



Fredericksburg businessman named Veteran's Business Champion

Fred Wellman, the founder and CEO of Fredericksburg-based ScoutComms, Inc., was recognized in June as the "Veterans Business Champion of the Year" by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Wellman advanced over 25 years in military, corporate, and non-profit experience into a Virginia Benefit Corporation that "empowers veterans" and military families through communications grounded initiatives and collaborative alliances that lead

Virginia Benefit Corporation allows Wellman to more effectively build a work culture that supports Veterans causes and the spirit of giving to community.

Wellman graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and began



to greater awareness of veterans' needs and expanded access to economic and social resource opportunities." Operating as a

his career as an Aeroscout pilot, flying and leading helicopter missions around the world, including four combat missions. He later took roles in public affairs, rising to a Deputy Commander for the Soldiers Media Center and Defense Media Activity. He served as the Chief of Public Affairs for General David Petraeus (retired) and current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey. He said this experience prepared him to work with high level clients such as The Home Depot, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation, General Electric and BAE Systems.

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City of
Fredericksburg
Economic Development
and Tourism *Virginia*



AUGUST 2014

Wellman is a champion of many veterans' causes. He is a member of the American Legion's Small Business Task Force, Vice Chairman of the Fredericksburg Area Veterans Council, Community Outreach Director for Team Red, White and Blue Fredericksburg and the Washington D.C., Advisory Board to U.S. Vets, Inc.

He is also a member of the Veteran Owned Business Executive Roundtable at the University of Mary Washington Center for Economic Development. There he serves as public relations advisor for the Yellow Ribbon Initiative, an advocacy to collaborate with other organizations to promote educational opportunities at UMW in the

spirit of the Veterans Administration G.I. Bill Yellow Ribbon Program. Wellman and the members of the Roundtable helped seed a Veterans Endowment at the University to "Provide a perpetual fund to support the advancement of education opportunities for honorably discharged service members, active duty service members in good standing, their spouse, and their children."

When not working on Veteran's initiatives and at ScoutComms, you will find Wellman at his wife Crystal's skin care boutique, Ladyburg. Located at 807 Caroline St., Ladyburg is a "modern day skin care apothecary." No surprise...he is a Ladyburg Champion also.

