



# News Release

## PRESS OFFICE

---

**Release Date:** April 13, 2006

**Release Number:** 06-34

**Contact:** Dennis Byrne (202) 205-6567

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

## ***Selfless Americans Who Helped After Hurricanes Are Honored With SBA American Spirit Awards***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Fourteen small businesses and volunteers from the areas devastated by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, and as far away as Wisconsin, were today awarded the **SBA 2006 American Spirit Award** at a breakfast ceremony in Washington, D.C. as a part of National Small Business Week, April 9-15.

The awards were given to recognize the hard work and determination of small businesses to recover quickly, and for the selfless help and assistance small businesses and other volunteers provided to their fellow Americans affected by this devastating and unprecedented disaster.

“Today we are honoring American businessmen and businesswomen who, without hesitation, came to the immediate aid of those who were victimized by the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “Through volunteerism and hard work, these individuals exemplified the American spirit by providing the goods, services, compassion and hope that these businesses and homeowners needed to survive the destruction and emotional aftermath of these storms.”

Selected from nomination packages submitted by SBA field offices in their communities, the awardees are being recognized on the basis of meeting specific criteria in either the Small Business or Small Business Voluntary Efforts categories regarding various aspects of their response to these disasters.

There are fourteen 2006 American Spirit Award winners being recognized and they hail from states such as Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C.

The award winners are:

### **Business Category**

Rev. Toris Young

Pastor

Greater Bibleway Missionary Baptist  
Church

New Orleans, Louisiana

### **Business Category**

Tommy Andrade

Owner

Tommy's Cuisine

New Orleans, Louisiana

### **Volunteer Category**

Bishop Randy Clark

Pastor

Triumph Church  
Nederland, Texas

### **Volunteer Category**

Saymendy Lloyd

Founder

Women's Wing Organization  
Washington, DC

**Volunteer Category**

Dr. Regina M. Benjamin  
Founder & CEO  
Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic  
La Batre, Alabama

**Volunteer Category**

Fred Carl Jr.  
President  
Viking Range Corporation  
Greenwood, Mississippi

**Volunteer Category**

Ken Korsch  
President  
National School Lines, LLC  
Omro, Wisconsin

**Volunteer Category**

K. William Grothe, Jr., President & CEO  
Jim Richards, Chief Operations Officer  
KLLM Transport Services  
Richland, Mississippi

**Volunteer Category**

James Sheehan  
Managing Member  
Everglades Adventures RV & Sailing Resort  
Pahokee, Florida

**Volunteer Category**

Luke Abney & Keith Kinkade  
Owners  
The Rogue & Good Company, LLC  
Jackson, Mississippi

**Volunteer Category**

Donna Brown  
General Manager  
Gulf Hills Hotel & Conference Center  
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

**Volunteer Category**

Elvin Hayes  
President and CEO  
The Hayes Group, LLC  
Liberty, Texas

**Volunteer Category**

Alan Purwin  
Founder  
Helinet Aviation Services  
Van Nuys, California

**Volunteer Category**

Robert H. Lorsch  
CEO  
MyMedicalRecords.com  
Los Angeles, CA

For additional information on Small Business Week 2006, including a full schedule of events and information on all award winners, go online to [www.sba.gov/sbw](http://www.sba.gov/sbw).

Small Business Week 2006 is cosponsored by the following organizations: Sam's Club, Intel, Microsoft, SCORE, Raytheon, the Kauffman Foundation, Nationwide, IBM, Verizon Communications, Johnson & Johnson, BAE Systems, KBR, Cisco Systems, Fiducial, Aetna, Administaff and Symantec.

*Disclaimer: The support given by the U.S. Small Business Administration to this activity does not constitute an expressed or implied endorsement of any cosponsors or participant's opinions, products, or services. All SBA programs and cosponsored programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least 2 weeks in advance, by contacting [sbw@sba.gov](mailto:sbw@sba.gov). Authorization # 2006.*

*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*

###