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Contact: Sen. Tim Golden, 404-656-7580 or tim.golden@senate.ga.gov

Sen. Golden receives NFIB ‘Guardian of Small Business’ Award

VALDOSTA – The National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) – Georgia has selected state Sen. Tim Golden (R-Valdosta) as this year’s recipient of its most prestigious honor, the “Guardian of Small Business” award.

“Your personal philosophies, actions, strong lifetime NFIB/Georgia Voting Record and your dedication to preserving Georgia’s free enterprise system demonstrate not just your support for small business, but your leadership on issues of importance to our members,” said NFIB/Georgia State Director Kyle M. Jackson in a letter notifying Golden of the award.

“On behalf of the nearly 8,000 NFIB members in Georgia, I want to thank you for your support,” Jackson added. “Small businesses are the backbone of Georgia’s economy, and I am pleased to have a champion of your strong character and enthusiasm serving in the Georgia legislature.”

During the 2011 legislative session, Golden introduced and passed [SB 17](#) to establish the Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits, which will review and assess the impact of existing and future health insurance benefit and provider mandates that are imposed on Georgia’s small businesses.

Golden also successfully amended [HB 292](#) with language from [SB 151](#), which he sponsored to reduce the increase in unemployment tax surcharges, which will save Georgia businesses several hundred dollars per employee when the increase takes effect Jan. 1, 2012. Gov. Nathan Deal signed both SB 17 and HB 292 into law shortly after the end of the session.

Earlier this year, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce recognized Golden with an “A” grade for his strong support of the state’s business community, as determined by his votes on legislation deemed important to economic growth and job creation. Only 65 legislators out of 236 received grades of “A” or higher, including 17 senators and 48 representatives.

Golden, serving his seventh term in the Senate following four terms in the House of Representatives, is chairman of the Senate Retirement Committee, secretary of the Appropriations Committee, vice chair of the Government Oversight Committee, secretary of the Insurance Committee and chair of its Subcommittee on Life, Health & Workers Compensation and a member of the Finance Committee. He represents Senate District 8, which includes Brooks and Lowndes counties and parts of Cook and Thomas counties.

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