

# For Immediate Release

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## **“Fifty Influential Minorities In Business” National Awards Gala - 2003**

Theme: “Celebrating Excellence & Leadership”

Alexandria, VA (May 2, 2003) The Minority Business & Professionals Network is hosting its national 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Gala, “Fifty Influential Minorities In Business” on Wednesday, June 25, 2003 at The Crystal Gateway Marriott located at 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway in Arlington, Virginia 22202, from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. This black tie award presentation is honoring fifty minority men and women who are making headlines and making a difference in their fields.

The Honorable Chairman during the gala is Col. Aaron B. Floyd (U.S. Air Force Retired), President and CEO of Aaron B. Floyd Enterprises, Inc. ABF Enterprises is a successful, private owned information technology firm, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, founded in 1986.

Our guest speaker, Ms. Gwendolyn Jones, President of Gregory Truck Body and Fire Apparatus, Inc. in Los Altos, California, is the first African American/woman to manufacture fire apparatus and beverage trucks in the country.

Invited Congressional guests include: Hon. Stephanie Tubbs Jones; Hon. Donna Christian-Christensen; Hon. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.; Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson; and Hon. Julia Carson.

Carl Brooks, President of the Executive Leadership Council & Foundation has also been invited for the keynote address.

The men and women we are honoring are in the forefront of American leadership and symbolize the diversity and advancement that has occurred across industry lines. Their accomplishments in the public and private enterprise should serve to inspire and motivate an innumerable amount of men and women of color in our world.

During this gala event there will also be special presentations for the “Government Agency of the Year,” the “Corporation of the Year,” and “Young Business Leaders Recognition (under the age of 40).

Carmen Ortiz Larson, President of AQUAS, Inc. is this year’s mistress of ceremonies. *There will be live entertainment and a VIP reception. Individual seating - \$250, Corporate table of 10 - \$2,500. Names of all attendees to the gala must be received before the date of the event - no on-site registration. Free parking and security provided.*

For hotel reservations, call Crystal Gateway Marriott at (703) 920-3230 on or before Wednesday, June 4, 2003. For more information about the gala call (703) 768-7031. Visit our website at [www.mbpn.org](http://www.mbpn.org).

