

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **National Defense Industrial Association-Georgia Chapter**

February 9, 2016 - Atlanta, GA

Last night the National Defense Industrial Association-Georgia Chapter held its annual awards dinner at the Georgia Tech Research Institute. NDIA-GA is a dynamic organization sponsoring quarterly breakfasts with nationally known speakers who discuss defense issues, particularly those that impact the State of Georgia. They also sponsor quarterly tours of defense organizations across the state, and their individual committees work with areas of the defense industry that are important to Georgia.

Guest speaker for the event was US Congressman Austin Scott. Congressman Scott, who represents middle Georgia, is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Congressman Austin Scott gave an outstanding talk focusing on the growing threat, both domestic and abroad, of terrorism; strategy for defeating ISIS; his work on the House Armed Services Committee; and the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act.

NDIA-Ga began this annual dinner event to honor people and companies from around the state that have shown a level of excellence in the area of defense and particularly in areas of industry that are very important to the State of Georgia.

Four awards were given at the dinner on Monday evening to four outstanding Georgia individuals or companies.

The VOUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD was given to Mr. Barry Page, President of C4S2 Global, for his outstanding contributions to NDIA-GA as a board member and chairman of the small business committee. He has worked tirelessly as a member of the board, not only in his capacity as small business chairman, but also in any other area where help is needed.

The SMALL BUSINESS AWARD recognizes the significant contributions made during the previous year by a Georgia small business to the long-term strategic posture of the defense industry in Georgia. The 2015 award was presented to Dr. John Olds and SpaceWorks Enterprises, Inc. SpaceWorks Enterprises, which he founded, is an Atlanta-based group of innovative space businesses focused on commercial markets, space systems analysis, and low-cost space hardware. Its subsidiary companies include Generation Orbit, Terminal Velocity and Blink Astro.

The SpaceWorks group is an aerospace engineering concept design and systems analysis firm focusing on next-generation space transportation systems, future technologies, human and robotic exploration of space, and emerging space markets and applications. Their advanced concept design and development work helps their customers envision the impact of future technologies, understand the feasibility of proposed space missions, and make strategic decisions regarding future markets. No small business in Georgia has had the national and world impact on a sector of the economy in so many futuristic and visionary areas as SpaceWorks.

The GENERAL JAMES OGLETHORPE SPACE AWARD is named in honor of General James Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, who was a forward-thinking visionary leader. General Oglethorpe and his group saw great opportunity in the new world. Our great state is the result of their willingness to accept that

opportunity. Space is also a great opportunity for Georgia, and this award recognizes the significant contributions made during the previous year by the recipient who recognizes this opportunity and provides significant contributions to the space program within the state. The 2015 award was given to Steve L. Howard of St Marys, Georgia.

Mr. Howard has served as the County Administrator of Camden County since 2007. He took over the project of developing a spaceport in Camden County when the project was floundering. He recognized what this project provided for both the State of Georgia and Camden County and wanted to be sure the county did not miss out on this unique opportunity. He has expertly guided the project by first obtaining an agreement to purchase the property and is now working with the Federal Aviation Administration to accomplish the Environmental Impact Study that must be done before a license to operate the spaceport can be issued by the FAA. Numerous space company executives have said this property is the finest in the country for a commercial spaceport. It provides Camden County and Georgia with an economic opportunity that may be the most significant in its history. Without Steve's vision and leadership this opportunity would have been lost. His vision and leadership exemplify every qualification for this award.

NDIA-GA's most prestigious award, is the OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD called the Citizen-Soldier Award. It recognizes the significant contributions made by the recipient to the long-term strategic posture of Georgia's defense industrial base. The award is given to a Georgia citizen or to a Georgia company who has made an outstanding contribution toward increasing public awareness of and support for our national defense needs. The 2015 award was given to Mrs. Sheila McNeill of Brunswick, Georgia.

She has been a key player in defense issues for many years and continues to be one of Georgia's most influential defense voices at both the state and national levels.

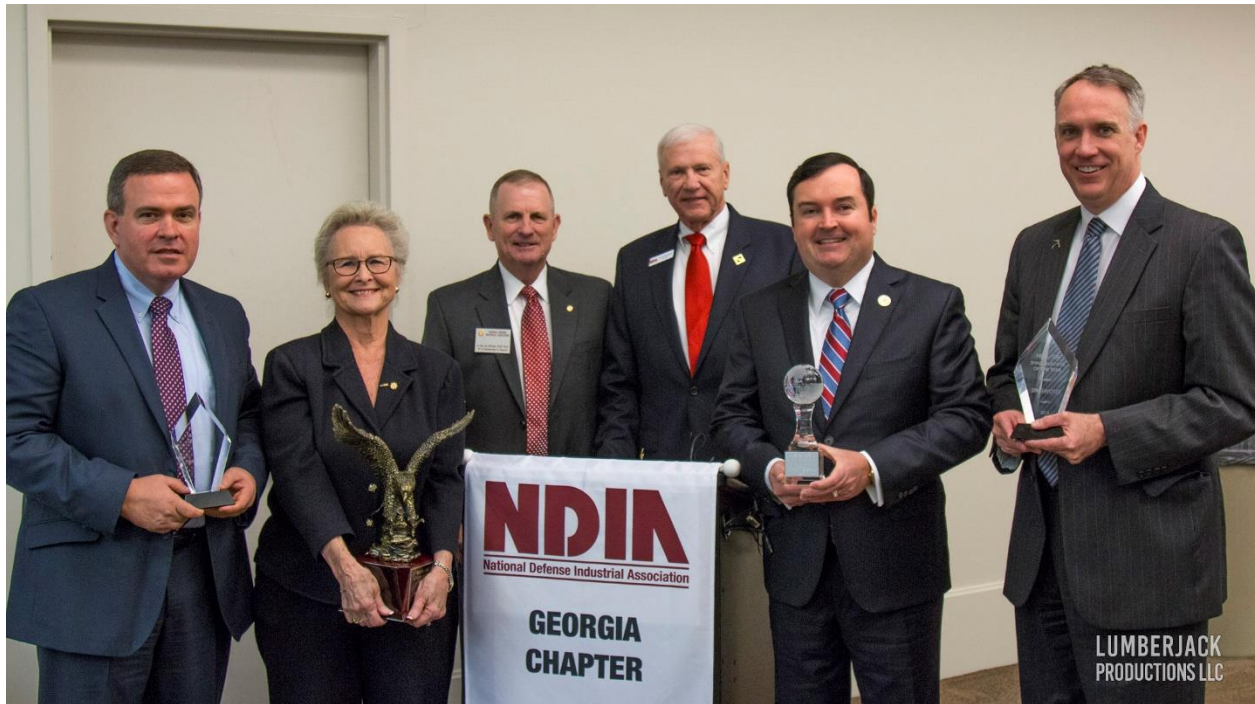
She was the National President of the Navy League of the United States from 2003-2005, and is the only woman to ever hold this prestigious position. The Navy League is the only civilian organization dedicated to supporting the sea services – the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine. As National President, she was responsible for leading the Navy League's 70,000 members who are dedicated to educating American citizens and elected officials about the importance of sea power. Although she gave up the national presidency in 2005, she still serves on the national advisory board.

Because of her long history of active involvement with the sea services; she served as vice chairman of the executive committee for the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), an influential advisory committee to the Secretary of Defense and other DOD officials.

Here in Georgia, she has served as a member of the Executive Board of the Governor's statewide Military Affairs Coordinating Committee. She was the commissioning president of the St. Mary's Submarine Museum and Charter Chairman of the Military Community Council. She continues to serve in both organizations. She was co-chairman of the USS Bancroft Sail Exhibit at Kings Bay to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Submarine Force. She has been on the Board of Directors of the Chambers of Commerce in both Glynn and Camden Counties. Georgia Trend Magazine has named her as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians. She is currently President of The Camden Partnership, a non-profit organization which promotes community support for Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay (NSBKB) and the military missions in Camden County, Georgia. Every state with a military presence, and every military

community should have a Sheila McNeill as a member of their team, so it was a particular honor for the National Defense Industrial Association-Georgia Chapter to award its 2015 Citizen-Soldier of the Year to Mrs. McNeill.

“It is an honor for NDIA-GA to be able to hold this awards dinner and honor people like our awardees who were selected by our board this year,” said Chuck Hunsaker, President of NDIA-GA. “All citizens of Georgia should be proud that we have people like this serving our state and our defense interests.”



Pictured left to right: Barry Page; Sheila McNeill; LtGen (R ) Lee McFann, VP Chapters and Membership for NDIA; Chuck Hunsaker, President, NDIA-GA; Steve Howard; Dr. John Olds