



P R E S S R E L E A S E

HeloAir Soars Above the Rest

Local aviation company takes home the GRCC IMPACT Award

November 04, 2005 - Aaron Roberts/Richmond.com HeloAir bests four other local companies to take home the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce IMPACT Award.

When asked how it felt to capture the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce IMPACT Award, HeloAir President Whit Baldwin told Richmond.com he was "overwhelmed" and "humbled." HeloAir was selected ahead of Environmental Solutions Inc., Free Agents Marketing, Home Care Delivered, Inc. and Service Center Metals at the GRCC's 138th Annual Dinner at the Richmond Marriot Thursday night.



HeloAir is the largest helicopter charter management company in the Mid-Atlantic. Transportation for disaster relief and organ transplants, aerial photos and film for television news are just a few of the services HeloAir provides. Although the company is based in Richmond, they also have offices in Norfolk, Roanoke, Manassas, Charlotte and Atlanta.

"All five finalists were outstanding and very deserving of the award," Baldwin said in a Friday morning telephone interview.

According to the GRCC, the IMPACT Award has been presented since 1988 and is the only award where commerce and community come together. The IMPACT Award recognizes local businesses that have:

- Grown their business in both gross sales and number of employees;
- Demonstrated innovation in business practices, new products, services and ideas;
- Responded to adversity and won;
- Contributed to the Greater Richmond Community;
- Offered a quality work environment for their employees.

"Our committee works year around," explained Chamber President and CEO Jim Dunn. "There were over 100 nominations, which were narrowed down to five."

According to Dunn, the committee of 12, led by Scott Warren of Warren, Whitney and Sherwood, visits each finalist at their work sites.

"I think it speaks well for the program," Dunn said of the visits.

Baldwin attributed the honor to multiple factors.

"We are better than the next guy – we have excellent people. We do what we can to give back to the community and we've overcome the 9/11 aviation adversity," he explained.

Once a month, HeloAir encourages their 17 part and fulltime employees to spend a paid workday giving back to the community.

Baldwin added that the 13-year-old company has persevered in an industry that is struggling. "We had four competitors five years ago – now we have none."

"If they went out of business today, no one could take their place," Dunn said of HeloAir. "[The Committee] was very impressed with their sales and employee growth."

In addition to the IMPACT Award, the Chamber also passed the gavel to its next chairman. Outgoing 2004-05 Chairman Spencer D. Hamrick Jr. introduced Jon King as the 2005-06 chairman. King is the President and CEO of Exclusive Staffing Companies.

"He is a tireless worker," Dunn said. "He has a bias for action and is a champion for small businesses.

"We are pleased he accepted the chair and head the organization next year."

Nearly 1,000 people from throughout the Richmond region business community attended the Annual Dinner.