

As the President and CEO of a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), I fully understand the obstacles that other veteran small business owners face. When I first founded my company, Strategy and Management Services, Inc. (SAMS), there certainly weren't a lot of opportunities for Veterans and there was not much collaboration between veteran small businesses. Each business owner faced struggles on their own. Although there has been a big increase in collaboration among VOSBs and SDVOSBs, I strongly believe that we need to increase the communication on continue to work together.

When I started my business I had few connections and insufficient past experience. It was only through participation in valuable organizations, like the National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC), that I was able to learn practical skills and gain the knowledge necessary to succeed in the industry. As a member of the board, my vision would be to help small business work together and build strong, beneficial connections that will create lasting opportunities.

I also have a vision as a member of the Board of Directors to make a difference by supporting veteran entrepreneurs along every stage of their business, whether they're just starting out or whether they have millions of dollars in revenue. Veteran businesses cannot properly function without the support of other business owners. This is not only the mission of the NVSBC, but also my personal mission. While on the board, I want to help veterans as they transition into business owners who provide services and solutions for the Federal Government.

As a member and regular participant at events sponsored by the NVSBC, the top critical issue that I see members facing that I strongly believe I must help address is advocacy for Veteran business owners in the federal government. Kingdomware was a major accomplishment that provided pivotal advantages to all veteran small business owners. However, Kingdomware was just the tip of the iceberg. I hope to help advocate for veteran-owned business so they will be recognized as a sustainable force in the acquisition landscape of the federal landscape.

Veteran-owned small business must be a priority resource for both prime and subcontract procurement opportunities with the government. The NVSBC must continue to take part in engaging both Federal departments and agencies and large prime contracting organizations to create and endorse policies that will increase participation of Veteran-Owned Small Business and Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses in various contracting opportunities.