A business icon, an American music legend, and a highly decorated military veteran highlighted the Business Council of Alabama’s 2015 Chairman’s Dinner held at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel ballroom in October.

The annual chairman’s dinner supports the work of the BCA as it strives to build a stronger and more productive pro-business environment in Alabama. The annual event also provides the opportunity to mark achievements of the year and honor those who made the accomplishments possible.

BCA Chairman Marty Abroms, president and managing shareholder of Abroms & Associates, P.C., in Florence, presided over the Oct. 6 Chairman’s Dinner, which featured a national cultural treasure headquartered in Muscle Shoals.

The Muscle Shoals Sound that created hit after hit for dozens of artists was created by music producer Rick Hall and the recording studio band, the Swampers. The Muscle Shoals Sound and Hall’s career were featured in the 2012 documentary, Muscle Shoals.

Abroms presented Hall and the Swampers with the 2015 Chairman’s Award. “Rick Hall and the Swampers put Muscle Shoals on the musical map and built what is known as the Muscle Shoals Sound and a legacy that will last for generations,” Abroms said.

One of the honored was Brewton businesswoman
Carol Gordy, the first and only female chair of the BCA and ProgressPAC, the BCA’s political arm.

BCA First Vice Chairman and ProgressPAC Chairman Tommy Lee, CEO of Vulcan Inc., in Foley, presented Gordy with the Robert “Bubba” Lee Political Courage award named for Vulcan Chairman Robert “Bubba” Lee, the BCA’s 1995 chairman.

The Robert “Bubba” Lee Political Courage Award is given annually to someone who is willing to take position that’s right, no matter the cost. “Carol set the stage for our unprecedented success in the 2010 and 2014 election cycles,” Tommy Lee said.

Gordy, president and CEO of Natural Decorations Inc., is a distinguished member of the Brewton business community and was BCA chair in 2007. She was instrumental in charting a new course for
ProgressPAC by instituting a fundraising plan to create a pro-business Legislature, a plan that is still in place.

“The BCA has been a big part of my life,” Gordy said. “The work that it does is so beneficial.”

Tommy Lee also thanked contributors for their commitment to the BCA.

“Your contributions are invaluable in supporting the work of this organization as it strives to build a stronger and more productive pro-business environment in Alabama,” Lee said. “BCA’s success truly depends on your support.”

Highly decorated former Navy SEAL Rob McNeill made his second appearance at a BCA event. O’Neill’s inspiring and patriotic encore at the 2015 Chairman’s Dinner produced two standing ovations. The veteran previously spoke to the BCA’s 2014 Governmental Affairs Conference in Point Clear.

Abroms touted the success of the Business Education Alliance of Alabama, which was created in 2013 to advocate and support business interests in education. “As a result of your advocacy, the state’s budget for 2015 and 2016 contains 29 million new dollars for Pre-K, dual-enrollment, distance learning, and many other high-impact programs,” Abroms reported.

Abroms highlighted the 2015 legislative session’s business accomplishments – promoting new incentives to attract and keep businesses, supporting sentencing laws to reduce prison overpopulation, defeating a tax proposal that would have put Alabama at a competitive disadvantage, and the important reversal of the “innovator liability” theory that had seriously threatened Alabama’s business climate. T8ADV
The Business Council of Alabama recognizes that small businesses provide the majority of jobs for Alabamians, and the Business Council of Alabama fights every day for the rights of small business men and women. A season football sponsorship is a game changer for a small business and is just another way the Business Council of Alabama proudly recognizes the importance and impact of small businesses on our state.

To apply, Alabama small business owners should visit bcatoday.org/RollTide or bcatoday.org/WarEagle and share in 150 words or less why a 2016 Alabama or Auburn football sponsorship would be a game changer for their small business. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. CST on Jan. 29, 2016.

"Small Business Game Changer" is open only to small businesses located in the state of Alabama that are BCA members in good standing. Further eligibility restrictions apply. Contest is void where prohibited by law. For complete contest rules, visit bcatoday.org/RollTide or bcatoday/wareagle.