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## **MCCC EVP Barbara Ashe Receives Award as the NaVOBA 2017 Veterans Business Advocate of the Year**

**Rockville, Md.** - The National Veteran-Owned Business Association (NaVOBA) honored Barbara Ashe, president of the Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation (MCCCF) and the National Director of the Veteran Institute for Procurement, as the 2017 Veterans Business Advocate of the Year at their conference in Phoenix, AZ on Thursday, November 9, 2017. Ms. Ashe is also the Executive Vice President of the Montgomery County (Md) Chamber of Commerce and oversees the organization's GovConNet programming.

"From the very beginning NaVOBA has supported VIP and the Veterans it serves," said Barbara Ashe. "We are very fortunate to have their continued support and leadership in ensuring veteran business success. I am honored to receive the Veterans Business Advocate of the Year Award and most thankful for their recognition."

In her capacity as National Director of the Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP) program, Ms. Ashe has delivered comprehensive market-based training to over 900 Veteran Owned and Service Disabled companies in the federal government contracting space. The three-day comprehensive training is offered at no cost to veterans nationwide.

"NaVOBA is proud to honor Barbara Ashe as our 2017 Veteran's Business Advocate of the Year, said NaVOBA President Matthew Pavelek. "We've encouraged our veteran's businesses to attend the VIP program for many years now and we're proud to say that we have dozens of success stories that we've shared of veteran businesses who've seen significant growth with their firms upon graduation. Congratulations Barbara."

Other award winners include James Kelly, founder and CEO of Invictus International Consulting, 2017 Vetpreneur® of the Year, Lamont Robinson, Vice President of Supplier Diversity for Nielsen, as the 2017 Corporate Veterans Champion, and Rocky Bleier, with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Each award winner's story is featured in the [November-December dual issue of Vetpreneur](#), NaVOBA's national print and digital magazine.

The Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP) is an educational training program for owners, principals and C-level executives of veteran-owned businesses. The VIP is a 27-hour, 3-day comprehensive certification program instructed by professional service experts, government officials, and agency representatives. Funded by Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation, through a

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cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration partners, and VIP sponsors, the program is offered at no cost to participants, except transportation. VIP enrollment is open to eligible veteran-owned small businesses nationwide.

NaVOBA is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization led by Corporate Supplier Diversity professionals. NaVOBA's mission is to create corporate contracting opportunities for America's Veteran's and Service-Disabled Veteran's Business Enterprises (VBEs/SDVBEs) through certification, advocacy, outreach, recognition and education.

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