



**Greater Los Angeles  
African American  
Chamber of Commerce**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GLAAACC CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF HONORING ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

**April 15, 2013 (LOS ANGELES, CA)** -- It was a night of a thousand stars as the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Economic Awards Dinner. "20 years of Advocating, Educating and Creating Business Opportunities," was the theme for the evening. Hollywood celebrities as well as the heads of major corporations and public agencies came out to commemorate GLAAACC's milestone. Television and film actress Vivica A. Fox ("Independence Day," "Soul Food," "Set it off,") was the Mistress of Ceremonies. U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Manufacturing and Services Nicole Y. Lamb-Hale gave the keynote address and Southern California Gas Company Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Anne Shen Smith spoke on behalf of the evening's presenting sponsor. One of the highlights of the evening was a video accentuating the 20 year history of the economic awards dinners, from the first dinner in 1993 to last year's dinner with keynote speaker U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis.

"The Economic Awards Dinner is one of GLAAACC's most high profile premiere events," remarked GLAAACC Chairman Gene Hale. "We've always had top officials from a variety of industries as a part of the Economic Awards Dinner. At our first awards dinner in 1993, Sam F. Iacobellis, Executive Vice President and Deputy Chairman for Major Programs at Rockwell International was the chairman of the event and the keynote speaker was NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin."

Past honorees include Jessie J. Knight, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for San Diego Gas & Electric, the highest ranking African American official of a public utility company in the United States and California Attorney General Kamala Harris. Notable keynote speakers include U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, former California Governor Gray Davis, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke.

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This year's salute to the achievements of corporations and individuals who have contributed to the economic growth and development of the African American business community included 13 award categories. The major categories included Utility Company of the Year (Southern California Gas), Banking & Financial Institution of the Year (Wells Fargo), Commercial Construction Company of the Year (McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.), Corporation of the Year (Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc.), Government Agency of the Year (California Department of General Services) and Public Works Contractor of the year (Barnard Pipeline, Inc.), Engineering Company of the year (Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.), Developer of the Year (Westfield Property Group and Millennium Partners) and Commercial Subcontractor of the Year (Bergelectric Corporation).

Holly Mitchell, Assembly member for the 54 Assembly District, received GLAAACC's Public Servant Award.

Keynote Speaker Nicole Y. Lamb-Hale, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Manufacturing and Services, spoke about the goals and accomplishments of the President's Export Council (PEC). "Now more than at any time in our history, Americans are selling more U.S. goods and services to the 95 percent of consumers who live outside of our borders. In 2012, U.S. exports hit an all-time record of \$2.2 trillion and supported 9.8 million jobs," said Assistant Secretary Lamb-Hale. GLAAACC Chairman Gene Hale was recently reappointed by President Obama to his 2nd term as a PEC member.

Southern California Gas Company Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Anne Shen Smith spoke about the utility's long history of supporting minority and women-owned businesses as well as disabled veteran business enterprises. Sempra Energy, SoCalGas' parent company, was a past nominee for GLAAACC's Corporation of the Year award. For more than 140 years SoCalGas has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas. It is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing safe and reliable energy to 20.9 million consumers through 5.8 million meters in more than 500 communities.

Mistress of Ceremonies Vivica A. Fox thanked her "All of Us" co-stars Duane Martin and Tisha Campbell-Martin who attended the event for their support. She concluded by congratulating GLAAACC on the successful event and their advocacy efforts, "I am truly honored to be a part of such an outstanding ceremony and an organization that is doing so much to advance the cause of African American-owned business."

For more information on GLAAACC and to view pictures from the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Economic Awards visit [www.glaaacc.org](http://www.glaaacc.org).

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