

Castle, SBA Highlight New "Patriot Express" Loan Initiative -- August 21, 2007

Newark, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle and Stephanie Watkins, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), joined Robert DuHadaway, President & co-owner of DuHadaway Tool and Die Shop, Inc. in Newark to emphasize the importance of veteran-owned businesses and the newly expanded range of loans available through the SBA's Patriot Express Loan Program as well as tour the factory floor. The Patriot Express Loan Program includes new and enhanced programs and services for veterans and members of the military community wanting to establish or expand small businesses.

"Our veterans do so much for the country, and expanding this program to include reservist and military spouses will not only benefit the military community but Delaware as a whole, particularly the economy with job creation," said Congressman Mike Castle. "Businesses like DuHadaway should serve as a motivator and a model for those in the military community who are looking to start a small business. The Small Business Administration has a great program to help with getting these businesses started."

"In light of the sacrifices our extended military community has made during the War on Terror we have created for them what we believe is our best loan product, the Patriot Express Loan," said Stephanie Watkins.

When it began in 1957, DuHadaway Tool and Die Shop, Inc. was a veteran-owned small business, and over the last 50 years, the business had grown into one of the nation's most modern precision machine shops. DuHadaway Tool and Die Shop, Inc. produces precision crafted parts and assemblies for today's global power generation, automotive, military and aerospace industries and services domestic customers, as well as customers in Canada, England, the Philippines, and Germany.

"My father founded DuHadaway Tool and Die Shop after serving in the United States Navy during World War II. He recognized the dedication and work ethic of American veterans and was happy to offer them jobs when applicable," said Robert DuHadaway. "Serving in the Army Reserve from 1968 to 1974, I also witnessed firsthand the skills and hard work of military personnel. In fact, DuHadaway Tool currently employs about 20 veterans. As a family-owned business founded by a World War II veteran, we recognize the importance and impact of employing skilled veterans."

With the expansion of the Patriot Express Loan Program, eligible military community members include: veterans, service-disabled veterans, active-duty service members participating in the military's Transition Assistance Program, Reservists and National Guard members, current spouses of any of the above, and the widowed spouse of a service member or veteran who died during service or of a service-connected disability.

For more information on DuHadaway Tool and Die Shop, Inc., visit <http://www.duhadawaytool.com/> and www.sba.org for information on the Patriot Express Loan Program.

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