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Grace Pilot Named Outstanding Entrepreneur by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

As part of its emphasis on recognizing the contributions of area businesses, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce will present its Outstanding Entrepreneur Award to Grace Pilot, co-founder, chair, secretary and treasurer of Pilot Catastrophe. Pilot will receive the award during the Chamber's Small Business Award luncheon on Wednesday, June 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel.

In 1983, Grace and her husband Walter started the company in their Mobile kitchen. A few months later Hurricane Alicia struck Galveston and Houston and gave the fledging company, created to help people in times of tragedy, the security the couple needed. Today, it is one of the largest independent insurance adjusting firms in the country. Pilot adjusters have worked every major disaster, including Hurricane Katrina, tornadoes in Tuscaloosa and throughout the Mid-west, earthquakes in California and fires in Malibu.

While the direct employee number is tied to the number of adjusters in the field and fluctuates, the company consistently employs hundreds locally and thousands nationwide, including all of Grace and Walter's children.

"Grace is a long-time leader and philanthropist. The selection committee talked at length about the value and contributions made through Pilot Catastrophe that have impacted hundreds of thousands of disaster victims throughout the nation as well as many right here in our community," said Bill Sisson, the Mobile Area Chamber's president & CEO. "She exemplifies



Pilot

the spirit of entrepreneurialism and she and the company are models for excellence when it comes to giving back to our community.”

Among her many philanthropic endeavors, the E. Grace Pilot Foundation supports efforts to create a positive change in the communities in which she serves, providing financial support primarily in the areas of education, economic community needs and Christian ministry.

The award was created in 2014 to recognize and celebrate an individual who represents the characteristics of successful entrepreneurship including creativity, initiative, dynamic growth and sound management. In selecting the winner, the committee used guiding criteria, including: a substantiated history as an established entrepreneur, the impact of the business on the job market and the innovativeness of a product or service.

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