

Farmington Hills business owner honored for helping veterans

Tel Ganesan, president and CEO of Farmington Hills-based Kyyba, Inc., received the National Veteran Business Development Council's (NVBDC) Founders Award, during the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Annual Business Smart Week observance in late July.

According to a company press release, Ganesan became involved with the NVBDC, the nation's leading third party authority for certification of veteran owned businesses, in 2012 when the organization began helping veterans get certified so they could obtain gainful employment and business opportunities.

The nonprofit needed an easy-to-use online registration and application software system that would capture the veteran business' capabilities and codes. However, at that time, they were struggling with their strategy and funds. Ganesan learned about their plight and volunteered his services and those of his company, which is an international staff augmentation firm.

Kyyba's team provided time and effort, as well as a nearly \$200,000 financial investment, towards developing and launching the software, which is now used to certify companies, including large automotive manufacturers, across the country.

"I wanted to, even in the smallest way, help the veterans who risked their lives defending this great country," said Ganesan. "This entrepreneurial journey was conceived from nothing but inspiration from several large companies who were giving veterans opportunities they would otherwise not have. We believed in it, committed to it and its success has blown away our expectations. I am very touched and honored to have received the NVBDC's Founders Award."

"Our main purpose in awarding the inaugural Founders Award was to recognize and thank outstanding individuals and their companies who were critical to our



NVBDC president Keith King, left, presents the Founders Award to Tel Ganesan. (contributed photo)

successful launch and early accomplishments and who continue to be instrumental in our growth and future success,” said NVBDC President Keith King. “I’m deeply honored to have presented the award to Tel Ganesan.”