

## NSBA Celebrates 70 Years In Style

*Organization hosts special event as part of annual Washington Presentation*

**By Rob Yunich**

*Director of Communications*

**A**nniversary celebrations provide a great venue for myriad activities—catching up with old friends, learning more about an organization's recent activities, getting a chance to become more involved, and enjoying a wonderful evening full of good food and entertainment.

The 70th anniversary celebration of NSBA and the small-business movement, held May 9 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, provided such an opportunity for the packed crowd that included invited guests, past chairs, returning attendees, and even a group of small-business owners that were attending their first NSBA event. The gala began with a reception, where attendees could view the museum's special exhibit entitled, "Italian Women Artists from Renaissance to Baroque." Additionally, there were two monitors screening a video about the organization's distinguished history.

"The presence of 14 past chairs shows just how much we care about small-business issues and this organization," said Joy Gay, an event co-chair and NSBA past chair. "We all look forward to another 70 years as an organization working for the betterment of small business."

The program began with opening remarks by the event's master of ceremonies, NSBA Vice Chair of Communications Chris Holman. NSBA President Todd McCracken

then presented a lifetime achievement award to David Voight, who is retiring after a stellar career working on behalf of small businesses.

NSBA Chair Grafton "Cap" Willey posthumously honored two pioneers who only can be described as the epitome of small-business advocacy. The first honoree was Milton Stewart, who was appointed by then-President Jimmy Carter to be the nation's first chief counsel for advocacy at the U.S. Small Business Administration. Stewart's widow, Joan, accepted a plaque on behalf of the family's surviving members.

Willey subsequently honored Lewis Shattuck, the father of the SBA's Office of Advocacy as well as what has become NSBA's Washington Presentation. Additionally, Willey announced that the NSBA board had decided to name its Small Business Advocate of the Year award in Shattuck's honor.

"It is important that we take time to celebrate milestones in our life,"



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**ABOVE:** NSBA Chair Grafton "Cap" Willey honors the late Milton Stewart for his work on behalf of small business by presenting his widow, Joan, with a plaque.

**BELOW:** A group of former NSBA chairs gathered during the Washington Presentation. Pictured with Willey (back row, third from left) are (back row, l-r) Brad Roller, John Hexter, Paul Hense, Malcolm Outlaw, Jack Gardner, (front row, l-r) Raymond Arth, Richard Herring, Joy Gay, and Ronald Cohen.



said NSBA Vice Chair of Membership Phyllis Shearer Jones, who served as the gala's co-chair. "Seventy years of active involvement in the small-business movement is a significant accomplishment."

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The evening's events concluded with a performance by the Capitol Steps comedy troupe, who made sure everybody at the museum was laughing emphatically throughout their 45-minute show.

### PRESIDENTIAL OUTLOOK

The gala was part of a very special edition of the Washington Presentation, which began on the morning of May 9 with a session entitled "2008 Elections and Small Business: The Presidency and Beyond." The session's speaker was Amy Walter, senior editor of the *Cook Political Report*, who deftly guided the assembled crowd through an informative and sometimes humorous look at the 2008 presidential race.

Attendees then were briefed about NSBA's priority issues and presented a summary of the organization's recent comprehensive small-business survey. Speakers included McCracken, Washington Presentation Chair Mark Deion, Immediate Past Chair Paul Hense, Health and Human Resources Committee Chair Thomas Pitrone, and Government Affairs Director Kyle Kempf.

The next item on the agenda was "Cracking the Procurement Code: Make the Most of Government Contract Opportunities," which was moderated by Shearer Jones. Panelists on the topic were Major Clark, the Office of Advocacy's assistant chief counsel for acquisition policy; Jane Navarria, an executive from Citibank; and Paul Thompson, principal at Premier Tax and Accounting.

During the luncheon that followed, San Francisco's Scott Hauge was honored as the 2007 Small Business Advocate of the Year and National Public Radio national political correspondent Mara Liasson provided a preview of the remaining 18 months of the 110th Congress. (More about Hauge can be found on p. 6.)

From there, the attendees had the



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ABOVE: Amy Walter (left), senior editor of the *Cook Political Report*, spoke during the May 9 general session, while Mara Liasson, a national political correspondent for National Public Radio, spoke during that day's luncheon.

BELOW: Naomi Baum, staff director for Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Chair John Kerry (D-Mass.), presented NSBA President Todd McCracken with a statement recognizing NSBA's 70th anniversary from the *Congressional Record*.



unique opportunity to attend a White House Briefing in the Presidential Hall of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Speakers included Julie Goon, special assistant to the president for economic policy in the National Economic Council and the president's chief health care expert; Barry Jackson, deputy assistant to the president and deputy to Karl Rove, who spoke about immigration; and Jason Thomas, the newest special assistant to the president for economic policy in the National Economic Council, who spoke about tax issues.

On May 10, NSBA hosted its traditional Congressional Breakfast. The event, held in the Rayburn House Office Building's Gold Room, featured four speakers—Reps. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa), House Small Business Committee Chair Nydia

Velázquez (D-N.Y.), Wally Herger (R-Calif.) and Committee Ranking Member Steve Chabot (R-Ohio).

Naomi Baum, staff director for Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Chair John Kerry (D-Mass.), also presented McCracken with a statement recognizing NSBA's 70th anniversary from the *Congressional Record*.

"The opportunity to meet with administration officials provided an excellent venue for small-business owners to discuss issues of concern," Deion said. "The ability to network with members of Congress provided attendees with a definitive opportunity to have their voices heard."

After breakfast, the assembled small-business owners had the chance to speak face-to-face with their representatives and senators—and pass along knowledge gained during a memorable event. ★