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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Beaufort Chamber to Honor Area's Finest at Seventh Annual CIVITAS Awards**  
*Awards Dinner to be held April 17*

**Beaufort, S.C.**— The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the applicants for its seventh annual CIVITAS Awards for Business Excellence. The CIVITAS Awards recognize those in region who exemplify the success of business and the spirit of the community. Individuals, businesses and organizations will be honored at the CIVITAS awards dinner and ceremony on April 17 at the Dataw Island Club. Winners will be announced that evening.

A cocktail reception begins at 6 p.m., followed by the awards dinner at 7 p.m.. CIVITAS is open to the public. To make reservations, call 843.986.5400, ext. 27, or email [memberops@beaufortsc.org](mailto:memberops@beaufortsc.org) by April 8.

The winners in each of the 12 CIVITAS categories are chosen by an independent team of volunteer judges. Applicants completed a brief questionnaire for the judging process.

“ We are pleased to receive a record number of nominations this year,” stated 2008 Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Mike Ryan.” This year, awards honoring young professionals and military citizenship were added.

The applicants by category are:

Community Stewardship

Tanger Properties, LP  
New York Life

Entrepreneurial Spirit

Brewer's Brew Pub  
Plums, Inc.  
Trailer Works, LLC

Outstanding Non-Profit

Hilton Head Area Hospitality Association  
HELP of Beaufort  
The Little Red Dog Foundation  
Friends of Caroline Hospice  
Lowcountry Economic Network

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Lady's Island Business and Professional Association  
Beaufort LIONS Club  
Junior Service League of Beaufort  
Beaufort Memorial Hospital  
Kiwanis Club of Beaufort  
Lowcountry Autism Foundation

Partner in Education

Daniel Byrne, Beaufort Fire Department  
Frank Gibson, Lowcountry Insurance Services  
Aaron Miller, Environments, Inc.  
Reverend Donald Goodwine, Sr., St. Paul Baptist Church

Regional Economic Impact

Palmetto Ferry Company  
CareCore National, LLC

Outstanding Employee

Renee Crocher, UPS Store  
Portia Daise, SC Employment Security Commission  
Bobby Johnson, SC Employment Security Commission  
Anna Edwards, A.G. Edwards/Wachovia Securities

Lifetime of Leadership

Jack Cummings  
Robert DeLoach  
Malcolm Goodridge  
Louise Miller Cohen

Government Support for Business

William Winn, Beaufort County Emergency Management

Lowcountry Young Professional

Clifford Bush, the Law Office of Clifford Bush  
Tray Hunter, Hargray Communications  
Riann Mihiylov, Lowcountry Council of Governments  
Todd Pringle, The Pringle Agency/ Pluff Mudd Media  
Mary Sharp, Griffith, Sadler and Sharp, PA  
Kim Statler, Lowcountry Economic Network  
Courtney Worrell, 303 Associates  
Joel Iacopelli, New York Life

Junior Enlisted Service Member of the Year

USN Adan Aldrine Hidalgo, MCAS Beaufort  
HM3 Raynier Cruzborroto, Naval Hospital

Military Citizenship Award

Ret. Gunnery Sergeant Aulton Kohn, MCRD Parris Island  
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jesse McGinnis, MCAS Beaufort  
Gunnery Sergeant James Park, MCAS Beaufort  
HM3 Casey Runyon, MCRD Parris Island  
Corporal Richard Stewart, MCAS Beaufort  
Mr. Rand Thacker, MCAS Beaufort  
HMC (FMF) Patrick Thompson, Naval Hospital  
Staff Sergeant Nicholas Underwood, MCRD Parris Island



Sergeant Rocksan Washington, MCRD Parris Island  
Fire Captain Darran Vaughn, MCAS Beaufort

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

HM2 Denise Galvan, Naval Hospital  
Sergeant Jason Harris, MCRD Parris Island  
Corporal Cassandra Heil, MCRD Parris Island  
Sergeant Angela Lopez, MCRD Parris Island  
Sergeant Ronald Seaver, MCAS Beaufort  
Sergeant Christopher Vigiltrujillo, MCAS Beaufort

The major sponsors for the 2008 CIVITAS Awards are Hargray Communications and *The Beaufort Gazette*. Award Sponsors include: First Citizens Bank and Trust Co of SC; Robinson, Grant & Co., PA; Regions Bank; MCAS Beaufort Federal Credit Union; United Way of the Lowcountry; 303 Associates; Tri Command Communities/Actus Lend Lease; Parker Hannifin Racor Division; Harvey & Battey, PA, Lowcountry Young Professionals.

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The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce has more than 900 business members. The chamber plays a leading role in representing businesses and providing a common voice to bring concerns and solutions to local, state and federal governing bodies. Educational opportunities provided by the chamber are designed to enhance and support the growth of small businesses. The Chamber is the designated marketing organization for tourism to the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal and the unincorporated areas of Beaufort County. The Chamber partners with a wide variety of non-profit organizations and businesses to market the hospitality industry and to attract visitors.