



GORDON H. MANSFIELD VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS AWARD

BACKGROUND:

Gordon H. Mansfield was a true American Hero! He served two tours of duty in Vietnam. While serving as a company commander with the 101st Airborne Division was wounded during the Tet Offensive on February 4, 1968, spending the next 45 years in a wheelchair as a result of spinal injuries. For his actions while his unit was under fire he was decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross. His other combat decorations include the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Presidential Unit Citation. Mr. Mansfield passed away on January 29, 2013.

Gordon Mansfield's service to his country and fellow veterans didn't stop there. In one way it had just begun. While serving as the President of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, he was recruited to assist at the VA with some major initiatives that were underway. Gordon Mansfield was nominated by President George W. Bush to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs on November 3, 2003. From October 1, 2007 until December 20, 2007 he served as the Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs. While the Deputy Secretary Gordon was frustrated by the Government's lack of progress in achieving the 3% goal of prime and subcontract awards to service disabled veteran owned small businesses as mandated by Public Law 106-50. Gordon was instrumental in the drafting and signing by President Bush of Executive Order 13360, which among other things required agencies to develop plans to achieve the 3% goal, established the GSA "VETS GWAC", and institutionalized VA's Center for Veterans Enterprise. Under VA's plan, Gordon demanded accountability by requiring the 3% goal to be part of the performance plan of all VA senior managers who influenced the acquisition process.

AWARD NOMINATION PROCESS:

The National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC) wishes to memorialize this great American and passionate veteran small business advocate with the establishment of an award to recognize one veteran small business owner a year who successfully owns and operates a successful small business, provides employment opportunities to veterans and who, like Gordon Mansfield in his most selfless manner, gives back to the veteran community in a substantial and continuous way. The awardee must demonstrate that they have *paid the price*, produced, perhaps against the odds, sustained achievement that has required courage, vision, and the ability to make tough choices or determined application and hard work. In addition, the awardee must demonstrate sustained employment opportunities for veterans and have devoted themselves to selfless voluntary service to help other veterans. Gordon Mansfield paid this kind of 'Earth Rent' and has successfully paved the way for all of us who follow.

Application instructions are attached.

SELECTION PROCESS:

All applications will be reviewed and a winner chosen by the Board of Directors of the NVSBC and awarded annually at the Veterans Training Symposium (VETS). The recognized award winner must be an NVSBC member and present at the presentation ceremony to be eligible for the award.



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NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Veteran Business Status: VOSB SDVOSB Total Sales Last Fiscal Year: _____

Number of Employees: _____ Number of Veteran Employees: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Please provide a written narrative of no longer than three typed pages which address the following:

1. How has the nominee demonstrated sustained achievement and the ability to make tough choices or determined hard work in the sustainment of their business?
2. How has the nominee demonstrated sustained opportunities for veterans to gain employment?
3. How has the nominee demonstrated sustained and selfless voluntary service to help other veterans?

Note: *Nomination letter must include a statement that he/she is an NVSBC member in good standing (dues paid).*

Nominee may include recommendation letters from other individuals/organizations that can speak directly to the nominee's achievements and efforts to meet the criteria above.

All applications should be submitted electronically to scott.denniston@nvsbc.org by April 15, 2019.