

## **2001 Phoenix Award Winners**

The Phoenix Awards Committee has selected the following winners whose efforts and contributions have enabled their businesses or communities to recover successfully from a disaster:

### **Public Official**

Douglas C. Friez  
State Director, North Dakota Emergency Management  
1817 Masterson Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 328-8100

During the last 27 years, Douglas Friez has worked tirelessly for disaster victims in North Dakota, doing everything from mitigation planning to coordinating recovery efforts, working with SBA, FEMA and the American Red Cross.

### **Volunteer**

James M. Woods  
4739 Fairfield Avenue #5  
Shreveport, LA 71106  
(318) 221-0084

Woods organized a non-profit civic organization to coordinate recovery efforts after a series of tornadoes struck Shreveport last April. He rented chain saws to take care of tree removals, sometimes working alone, while touring the disaster area to assess the needs of those in the hardest hit areas. He put his law practice on hold to help the citizens of Shreveport rebuild their lives.

### **Insurance Company**

The Allstate Corporation  
Les Mertins, Manager—National Catastrophe Team  
2775 Sanders Road F4  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847-402-5000

For their quick response in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

## **Small Business**

Benjamin S. Breskman  
Sentry Paint Technologies, Inc.  
237 Mill Street  
Darby, PA 19023  
(610) 522-1900

Floodwaters that rose in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd (September 1999) nearly destroyed Benjamin Breskman's manufacturing (automotive paints) business when the plant was submerged in nearly 17 feet of water. After receiving an SBA loan Breskman and his staff worked non-stop for five months, gutting and rebuilding. They also remained open, and were able to rebound quickly after the disaster.

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