

NEWS RELEASE

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ROANOKE
REGIONAL
SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
CENTER

ROANOKE BUSINESSMAN TAPPED FOR SMALL BUSINESS VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Allen, a Roanoke attorney, has been named the 2009 Small Business Veteran of the Year by the Roanoke Regional Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Allen was presented the award on October 1, 2009 at the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Awards.

"Charles Allen is an individual who has made a significant difference in the lives of veterans and has contributed to the Virginia economy by operating a successful law practice in Roanoke for 30 years." said Tom Tanner, business counselor with the Roanoke Regional SBDC. Allen also served with the Roanoke City's Attorney's office before moving on to private practice. Allen served in active and reserve duty in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966 – 1994 and retired with 26 years of service. Allen has been active with several veterans' associations to include the Buchanan American Legion Post, the Marine Corps League, The Retired Officers Association and has served as the attorney for the Marine Corps Reserve Association and on the board for over 20 years. Allen also serves as the OMBUDSMAN for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

The Small Business Veteran of the Year award was established in 2000 to recognize veterans who have made a significant contribution to the Virginia economy through involvement in small business and who have made a significant difference in the community by promoting a sense of duty and an appreciation of country, democracy, and freedom. Allen will now compete in the statewide award contest.

The Roanoke Regional Small Business Development Center was established in 1990 to provide free business counseling, training, and to serve as a resource center to support growing small businesses. Over 19 years, it has served almost 4,000 clients and helped local small businesses access nearly \$89 million in capital.

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