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CHAMBER'S 146TH ANNIVERSARY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE OF "BUILDING TOGETHER"

CNN Hero Derreck Kayongo to deliver keynote remarks; Mayor to swear in 2017 Board

SAN DIEGO (Feb. 2, 2017) – For 146 years, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce has served as the leading voice for business, committed to our region's growth and creating an environment for business to succeed. Tonight, nearly 1,000 business, community, and elected leaders will gather for the organization's annual Anniversary Celebration. With the theme of "Building Together," the event will celebrate the Chamber's partners and members, the accomplishments all achieved together, and look ahead to the goals for 2017. Included among the event's distinguished attendees are featured speaker Derreck Kayongo and Mayor Kevin Faulconer who will share an update and swear in the Chamber's 2017 Board of Directors.

"The Chamber has never been stronger than it is today and that is because of the support of our members, partners, and friends," said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. "We will build on that strength over this next year to advance sound policy that will help business grow and continue to drive San Diego forward."

The Chamber's goals for the year center on leveraging the collective power of all in the business community and include launching a women's professional development program; strengthening programs that help build the region's next generation of leaders, including Young Leaders and Public Leadership Institute; advancing the U.S.-Mexico relationship and cross-border commerce focused initiatives; and building member resources that help business grow.

The evening's keynote address from Kayongo, a Top Ten CNN Hero and Global Soap Project founder, will speak to the power of observation and capability we each have to make tangible change in the world. Kayongo's personal story from Ugandan refugee to successful entrepreneur and renowned human rights activist will inspire and empower attendees.

“The Chamber’s role as a hub for connections and collaboration grows each year and I look forward to the opportunity to continue the momentum we have created for the business community,” said Chamber Board Chair, Ernesto Arredondo, Jr., Wells Fargo San Diego Region President. “As we look to the year ahead we are counting on everyone in the business community to help us create the best environment for business to succeed.”

The Chamber also will present two awards to local leaders who have made a difference in the community and represent what truly makes San Diego unique.

- Thella Bowens will receive the “Moving San Diego Forward” award which recognizes an individual whose work is improving San Diego, and putting it on the map. Bowens’ impressive career as President/CEO of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority and her work in transforming the airport into an international gateway and model for sustainability made her deserving of the award.
- Darlene Shiley will receive the “Herb Klein Spirit of San Diego” award which honors someone who has made a significant and lasting impact on our region. Shiley was chosen for her considerable philanthropic investment in health, education, and the arts that has improved the lives of countless San Diegans.

For highlights from the 2017 Anniversary Celebration, search the hashtags #Chamber146 and #BuildingTogetherSD on social media.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

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