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FAMILY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES OUTSTANDING MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY BUSINESSES

Boston, MA – The Family Business Association (FBA), the leading independent non-profit organization serving family business enterprises, today honored nine outstanding Massachusetts family businesses for their achievements, success, and significant contributions to the Massachusetts economy.

MacNeill Engineering Company, Inc. of Marlborough, MA was named **Small Family Business of the Year** (fewer than 50 employees); **Stavis Seafoods, Inc.** was named **Mid-Sized Family Business of the Year** (50-150 employees), and **Winston Flowers** was named **Large Family Business of the Year** (more than 150 employees). Both Stavis Seafoods and Winston Flowers are based in Boston. **Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc.** of Watertown, MA was named **First Generation Family Business of the Year** (family ownership with no generational transition).

Additional award recipients included **Dover Rug Company Inc.** of Natick, MA, which was honored with the **Community Excellence Award** for its philanthropic excellence, **Johnny Cupcakes Inc.** of Weymouth, MA recognized for its **Marketing Excellence**, and **DirtyGirl Disposal, Inc.** of Millbury, MA which was given the **Endurance Award** for overcoming significant adversity.

All of the companies recognized with these awards are among **21 finalist** family businesses which were honored by the FBA, and each was selected from a pool of approximately **600** applicants. An independent group of business professors from area business schools conducted the judging.

In lauding the hard work, determination, and perseverance family businesses, the FBA recognizes the unique set of challenges faced by family businesses. “We are thrilled to celebrate these outstanding family businesses whose accomplishments and particular success stories are not told nearly enough and whose contributions power the economic engine in Massachusetts and continue to be the backbone of what drives the US economy” says **Jeffrey Davis, FBA Founding Director**.

Two additional businesses selected by the FBA Executive Directors were given special awards. The **Comcast Spotlight Hall of Fame Award** was presented to **Bernie & Phyl's Furniture** for its longevity, excellence, and achievements, and **Robert Viamari**, Co-Founder and Publisher of ***Cape and Plymouth Business Magazine*** was recognized with the **Regional Family Business Advocacy Award** for the company's continued assistance to and education of family businesses in that region.

The FBA awards recognize the importance of family businesses in Massachusetts and the critical role they play in providing significant employment opportunities, revenue generation, as well as economic development and growth in their communities, the state, and the region.

Dedicated to the continuing success of the family-owned enterprise, the FBA offers educational programs and a platform for family businesses to share their knowledge, experience, and expertise while navigating the inherent challenges that are unique to family-owned companies. Award finalists receive access to special FBA resources throughout the year, including events, seminars and media opportunities, all designed to help these companies reach their strategic goals, growth, and success.

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MacNeill Engineering Company, Inc. is an **eighty-three year old** manufacturing business supplying large multi-national sports brands. The company is owned by the **third generation** of the MacNeill family-- Harris MacNeill, his wife Nancy, and most recently their son Mark (fourth generation).

Stavis Seafoods, Inc. is an **eighty-five year old third generation** family business which has become an international importer, exporter and distributor of fresh and frozen seafood. Richard Stavis, the founder's grandson, is CEO of the company, located on Boston's fish pier.

Winston Flowers is a **seventy year old third generation** family business run by David & Theodore Winston, principal owners, in Boston. Based in Boston, the company has a world-wide presence and is one of the nation's most highly regarded florists.