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Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards®

Thursday, November 5, 2026 | Tysons Corner, Virginia





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2026 Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards®

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Williams Mullen

2026 Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards®

EVENT PROGRAM

Thursday, November 5, 2026 | 5:30 - 9:30 pm

REGISTRATION AND AWARDS RECEPTION

Presentation of Colors and National Anthem

Welcome Remarks

Richard Pineda
Board Chairman, NVC

Patrick Soleymani
Associate Dean for Outreach and Strategic Engagement, Costello College of Business, George Mason University

Awards Program Introduction

Chris Ellis
Senior Commercial Executive, Huntington Bank

Chelsea Gates
Regional Employee Benefits Practice Manager, USI Insurance Services

Program of the Year

$25-75 million: KIHOMAC
Presented by BDO

$300 million: Noblis
Presented by Deltek

Public Sector Partner of the Year

Honoree: Laura Stanton
Acting Commissioner, Federal Acquisition Service
U.S. General Services Administration
Presented by Citizens Bank

DINNER BREAK

Keynote Speaker

Ryan Lambert
Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration

Contractor of the Year

Up to $25 million
Presented by Grant Thornton

$25-75 million
Presented by Aprio

$75-300 million
Presented by UBS

Over $300 million
Presented by PNC Bank

Executive of the Year

Up to $75 million
Presented by JPMorgan Chase and RSM

$75-300 million
Co-Presented by Bank of America and CohnReznick

Over $300 million
Co-Presented by ServiceSource and United Bank

LaFleur-Chason Hall of Fame

Inductee: John Goodman
Presented by Pillsbury

Program Closing Remarks and Final Toast

Chris Ellis
Senior Commercial Executive, Huntington Bank

Chelsea Gates
Regional Employee Benefits Practice Manager, USI Insurance Services

Jamie Hill
Project Manager, Lexell Blue Consulting

CHERRY ON TOP DESSERT RECEPTION

Presented by Lexell Blue Consulting



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M&T Bank is proud to support NVC's 2026 Finalists for Contractor and Executive of the Year.

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The Program of the Year Award is presented to a government contractor in the Greater Washington region for an exemplary contract program as described in the Contractor of the Year application.

In order to be considered for this award, you must also apply for Contractor of the Year in one of the four revenue categories. The winner is recommended by the Selection Committee based on mission achievement, financial success, and customer recognition.

Revenue categories include:

- Up to $25 million
- $25-75 million
- $75-300 million
- Over $300 million



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Congratulations to the 2026 Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards recipients!



Phillip Poliquin
Managing Director of Government Contracting
Direct: 703-802-5353
Mobile: 559-707-2619
Phillip.Poliquin@BankWithUnited.com

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Advanced Cargo Pod was designed to resolve the operational shortfall with a modern, fit-for-purpose pod that supports the needs of F-35s. Single-seat fighter aircraft have increased needs for cargo-carrying capacity to transport pilot gear, tools, equipment, and spare parts for contingency operations. Legacy cargo pods were built from modified Vietnam-era napalm canisters and have numerous design deficiencies.

Developed with nearly $5M in company investments only, we developed a maintainer-friendly design with removable doors, symmetric end loading, and movable tie-down points while increasing total capacity by a factor of 2.5X in a smaller footprint than the legacy pods. The final product, designated as MXU-1072/A, was certified for F-35A by the Joint Program Office and recognized as a unique design and solution to an acute operational challenge that gained increasing urgency. This program stands out as KIHOMAC's most successful internal research and development program in the company's 22-year history.

A newly hired veteran who understood the need, solicited company investments, and secured Air Force support to get the solution design finalized, certified, accepted, and moved into production.

As a result of this program, KIHOMAC developed a true growing export business and has started work on derivative products to keep the company busy for years to come. We have delivered over 380 MXU-1072/A pods to date to the US, Japan, Norway, and Denmark.

In March 2026, *Aviation Week & Space Technology* selected MXU-1072/A for the Program Excellence Award in Supplier System Design and Development.

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In August 2025, Noblis launched two original research experiments to the International Space Station aboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, sponsored by the ISS National Laboratory. Noblis' Helix Horizons project tested DNA-based data storage in orbit — encoding encrypted information into molecular DNA and retrieving it using the station's genomic sequencer.

The experiment validates whether DNA can serve as an ultra-dense, radiation-resilient archive for critical data in space, with direct applications to defense and intelligence data infrastructure. Our Synthetic consortia Integrated Production System (ScIPS) technology engineers communities of safe microorganisms that autonomously produce essential human nutrition. Designed for environments where traditional supply chains fail, ScIPS has applications ranging from deep space missions to humanitarian response to forward-deployed military operations.

Both experiments originated in our Noblis Sponsored Research program and were built by teams spanning molecular biology, genomics, data science, and systems engineering. They represent years of internal investment in problems that demand patience, interdisciplinary thinking, and a tolerance for uncertainty.

The impact extends across the industry. We demonstrated that a nonprofit S&T organization can move original science from internal research through the full lab-to-mission arc from development to flight-ready hardware. For the broader space community, Helix Horizons and ScIPS open new possibilities in data architecture and biomanufacturing that could reshape how we sustain human presence beyond Earth.

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Laura Stanton

Acting Commissioner
Federal Acquisition Service
U.S. General Services Administration



The Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) provides buying platforms and acquisition services to federal, state, and local governments for a broad range of items from office supplies and motor vehicles to information technology and telecommunications products and services.

Previously, Laura served as Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Information Technology Category (ITC) in FAS, where she managed the largest fee-for-service IT procurement and services operation in the U.S. government. Laura oversaw more than 6,000 contracts that provide access to IT and telecommunications products, services, and solutions to defense and civilian agencies, as well as to state, local, and tribal governments.

Before rising to lead ITC, Laura served as its Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Category Management, where she oversaw a portfolio of acquisition solutions including the Government-wide Acquisition Contracts Alliant 2, VETS 2, and 8(a) STARS II and III.

Laura came to ITC from GSA's Office of Enterprise Strategy Management. As the Assistant Commissioner, Laura directed FAS's strategic business planning, performance management, category management, and Acquisition Gateway adoption. She played an integral role in creating and executing a FAS strategic vision that aims to establish itself as the Government Acquisition Marketplace. She also coordinated with the Category Management Leadership Council and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to implement category management government-wide.

The Public Sector Partner of the Year is presented to a federal government procurement professional or policymaker who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and vision in strengthening public-private partnerships and/or advanced policies that benefit the Greater Washington region's government contracting community.

The Contractor of the Year Award is presented to a government contractor for distinguished financial and operational accomplishments and for outstanding contributions to its employees, the government contracting industry, and the U.S. Government in the past year.

Award applicants must meet ONE of the following criteria:

- Be headquartered in the Greater Washington region defined as south of Baltimore, north of Richmond, from the Chesapeake to the Shenandoah
- Have more than 50% of employees in the region
- Have at least 1,000 employees in the region

Revenue categories include:

- Up to $25 million
- $25-75 million
- $75-300 million
- Over $300 million



APV is a Woman-Owned Small Business in Columbia, MD, delivering AI, data analytics, digital modernization, and emerging technology to federal agencies across defense, health, and civilian missions. APV gives federal teams the speed, capacity, affordability, and quality to serve the public — powering the modernization and mission support federal services demand. Honors include the ACT-IAC Innovation Champion and FORUM Disruptive Tech Awards.

Contact Government Services is a professional services small business in Washington, DC providing IT and legal solutions to federal, state, and local governments. Our team works with agencies to understand their needs, offers opportunities to innovate, and delivers customized solutions to meet their needs. Our aim is to simplify and enhance government.

L.S. Caldwell & Associates (LSC) is a premier compliance firm with 35 years of service. A certified minority/woman-owned pioneer, LSC specializes in contracting, workforce, and EEO compliance program development. We combine advanced regulatory mastery with our proprietary CÔR System software to protect the public trust, expand economic equity, and safely guide landmark multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects.

ThinkTek, a Certified SBA 8(a), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) company, is a trusted provider of advanced analytics, IT modernization, organizational/enterprise/financial management transformation, system/software development, and DevSecOps solutions. At ThinkTek, we drive innovation through analytics, enterprise IT solutions, and automation; enabling data-driven decision making and seamless digital transformation.

Tridentis is the premier entrepreneur-led ship design firm for the federal government. We are at the forefront of innovation in naval shipbuilding, digital design, and autonomous technology. Our portfolio includes the Georgetown canal boat, the Columbia Class nuclear submarine, multiple autonomous marine vessels, and the Golden Fleet Battleship, which will be the most powerful surface combatant in history.

Amivero applies a human-centered, data-driven approach to innovating IT solutions for federal customers. Primary offerings: Identity Management, FraudOps, AI/ML, Intelligent Automation, & Agile DevSecOps Software Development. Our approach enables a level of customer intimacy that innovates technology solutions to targeted mission challenges; we invest heavily in R&D "building ahead of demand" — converting validated solutions into funded programs.

KIHOMAC specializes in aerospace system development and sustainment support. We solve sustainment problem of fielded aircraft by analyzing, reverse/re-engineering, and manufacturing systems and assemblies to keep aircraft fleet mission ready. We develop technical solutions, design and manufacture kits, and install them on military aircraft. We blend aircraft engineering expertise with state-of-the-art in-house production capabilities.

Procon Consulting Faster. Safer. Smarter. That's the Procon Way. Procon is an ENR Top 100 construction management and technology consulting firm delivering mission-critical projects globally. We combine advanced construction technology with deep industry expertise to help clients build better and achieve real results for the systems, infrastructure, and facilities that comprise our built environment. Built to move the industry forward.

Quantum Leap Research is the next generation of defense contracting, closing the gap between prototype and production for the most critical and consequential domains: cyber, space, and maritime. Quantum Leap Research develops integrated, holistic capabilities ahead of a defined need to strengthen deterrence, enable rapid response, and secure strategic advantage for our nation. Today's outcomes are engineered to ensure tomorrow's success.

ShorePoint is an elite, pure-play cybersecurity services firm solely dedicated to strengthening the cyber resilience of federal agencies and their missions. Founded in 2017 on the belief that cybersecurity is the defining challenge of our generation, ShorePoint has grown nearly 150% since 2022, reaching $48M in revenue and 200 personnel, fueled by a culture where people grow alongside the company, doing career-defining work that matters.

DCCA commands elite industry distinction, delivering sophisticated enterprise IT, cyber, and cloud engineering for high-consequence Defense, Intelligence, and Health programs. As a founder-led pioneer with veteran heritage, the company secures critical infrastructure while maintaining rare CMMI ML5 (DEV/SVC) appraisals, a CMMC Level 2 (C3PAO) assessment, and ISO 9001/20000/27001 certifications, positioning DCCA as a disciplined, tier-one partner.

MetroStar Systems, a Veritas Capital portfolio company, is delivering next-generation products and solutions to U.S. government agencies. Focused on mission acceleration and cutting-edge technology, MetroStar equips agencies with the tools and strategies needed to navigate the future of national security, including AI, digital transformation, application modernization, and enterprise IT.

Patriot Group International is a global mission support service provider with expeditionary capabilities, providing services to select clients within the intelligence, defense, and private sectors. Since 2004, PGI's personnel have proudly served customers in more than 50 countries, including austere and high threat locations. Our leadership team consists of experienced industry professionals with roots in U.S. military special operations and U.S. government intelligence agencies.

PingWind is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business delivering secure technology and mission solutions to federal agencies. Headquartered in Annandale, Virginia, our team supports customers across the United States and OCONUS. PingWind is built to provide customers with direct access to experienced leaders, the responsiveness of a small business, and the disciplined delivery practices required for complex federal programs.

Steampunk was founded in 2019 to deliver technical capability in DEVSECOPS, Digital Platform Services, Data Exploitation and Cybersecurity for Federal clients through the lens of a Human Centered Design approach. Steampunk is a small business headquartered in McLean, Virginia, and is proud to serve customers across the Federal government both in and out of the Defense Department.

Amentum is a global leader in advanced engineering and innovative technology solutions, trusted by the United States and its allies to address their most significant and complex challenges in science, security and sustainability. Our people apply undaunted curiosity, relentless ambition and boundless imagination to challenge convention and drive progress. Headquartered in Chantilly, Virginia, we have approximately 50,000 employees in more than 70 countries.

CACI International is a technology-first national security company that expands the limits of national security through innovation, discipline, and operational excellence. We deliver advanced technologies that help our customers move faster, operate more efficiently, and anticipate and defeat evolving threats. Our 27,000 talented employees and strong culture drive our success and have earned CACI recognition as a Fortune World's Most Admired Company.

LMI brings together mission-ready technology, federal deployment expertise, and a culture that thrives on solving complex challenges. We support defense, space, homeland, healthcare, and intel missions with teams who understand the stakes and work in true partnership with our customers. Headquartered in Tysons, Virginia, we deliver solutions that strengthen federal operations and create lasting impact.

MANTECH provides mission-focused technology solutions and services for U.S. Defense, Space, Health, Intelligence and Homeland Security agencies. In business for more than 57 years, we are a leading provider of AI solutions that power full-spectrum cyber, data collection and analytics, enterprise IT, high-end engineering, and software application development solutions that support national and homeland security.

Noblis has been an innovator within the federal government for more than 30 years, committed to enriching lives and making our nation safer while investing in the missions of tomorrow. As a nonprofit, Noblis works for the public interest, providing independent and objective science, technology, and engineering solutions for a wide range of government customers in the defense, homeland security, intelligence, law enforcement, and federal civil sectors.

The Executive of the Year Award is presented to a government contracting executive who is recognized for making outstanding contributions to their company, the community, and the government contracting industry during the past year.

Award applicants must meet ONE of the following criteria:

- Be a C-level executive of a government contracting company
- Have more than 50% of employees in the region
- Have at least 1,000 employees in the region

Revenue categories include:

- Up to $75 million
- $75-300 million
- Over $300 million

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Loretta Caldwell

President & CEO
L.S. Caldwell & Associates

A decorated industry pioneer, she has directed economic development programs for hundreds of landmark projects collectively exceeding $40 billion, including the $12 billion DC Water, $5.5 billion MWAA capital improvement programs, and $8.5 billion AMTRAK Frederick Douglass Tunnel programs. She is an expert witness and small business champion.

Adam Grimm

President & COO
KIHOMAC



As President and Chief Operating Officer at KIHOMAC in Reston, VA, he is responsible for all aspects of KIHOMAC's operations for over 400 employees executing manufacturing, development, and service programs for defense, federal, and commercial customers. He served in the Air Force as both an aircraft maintenance officer and acquisition officer.



Nick McCarter

CEO
Chartis Federal

He leads a systems engineering and integration firm dedicated to national security and public safety. With nearly two decades of leadership, he has driven rapid growth through a relentless "mission over margins" approach. Nick builds top-performing teams, strengthens government operations, and leads with unwavering integrity, drive, and commitment to service.

James "Jim" Miller



President & CEO
Quantum Leap Research

He provides strategic leadership, secures capital, and maintains key client relationships that drive innovation and success. Throughout his career, Jim has developed technology and tradecraft supporting many successful national-level programs. At Virginia Tech, he is Rector of the Board of Visitors and is a member of the Academy of Engineering Excellence.



Tim Tkacz

CEO
Blue Sky Innovators

Tim Tkacz founded Blue Sky Innovators in 2016 and serves as its CEO. Under his leadership, the Reston-based defense technology company has grown to 107 employees and $39.1M in revenue with nine straight years of growth and no outside investment. He sits on the inaugural advisory board of the National Artificial Intelligence Association.





Greg Craddock

CEO
Patriot Group International

Greg Craddock is a former Army Ranger, Special Forces soldier, and Intelligence Community veteran who began leading Patriot Group International in 2009. It has become one of the most trusted names in government contracting, growing from $0 to over $125M in revenue. Among other awards, he was recognized as Regional Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young in 2025.

Gautam Ijoor

President & CEO
Alpha Omega



He delivers AI, cybersecurity, and digital modernization solutions supporting national security and federal missions across financial services, health, space, and science. A 2026 WashingtonExec Top Industry Executive to Watch, he grew Alpha Omega from $500,000 to $201M in nine years. He is a mentor and a passionate advocate and supporter of Childhelp.



Lawrence Melton

President & CEO
The Building People

As a global facilities expert and philanthropic leader, Lawrence Melton has driven 30%+ annual growth, expanded to over 450 employees in 40 states, and championed hiring initiatives for people with disabilities. Lawrence continues to redefine operational excellence, workforce empowerment, and community impact across the built environment.

Aaron Moak

CEO
PingWind



He attended Johns Hopkins University through an ROTC Scholarship and served as an Army Infantry Officer through two tours in Iraq. He worked in supply chain management roles and earned an MBA from the University of Maryland. He instructs business courses at Hopkins and George Mason University and is a recipient of the Gordon H. Mansfield Veteran Small Business Award.



David Popelier

CEO
Acclaim Technical Services

Since joining ATS in 2020, he has driven record growth, expanded mission-critical technology portfolios, and successfully integrated five acquisitions. Appointed as CEO in 2025, David is recognized for his strategic vision, operational rigor, and people-centered leadership, guiding ATS's continued growth and commitment to exceptional service for the Intelligence Community.

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Tim Borchert

CEO
Tria Federal

Since 2021, he has transformed Tria into one of the federal market's leading health-focused information technology companies. Under his leadership, Tria has expanded its federal health footprint, launched AI-enabled innovations, and strengthened mission-critical systems that support Veterans, servicemembers and millions of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries nationwide.

Mile Corrigan

President & CEO
Noblis



A 25-year Noblis veteran, she rose from computer scientist to CEO in 2022, bringing deep expertise in agile software development, digital transformation, and applied science. Corrigan sets corporate strategy, directs research programs, and cultivates strategic partnerships fueling innovation. She earned a B.S. from Virginia Tech and an MBA from Georgetown University.



Matt Desch

CEO
Iridium Communications

Since joining Iridium in 2006, he has led the company's transformation into a resilient public company and trusted U.S. government mission partner, advancing secure connectivity, IoT, positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT), national security, and aviation safety capabilities that support defense, intelligence, civil government, and crisis response operations worldwide.



John Steckel

CEO, American Systems

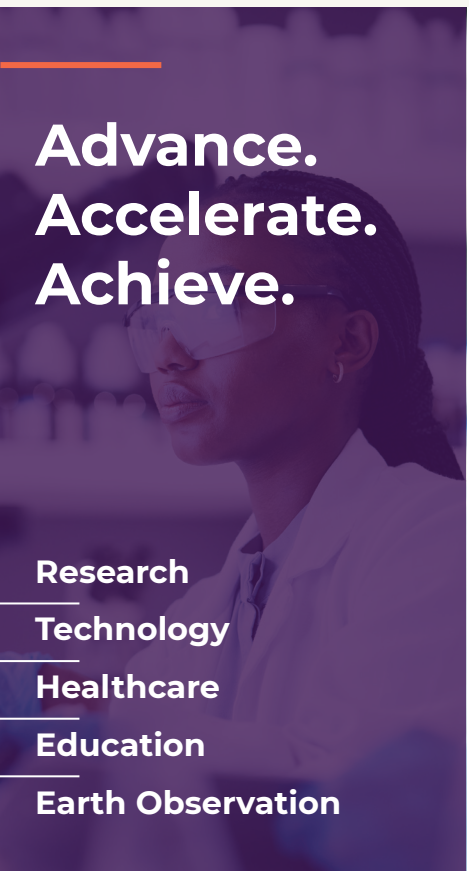
Since 2023, he has led the largest acquisition in the company's history, expanded the company's digital, cyber, and secure infrastructure capabilities, and increased share value for nearly 2,000 employee-owners. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, he brings mission-first leadership, commercial discipline, and a deep commitment to employee-ownership.



Josh Wilson

CEO, LMI

During his tenure, he's helped transform the company into a technology-driven provider of commercial-grade, mission-ready solutions for the federal government. Wilson serves on the Board of Advisors for Armaments Research Company, Parry Labs, and the National Security Innovation Base Program. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



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TEXAS 6836 Austin Center Blvd, Bldg 1, 270, Austin, TX 78731 | 512-693-4373 | clinictx@vuimclinic.com

John Goodman

Former CEO and Chairman of the Board
Accenture Federal Services



John served as CEO and Chairman of the Board of Accenture Federal Services (AFS) from November 2017 to August 2024.

Under John's leadership, AFS became a leader in data and artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud, platforms, and strategy; acquired Novetta and Cognosante; and created apprenticeships, training, and jobs for veterans and military spouses. During this period, AFS more than doubled its revenue and workforce, rising from No. #13 to No. #9 on *Washington Technology's* Top 100 federal industry list. Prior to becoming CEO, John served as COO, Defense Portfolio lead, and Management Consulting lead. He began his career at Accenture working with clients in the aerospace and electronics industries.

Before joining Accenture in 1998, John worked in the federal government, serving as a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Industrial Affairs & Installations) and a Senior Director with the National Economic Council. He previously was an associate professor at the Harvard Business School.

John serves on the boards of the Atlantic Council, the Urban Institute, Goodwill of Greater Washington, and Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

He is a former chair of both the Defense Business Board, which advised the Secretary of Defense on best business practices, and the Executive Committee of the Professional Services Council.

The late Rich LaFleur was a co-founder of the Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards®, which began in 2002. His vision and efforts were instrumental in raising awareness of the vital role government contractors play in supporting both the regional economy and the federal government's missions. The LaFleur-Chason Hall of Fame honors his enduring legacy and impact on the industry.

The Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards® honor the excellence and innovation of the government contracting community. Every year, hundreds of nominations are received from across the region.

The Nominations Committee, comprised of industry experts, carefully reviews each application, advancing a select few in each category to the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee then determines the finalists and winners in each category.

Thank you to our esteemed Nominations and Selection Committees for helping to make this evening's program a success.

2026 Selection Committee

Anne Altman
Mike Derrios
Ellen Glover
John Goodman
Deepak Hathiramani
David Langstaff
Sam Maness
Peggy Styer
Thomas Watson

2026 Nominations Committee

Walid Ahmed
Sheila Blackwell
Nicole Borger
Andrew Borkoski
Jason Brooks
Joe Burke
Nicole Caffrey
Michael Cannon
Ellis Chaplin
Davis Clark
Brandon Cole
Sue Contostavlos
Karen Corey
Michael DeStefano
Chris Ellis
Laura Giangiuli
Ellen Grady
Jamie Graham
Chris Griesedieck
David Hargadon
Jamie Hill
Craig Hunter
Kelly Kenney
Dan Laurenzi
Drew Lewis
Masha Loughlin
AJ Mendibur
Hanna Merritt
Clayton Murtha
Deann O'Brien
Jeff Rubery
Shooter Starr
Phillip Steigner
Ashlie Strackbein
Mark Swaak
Wolfgang Thiers
Michelle Thissell
Matthew Vean
Mandy Wheat
Larkin Wilson
Jonathan Wolcott

Interested in joining the 2027 Nominations Committee?

Contact NVC's Sales Team
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