

RECOGNIZING METALCRAFT MANUFACTURING

• **Mr. VITTER.** Mr. President, as this body continues to honor the importance and contributions of the small business community across America, I would like to specifically recognize MetalCraft Manufacturing of Shreveport, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

After years of experience as an engineer and businessman, Todd Leleux acquired MetalCraft Manufacturing in 2008. Building upon his extensive background in the oil and gas industry and MetalCraft's history of providing top of the line metal manufacturing and customer service, Leleux quickly grew the company's manufacturing in a few short years. With an increasing client base, Leleux sought to expand to Lafayette, LA, in 2011. During this process, he included Garland Champagne and Jeff Prejean as co-owners who brought over 70 combined years of experience in down hole oil tools.

Over the years, MetalCraft has helped provide high-quality products to industry leaders such as General Electric, GE, and the Halliburton Company, while also delivering their signature level of service to all clients, regardless of size. Today MetalCraft continues to serve Louisiana with the highest level of expertise and craftsmanship to industry, ranging from agriculture to petroleum. MetalCraft has and will continue to offer quality employment opportunities to Louisianians for many years to come.

Congratulations again to MetalCraft Manufacturing for being selected as this week's Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING MOONBOT STUDIOS

• **Mr. VITTER.** Mr. President, small businesses have the unique ability to connect with and inspire members in their communities. It is especially noteworthy when these businesses are able to inspire their neighbors through a creative use of the arts. This week I am proud to honor Moonbot Studios of Shreveport, LA, as Small Business of the Week, for their commitment to captivating the imaginations of folks of all ages through beautiful animation and superb storytelling.

In 2009, three visionary artists—Bill Joyce, Brandon Oldenburg, and Lampton Enochs—hatched a revolutionary idea: open a full-service design and production studio in Louisiana's budding entertainment hub, Shreveport, LA. The trio aimed for creating and producing visually stunning and intricately told stories for folks of all ages. Helmed by Joyce, a former illustrator for Disney/Pixar, and Oldenburg and Enochs, two successful entertainment-industry professionals, the group began producing top-notch and award-winning animated short films and digitally animated books and cell

phone apps. The experience of these talented professionals helped shape the first major animation studio in Louisiana.

Today Moonbot has grown into an award-winning team of 50 employees ranging from animators, illustrators, and a large film and marketing team creating beautiful stories that capture the imaginations of folks both in Louisiana and around the world. Currently, the studio is working with Amazon Studios in creating and producing a new animated children's show to be streamed on the popular Amazon Prime Web site. Additionally, the group boasts a number of prestigious awards including a handful of Emmy Awards and an Oscar for best animated short film with their original production "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore."

Congratulations again to Moonbot Studios for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to inspiring our next generation of Louisiana artists and storytellers. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING MORRIS & DICKSON CO. LLC

• **Mr. VITTER.** Mr. President, oftentimes the truest test of a small business's strength is its longevity. In Louisiana, our small businesses have worked through countless challenges and survived for generations to improve the lives of their neighbors and make substantial contributions to the economy. In honor of their 175th anniversary, I would like to present Morris & Dickson Co. LLC of Shreveport, LA, with the Senate Small Business Legacy Award for the important achievements of this Louisiana-based small business success story.

In 1841, John Worthington Morris opened J. W. Morris & Co., an independent pharmacy in downtown Shreveport, LA. Working out of a single riverfront warehouse, J.W. first received goods by steamboat from New Orleans and with the help of his brother, Thomas Henry, ran his namesake small business until his death 12 years later. A second generation of the Morris family continued J.W.'s legacy until Claudius Dickson bought the business in 1899, renaming it to be Morris & Dickson Co. Claudius worked with members of the Morris family to grow their wholesale pharmaceutical business. As technology improved, with new railway lines and gasoline-powered trucks, Morris & Dickson Co. embraced the revolutionary improvements to distribute their pharmaceuticals in Louisiana and the surrounding States.

In order to survive the Civil War, the Great Depression, as well as the day-to-day struggles of running a successful business, the leaders of Morris & Dickson Co. took advantage of each technological improvement to ensure the company would stay afloat.

It wasn't until the 1980s that Morris & Dickson Co. grew exponentially and

became a nationally recognized competitor. At the time, Morris & Dickson Co. was working out of the same building it had first moved into in 1905. Nearly eight decades later, they were still transporting goods in a manual freight elevator and used a dumbwaiter or rope bucket to send orders upstairs. Claudius's son Markham Allen Dickson recognized that major changes had to be made and, much like his predecessors, had an immense respect for technology's growing influence. M. Allen's foresight and ingenuity allowed the family-owned business to grow to become the region's leading wholesale drug distributor. He moved the company out of downtown Shreveport, utilized the early use of computers, and under his leadership, Morris & Dickson Co. exploded on the national wholesale pharmaceutical scene. By 2013, Morris & Dickson Co. was the fourth largest pharmaceutical distributor in the Nation.

Still driven by the 175-year old ambition to elevate the standard of patient care for their neighbors and community, today Morris & Dickson Co. is run by M. Allen's son, Paul Dickson. Morris & Dickson Co. has a well-earned reputation for persevering through many hardships by embracing innovation in order to harness the power of an ever-changing economy and increasingly technology-driven world.

Today Morris & Dickson Co. provides operational and logistic innovation support for independent pharmacies. This includes everything from on-time delivery of pharmaceutical inventory to inventory management software. With Morris & Dickson Co.'s help, independent pharmacies in 14 States can focus on supporting and improving the health of their local communities, while also remaining financially solvent.

This Shreveport-based family-run business is a great example of the American dream in action, and companies like Morris & Dickson certainly serve as role models for the next generation of entrepreneurs. I congratulate the hard-working folks at Morris & Dickson Co. LLC on 175 years in business and for the well-deserved honor of the Senate Small Business Legacy Award.●

RECOGNIZING PARADISE OUTFITTERS, LLC

• **Mr. VITTER.** Mr. President, as I continue to honor the success and contributions of the small business community in the United States, I would like to honor the work of Paradise Outfitters, LLC, located in Venice, LA, as this week's Small Business of the Week.

Paradise Outfitters, LLC, has become a premier deep sea charter fishing company, not only in Louisiana but throughout the entire gulf region. Captain Hunter Caballero opened his doors

almost a decade ago, following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. An accomplished angler who holds the Louisiana State record for big eye tuna, Captain Caballero's work has been featured in *Saltwater Sportsman*, *Louisiana Sportsman*, the *Waterman's Journal*, among others. Captain Caballero started with only one boat and a small crew but now has a fleet of 4 boats, employs 4 captains, and a crew of roughly 10 to 20 individuals, depending on the fishing season. Paradise Outfitters delivers essential services in fishery management while contributing to the commercial and economic development essential to keeping Louisiana competitive.

I am proud to support Louisiana's reputation as the "Sportsman's Paradise," and companies like Paradise Outfitters, LLC, provide unparalleled services that help Louisiana uphold that moniker. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and even during the BP oil spill in 2010, Captain Caballero and his crew continued providing a significant boost to our State's irreplaceable tourism industry and have allowed us to showcase the unique and wonderful fishing opportunities that only Louisiana can provide.

I would like to congratulate Paradise Outfitters, LLC, once more and thank their team for the services they have provided throughout our State's most challenging times. I look forward to seeing their continued success and applaud them for giving people the unique experiences one can only find in Louisiana.●

RECOGNIZING RENAISSANCE PUBLISHING, LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in my role as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am fortunate to come across entrepreneurs across the United States who have dedicated so much time and effort to creating jobs and boosting our Nation's economy. This week, I would like to recognize Renaissance Publishing, LLC, located in my hometown of Metairie, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

Renaissance Publishing first opened its doors in Jefferson Parish in 2006. In the last 9 years, Todd Matherne has consistently provided folks across Louisiana with exceptional printing and publishing services and today employs over 50 people. With a guiding directive to "celebrate life" in each of Mr. Matherne's publishing ventures, Renaissance Publishing has grown from producing custom publishing titles for local organizations to also owning and managing a handful of local magazines and periodicals, including *MyNewOrleans.com*, *New Orleans Magazine*, and *Louisiana Life*. As such, Renaissance Publishing has the latest information on what to do and what is going on in New Orleans. For his many achievements, Mr. Matherne was designated as Small Business Person of

the Year by Louisiana Economic Development in 2015.

In recognition of their years of dedication to growing jobs and contributing to southern Louisiana's economic development, I congratulate Renaissance Publishing, LLC, for being selected as Small Business of the Week.●

RECOGNIZING THREE BROTHERS FARM

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the opportunity to buy from local businesses affords consumers fresher and higher quality products, but it also gives them the chance to support the communities in which they operate. In that spirit, I am proud to recognize Three Brothers Farm of Youngsville, LA, as Small Business of the Week for their commitment to bringing high-quality locally grown products to restaurants and consumers all around the State of Louisiana.

Three Brothers Farm in Lafayette Parish got its start in 1944 when it began producing fresh, all natural fig preserves. They traveled to farmer's markets all across the State to bring their quality products to the masses. For years they enjoyed growth and success in the fig industry; however, in 2005, when Hurricane Rita came ashore bringing 22 consecutive hours of salty gulf rain with it, Three Brothers Farm faced an unprecedented challenge. The result of such extended rain was devastating to the fig tree population on the farm and dramatically decreased Three Brothers Farm's ability to produce enough figs to supply the demand.

Instead of giving up, the owners turned their efforts to a new endeavor and began to develop the sugar aspect of the business. Under this new direction, the farm added an FDA-approved kitchen to be used to scrub raw sugar and thus be able to provide it to area restaurants and co-ops. Their venture paid off tremendously as they now have 29 acres of naturally produced sugarcane and Celeste figs, which allows them to service some of the best restaurants in Louisiana including the Besh Restaurant Group, Herbsaint, Cochon, and Le Petite Grocery, amongst many more.

Congratulations again to Three Brothers Farm of Youngsville, LA, this week's Small Business of the Week, for their dedication to providing Louisiana with "Certified Cajun" products and I look forward to your continued growth and sweet success.●

RECOGNIZING TOCE ENERGY, LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, with the right tools, small businesses have the unique opportunity to drive economic growth and opportunity across the country, providing good-paying jobs in their communities. In energy-rich Louisiana, small oil and gas companies are no exception to this. This week I would

like to recognize Toce Energy, LLC, of Lafayette, LA, as Small Business of the Week, for their commitment to spurring economic growth through the State's distressed oil and gas industry.

In 1997, after many successful years in the oil and gas industry, Victor and Paul Toce teamed up to found their namesake Toce Energy, LLC, in energy-rich southwest Louisiana. Initially offering services in acquisitions of oil and gas properties, Toce Energy quickly expanded their reach into neighboring parishes, spurring growth in the local communities in which they operate.

Today Toce Energy boasts operations in 18 parishes across the southern region of the State. Contracting over 500 vendors to support their operations in geology, geophysics, land, drilling, production, accounting, and legal services, the group provides scores of good-paying jobs both in Louisiana's struggling oil and natural gas industry and across various industries which serve the sector.

Congratulations again to Toce Energy for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to Louisiana's energy sector and providing jobs for citizens of Louisiana. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING TRIPLE N OYSTER FARM

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisiana is known for serving some of the best seafood in the world, and that includes our locally grown and raised oysters. We are especially lucky in that many Louisianians are putting pen to paper in order to hammer out real solutions that will preserve, protect, and rebuild our vulnerable coastal habitats that also give a boost to some of our richest industries. One such Louisiana-based business is this Small Business of the Week Triple N Oyster Farm.

Biology professors at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Dr. Steve Pollock and Dr. Ginger Brininstool took the entrepreneurial leap in 2015 when the Grand Isle community sought new ways to farm oysters in the popular coastal community. The husband and wife team worked together to develop an innovative new way to farm and harvest oysters with minimal damage to Louisiana's vulnerable coastal habitats. By suspending their oyster habitats off the sea floor, Dr. Pollock and Dr. Brininstool experiment with alternative farming techniques that allow oysters to mature more quickly and cleanly than in traditional farming methods.

Recently, Triple N Oyster Farm was selected to join a competitive impact accelerator program at Propeller, a popular New Orleans, LA, nonprofit organization whose aim is to help start and grow entrepreneurial ventures in the greater New Orleans area. In this program, Dr. Pollock and Dr.