



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Member Named “2010 Virginia Veteran Owned Small Business of the Year”

Virginia Beach Businessman to be Honored at *Small Business of the Year Awards Luncheon* on May 25

HAMPTON ROADS, VA – Mark Klett, the founder, President and CEO of Klett Consulting Group, Inc of Virginia Beach has been named as the 2010 Virginia Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year. The competition, sponsored by the Virginia Small Business Development Center Network, is designed to recognize veterans who have made a significant contribution to their region’s economy and to recognize those deserving individuals who have made a significant difference in their communities by promoting a sense of duty, volunteerism and an appreciation of country, democracy and freedom. The motto of this competition is “Veterans, Serving Their Country in War and Their Communities in Peace.”

Mark was selected from a group of five state finalists who were recommended by their respective regional small business development center directors. The criteria for selection included, among others, the success of the business, demonstration of community involvement and the nominee’s military history, awards and achievements.

Klett Consulting Group, Inc (KCG) was founded in 2002 and consisted of just Mark working out of his home in Virginia Beach. A graduate of the US Naval Academy who holds a Masters in Engineering Systems Technology from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, he was able to capitalize this extensive education with his operational experience to fill a niche in system engineering to develop new operational capabilities. Mark established himself as a Subject Matter Expert in Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) and worked in providing the Navy and Joint organizations with enterprise solutions within the Global Information Grid and Network-Centric Operational Environments. Since its founding, KCG has consistently grown at a rate of over 80% per year in annual revenues and has supported the Department of Defense, and State Department all over the World, including: Japan, Hawaii, Bahrain, Kenya, Italy, and is currently registered to do business in seven states.

Klett Consulting Group, Inc has been a member of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce since 2006. The company has been recognized as one of the Chamber’s “Rising 25” for the city of Virginia Beach, and also as the 2009 “Top 10 to Watch” in last year’s Small Business of the Year Competition. Mark attributes his company’s success to the outstanding KCG employees, who represent the company in the field and do all the heavy lifting to make the company what it is today. We all work very hard to take care of the personnel in KCG and our valued customers to always give them our best efforts. Mark states, “This Award is really a reflection of all the terrific people who work as part of the KCG Team.”

Mark is a strong supporter of the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Council as one of the founding members, which supports creating opportunities for service disable veteran owned small businesses in the local, state and federal markets. The Council recently teamed with ODU Procurement Technical Assistance Center office to win a grant from the Small Business Administration to open a Veteran Business Outreach Center at ODU.

The Virginia Veteran Small Business of the Year Award will be presented by Jody Keenan, the Virginia Small Business Development Center Network Director at the Hampton Roads Chamber’s Small Business of the Year Awards Luncheon which will be held at noon on May 25 at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel & Waterfront Conference Center in Portsmouth, Va.

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About the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce (www.hamptonroadschamber.com)

The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit, member-based business organization. The Chamber is a vigorous advocate for the economic success of its nearly 2,000 member businesses, which employ more than 280,000 men and women in southeastern Virginia. The Chamber promotes Hampton Roads' healthy business climate through economic development, public policy initiatives, services and benefits to members. The Chamber is dedicated to creating economic opportunity and enhancing the quality of life in Hampton Roads.

About the Small Business Development Center of Hampton Roads (www.hrsbdc.org)

The Small Business Development Center of Hampton Roads is a non-profit affiliate of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and Thomas Nelson Community College in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration. It is part of a statewide network of business assistance headed by the Mason Center for Business and Public Policy at George Mason University, and funded primarily by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The SBDC provides management counseling, information, technical assistance, education, and training to small businesses in the region's 18 cities and counties. It has been serving the greater Hampton Roads region and the Eastern Shore since 1990. Since its inception it has provided services to over 9,900 clients and assisted them in achieving over \$208 million in economic impact as well as creating over 2,900 jobs.

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