



News Release

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J & G Landscaping, Inc. of Emerado Named SBA Region VIII Prime Contractor of the Year

FARGO – Jo Ann Renfrow, President of J & G Landscaping, Inc. in Emerado has been named as the *2005 Region VIII Prime Contractor of the Year* by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Awarded annually, the designation honors small businesses that have provided the government with outstanding goods and services as prime contractors. Only federal agencies may nominate a small business for the award. Duane Mann, Director of Business Opportunities, Graham Pritchett, Acquisition Flight Chief, and Marsha Williamson, Contract Specialist at the Grand Forks Air Force Base nominated J & G Landscaping for the award. J & G Landscaping was selected after a region-wide competition. SBA's Region VIII consists of Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota.

“J & G Landscaping, Inc. was selected as our Region VIII Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year because of their quality work and service they provide the federal government and the positive work ethic they show on federal contracts,” stated Elton W. Ringsak, SBA's Region VIII Administrator. “J & G won this award over businesses in larger markets such as Salt Lake City and Denver. This is a proud day for the State of North Dakota.”

Prime Contractor of the Year nominations are judged on the following criteria: overall management, technical capabilities, cost performance, resource utilization, financial strength,

delivery performance, labor relations, special achievements, customer interface and exceptional results.

In 1979, Jo Ann Renfrow started J & G Landscaping with only a wheelbarrow, a few shovels and rakes, and her oldest son, Kelly, as the only employee. Seeing an opportunity for growth, Renfrow became certified to work for the North Dakota Department of Transportation and started bidding on landscaping projects at construction sites. The company now employs up to 70 employees during the peak landscaping season.

In 1989, the company obtained a SBA Disaster Loan. “The SBA loan helped us to stay in business during the drought, which is a difficult time for a landscaping business,” said Renfrow. SBA disaster loans help businesses meet the necessary financial obligations that they could have met had the disaster not occurred.

J & G Landscaping will compete with nine other Regional winners for the national Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year award at *SBA Expo '05: Celebrating National Small Business Week* in Washington, D.C. on April 26 – 28th.

SBA Expo '05 is an annual celebration of National Small Business Week which will feature special events, including award ceremonies honoring the nation’s top entrepreneurs and state and national small business winners.

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