

NEWS RELEASE

MAINE DISTRICT OFFICE

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## JOHN GARDNER AND ED DAHL WIN SBA VETERAN ADVOCACY AWARD

Augusta, Maine – John Gardner and Ed Dahl have been named co winners of the U. S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 2008 Veteran Small Business Champions.

The Veteran Small Business Champion Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to advancing small business opportunities to veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces.

Mr. Gardner has been a vigorous and tireless advocate for veterans in Maine looking to start their own business. As the Veterans Affairs Officer for the SBA, in Augusta, John spends a considerable amount of time reaching out to Maine's veterans' community. He has established a valuable relationship with the Maine Veteran's Services, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves and the BRAC Transition Center at the Naval Air Station, Brunswick.

Mr. Dahl, a Government Marketing and Technical Transfer Specialist, with the Maine Procurement Technical Assistance Center in Bangor, has aggressively helped veteran and service-disable veterans starting their own businesses with the various Federal registrations and bidding requirements to earn government contracts.

Gardner and Dahl will be honored along with the other small business award winners, at an awards luncheon in Lewiston on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

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