enriches our community and look forward to continuing that good work.

For more information, visit [www.novachamber.org](http://www.novachamber.org).