



**For Immediate Release
November 25, 2013**

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2013 Mobile Area Chamber Award Winners

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce recognized four companies Friday, Nov. 22 at a joint meeting of the organization's governing board of directors, board of advisors and its economic development investors.

Small Business of the Year – Safe Archives

Chances are when you're in the business of storing someone's most significant documents, they trust your location is secure, easily accessible, the staff is friendly – and it helps if it is an economical option.

Well that's just what president Bestor Ward had in mind when he launched Safe Archives 11 years ago.

In addition to traditional storage of paper files, the company offers a concrete vault, the only firelock vault in a 250-mile radius for more valuable items like backup tapes and hard drives, scanning and imaging services, and online inventory.

The staff of eight is dedicated to customer service and encouraged to share their own ideas on ways to reach company goals. It must be working because in the last two years revenue has increased by double digits.

Contact: Tyler Brenes, Safe Archives, tyler@safearchives.com, 251-433-4392

Manufacturer of the Year – BAE Systems

With double the number of employees from when BAE Systems first took over the Mobile River shipyard three years ago, the company plans to hire another 150 by mid-2014. There are approximately 1,000 people employed locally, 37,000 nationally and some 88,000 globally.

The London-based entity has operations in Australia, India, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and the United States.

In spite of economic challenges, including the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a mix of repair work and new construction by the energy sector is driving the majority of the work in Mobile. The company also serves clients in the construction, cargo, cruise, chemical and transportation carriers.

In fact BAE holds contracts for six vessels, creating a backlog of work three to four years out – as long as the market will allow. And last year completed the largest vessel ever built and launched in Alabama, measuring 616-feet-long and weighing 12-thousand tons – the chemical tanker *American Phoenix*.

Contact: Wendy Crocker, BAE, Wendy.Crocker@BAEsystems.com, 251-690-7100

Corporate Community Service Award Winner – Airbus Americas Engineering

Among the 116 organizations where Airbus Americas Engineering employees dedicate their time and effort lies a diversity of community agencies and service projects.

From education to emergency assistance to health-related causes to veterans, nearly two-thirds of the company's 230 employees are involved in volunteer efforts.

Throughout the past year, Airbus employees gave up their holidays to help assess damages from the Christmas Day 2012 tornado that tore through midtown Mobile with the American Red Cross, filled backpacks with food for hungry children and donated 2,000-pounds of food to the Bay Area Food Bank, helped teenagers compete in the BEST Robotics competition, stocked a library with books and adopted reading buddies at Gillard Elementary, and much more.

This award recognizes companies – both large and small – for its dedication to the community and is presented by the Junior League of Mobile and the Mobile Area Chamber.

Contact: Kristi Tucker, Airbus, Kristi.Tucker@airbus.com, or Mary Anne Greczyn, Maryanne.greczyn@airbus.com, or Clay McConnell, clay.mcconnell@airbus.com

Ambassador of the Year – Millie Sue Hawk

Annually a group of volunteers who serve the Chamber compete for the Ambassador of the Year award. This year's winner is Millie Sue Hawk, owner of Welcome Friends that introduces people moving to the area to various businesses. With her Mobile Area Chamber hat on, Hawk introduces new members to the Chamber's many benefits and networking opportunities. She is also an active participant in Chamber Chase, the annual total resource development fund. She previous earned the same award for her involvement in 2009.

Contact: Millie Sue Hawk, Welcome Friends, 251-422-7777

Attached photos include group shots of the Small Business of the Year, Manufacturer of the Year and Corporate Community Service Award Winner and an individual of Ambassador of the Year.

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