



MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT

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Warrior Runners Named Home-based Business of the Year **Sandwich-based founder Stephanie Thompson is a U.S. Navy veteran**

BOSTON – The Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Warrior Runners the 2019 Home-based Business of the Year for Massachusetts.

Warrior Runners earned the recognition for being a catalyst for charitable fundraising and empowering individuals in long-distance running events. Coach Stephanie Thompson is a disabled combat Navy veteran, level-2 running coach and personal trainer – mentoring athletes to achieve their fitness goals.

“Coach Thompson teaches victories won in the battlefield and translates them to success in the daily lives of her clients,” said SBA Massachusetts District Director, Robert Nelson. “We congratulate Stephanie for turning her passion into a profitable business that inspires runners to achieve their goals. “

Warrior Runners was founded in October 2016 with a small personal loan to begin operations. Thompson offers in-person and online coaching services throughout the southeastern part of Massachusetts to runners of all types, novice and experienced, ages 14 and older.

Thompson has participated in several veteran-focused programs, such as VETRN.org; and business events sponsored by the SBA, and also received mentoring by MSBDC Senior Business Advisor, Clifford Robbins. In recent years, the company has started to become profitable after initial startup costs incurred a net loss. Warrior Runners is positioned for expansion in 2019 and poised for future growth.

"The Warrior Ethos states, 'I will always place the mission first, I will never accept defeat, I will never quit, and I will never leave a fallen comrade,' **said Founder, Stephanie Thompson.** “At Warrior Runners, we are committed to positive transformation; we embrace the process, and each other, every step of the way.”

Thousands of dollars have been raised for charitable causes by Coach Stephanie Thompson's through Warrior Runners. Proceeds have gone directly to: Special Olympics Massachusetts, Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod, WellStrong, First Church Sandwich, Sandwich Arts Alliance, Sandwich Food Pantry, and Heroes in Transition. Coach Thompson also serves as volunteer coach for the Sandwich Sailors Special Olympics team.

The company was nominated by Clifford Robbins, Senior Business Advisor at the Southeast Mass Regional MSBDC, a staff member of UMass Amherst Isenberg School of Management.

Founder Stephanie Thompson will be honored at the annual SCORE Boston / SBA awards luncheon along with other 2019 Massachusetts Small Business Week winners at Assumption College on Wednesday, May 8th, 2019.

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About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start and grow their businesses. It delivers services to people through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.