



# *News Release*

**ORANGE COUNTY/INLAND  
EMPIRE DISTRICT OFFICE**

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## **Parish Morris, Co-Founder of Veteran’s Business Action Committee Selected as 2018 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year**

*“Battle Tested Entrepreneurs” helping other Veterans*

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office has selected Parish Morris, co-founder of Veteran’s Business Action Committee (VBAC) to be recognized as the 2018 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year. Morris was nominated for the award by Scott Agajanian, Business Development Manager for the City of Murrieta.

Morris is a retired United States Marine Staff Sergeant and co-founder of Veteran’s Business Action Committee, a group that works to promote entrepreneurial education, mentorship and resources in support of local Veterans. A 501(c) (3) organization, the group assists veterans in training for the government contracting certification process and in learning how to apply and compete for government contracts. VBAC holds monthly events at the Murrieta Innovation Center and brings experienced veteran entrepreneurs to share knowledge and experience with local veterans. According to the U.S. Census Bureau Survey of Business Owners, veteran-owned small businesses are 45% more likely to be self-employed than non-veterans and nearly 1 in 10 U.S. small businesses are veteran-owned. Considering the concentration of this demographic within the region they anticipate their efforts will lead to more contracts awarded by Camp Pendleton and other installations.

VBAC provides many resources to support military needs of the veteran and family, including events held by VBAC as well as other veteran organizations and maintains a business directory of local veteran owned businesses. The organization consists of “battle tested entrepreneurs” to help other veterans in areas of entrepreneurship, networking, employment training, business development, economic development, resume writing, disability claims and education in government contracting helping them to retool for life after military service. Morris is a valuable voice for veterans in Murrieta and the entire region. In the last year, the City of Murrieta saw a threefold increase of business permits year over year, and with a portion of those being military veterans, the actions of VBAC no doubt had a sizeable impact on this very positive development. Morris is also the owner of Document Security Solutions in the City of Murrieta.

Parish Morris will be recognized and receive his award as the 2018 Veteran Small business Champion of the Year at the local Small Business Week Awards program to be held Friday, May 11 from 10:30 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. For more information on the event or to register, email [events@ochcc.com](mailto:events@ochcc.com) or call (949) 891-1464.

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**About the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

### **About the Orange County / Inland Empire District Office**

The Orange County / Inland Empire District Office, under the leadership and vision of J. Adalberto Quijada, District Director, is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services in the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Located in Santa Ana near John Wayne Airport, the office and its staff facilitate understanding and access to SBA loan programs; coordinate and conduct hundreds of training sessions and special events annually such as matchmaking forums and loan workshops; and manage a portfolio of more than 100 businesses enrolled in the agency's 8(a) business development program.