



U.S. Small Business Administration

Region VI – Houston District Office

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# *News Release*

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**Contact:** Valerie Nguyen (713) 773-6516

**Internet Address:** <http://www.sba.gov>

## **SMALL BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS – 2011 HOUSTON DISTRICT**

**HOUSTON** -- “This year marks the 48<sup>th</sup> annual proclamation of National Small Business Week and the U. S. Small Business Administration announced the winners for the Houston District. We will be saluting the achievements of these winners at the Small Business Awards Luncheon June 1, 2011 at the Marriott Sugar Land Town Square, 16090 City Walk, Sugar Land, TX 77479. We are excited to announce Richard Alderman, Associate Dean, University of Houston Law School and commonly known as "The People's Lawyer" as the keynote speaker,” said Manuel Gonzalez, SBA Houston district director.

The Small Business award winners are as follows:

Small Business Person of the Year: Christopher and Gail Osborne, The Egg & I Restaurants  
Financial Services Champion: William Ebersole, Community Certified Development Company  
Minority Small Business Champion: Diva Herazo & Jose Habib, Lonestar Health Prevention, Inc.  
SBA Young Entrepreneur: Juan Ponce, Ponce Services, Inc.  
Veteran Small Business Champion: Robert B. Goss, The Law Office of Robert B. Goss  
Women In Business Champion: Ying Kou (Dinna) Lo, Unitex Bag, Inc.  
Small Business Exporter: Vernon D. Darko, EquipXp, LC  
Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business: Frank Nunez & Rosalba Nunez, Frank’s Nursery  
Home-Based Business Champion: Dwayne Stidman, A-Motion Unlimited, Inc.

The Small Business Exporter award winner Vernon Darko is also the regional winner. Region 6 includes ten district offices in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. “Each year leading up to National Small Business Week, it is a privilege to participate at SBA district events to recognize the outstanding contributions of small business persons and champions for small business. These award winners represent some of the brightest and most talented entrepreneurs throughout the U.S., and it is an honor for us to recognize them,” said Yolanda Garcia Olivarez, SBA regional administrator.

The luncheon will be sponsored by Houston SCORE Chapter #37, a resource partner of the SBA and Counselors to America’s Small Businesses. For more information about the luncheon, contact SCORE at (713) 773-6565 or visit their website at [www.scorehouston.org](http://www.scorehouston.org).