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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CHAMBER'S 148<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITY IN WORKFORCE**

*Featured speaker Capt Janessa Goldbeck explores how diversity is key to our future workforce*

**SAN DIEGO** (Feb. 6, 2019) – For 148 years, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce has been committed to creating the best environment for San Diego businesses, employees and neighborhoods to thrive. Tonight, nearly 1,000 business, community, and elected leaders will gather for the organization's Anniversary Celebration. The event will celebrate the Chamber's partners and members and the accomplishments achieved over the past year. The Chamber will also share its priorities for 2019, which include a focus on leveraging the talent and diversity in the region's evolving workforce to create #OpportunityatWork. Included among the event's distinguished attendees are featured speaker U.S. Marine Corps Captain Janessa Goldbeck and San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, who will share an update on city activities and recognize the Chamber's 2019 Board of Directors.

"The Chamber's commitment to San Diego businesses, employees, and neighborhoods has not wavered through all the growth and changes we have seen in our region," said Jerry Sanders, Chamber President and CEO. "The changes we see taking place in our workforce today are opportunities to take the steps now that will make a big difference in positioning our region for success."

The Chamber's goals for the year center on creating and inspiring opportunity in the workforce and within communities. Together with the support of members and community partners the Chamber will serve as the region's voice on issues of critical importance from housing and homelessness, to international trade and the preservation of our cross-border relationships. Key priorities include continued advocacy for the ratification of the new North American trade agreement – USMCA, supporting business-friendly policy that fosters innovation and business growth, and delivering economic research that identifies where our region is excelling and where opportunities exist to do more. Through Chamber partner LEAD San Diego, the organization will work to expand the reach of its leadership programs making them more diverse, inclusive, and representative of today's dynamic workforce.

“The Chamber is in a position to ignite and accelerate the potential of our region and the key to that lies in the expertise of our Chamber members and community partners,” said Chamber Board Chair, Rick Bregman, Market President of Bank of America Merrill Lynch-San Diego, and National Co-Head of Global Healthcare Banking. “We’ll work together to create new opportunities that grow business, enrich neighborhoods, and move our region forward.”

U.S. Marine Corps Captain and San Diego native Janessa Goldbeck who serves as Protocol Officer at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego will deliver the evening’s keynote address. Captain Goldbeck earned her commission as a Combat Engineer Officer in the Marine Corps, an organization that is less than 9 percent female, and was one of the first women to volunteer to attend combat arms training that had previously been closed to women. Before earning her commission in the Marines, Captain Goldbeck worked on communications and advocacy campaigns focusing on the intersection between national security, international development, human rights, and technology. She will share insight gained from her experiences on how generational, gender, and other social differences are shifting perspectives and dynamics in our evolving workforce.

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.

- The Friends of SDSU, will receive the “Moving San Diego Forward” award, which recognizes work that is improving San Diego, and putting it on the map. The Friends of SDSU represent the largest and most diverse coalition of San Diegans who joined together to ensure the future growth of SDSU and bring opportunity to the entire San Diego region.
- Mike Murphy will receive the “Herb Klein Spirit of San Diego” award, which honors someone who has made a significant and lasting impact on our region. In Murphy’s more than 20 years as president and CEO of Sharp HealthCare he has grown annual revenue from \$745 million in 1996 to more than \$3.4 billion today and transformed the health care experience through his visionary initiative, “The Sharp Experience.”

For highlights from the 2019 Anniversary Celebration, search the hashtags #Chamber148 and #OpportunityatWork 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](http://SDChamber.org) or call 619-544-1300.

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