More than 900 persons gathered in October to support the work of ProgressPAC, the political action committee of the Business Council of Alabama, at the annual BCA Chairman’s Dinner in Birmingham.

Political strategists James Carville and Karl Rove keynoted the event and entertained the crowd at the Sheraton Birmingham answering questions on a broad range of issues from the presidential election to breaking the gridlock in Washington to SEC football.

This year’s Chairman’s Dinner was held the night before the first debate of the presidential candidates, and much of the discussion focused on the two candidates.

The most intense exchange of the night came during a discussion on the nation’s growing debt. Rove said, “The President of the United States has failed to get the economy going and create jobs, and as a result, he has tried to spend our way to prosperity. … We have a spending problem, not a revenue problem.”

Carville responded, “When you are in a recession, revenues go down and spending goes up. … This horrible recession started in 2007… and caused government expenditures to go up.”

While both agreed to disagree on all things political, the evening ended with a laugh. When asked about the University of Alabama’s football coach, James
Carville joked, “There are a lot of things you can worry about in this world; Nick Saban doing a bad job, you don’t have to worry about that.”

**Carrying the Flag for Business**

The annual Chairman’s Dinner serves as the premier event for those companies supporting BCA’s new Carrying the Flag for Business campaign. At this year’s Chairman’s Dinner, ProgressPAC Chairman Carl Jamison reminded the 900-plus attendees of why business leaders’ continued support of this annual event is so critical.

“With the support of thousands of Alabama business leaders, BCA’s political action committee, ProgressPAC, has served as the rallying point when the business community and its interests have come under attack time and time again,” said Mr. Jamison, a partner at the Tuscaloosa-based accounting firm JamisonMoneyFarmer P.C.

For decades, Alabama was often a tough place to own and operate a business. Political leaders, beholden to anti-business special interests, declared many of the pro-growth initiatives proposed by the private sector dead on arrival.

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James “The Ragin’ Cajun” Carville visits with BCA officers and select members in a private roundtable meeting before the evening’s festivities as Carl Jamison, BCA’s First Vice Chair, looks on.

The Birmingham Boys’ Choir, directed by Ken Berg, began the night’s festivities by singing the National Anthem.

Former BCA and ProgressPAC Chairman Bubba Lee formally kicked off BCA’s Carrying the Flag for business fundraising campaign.

BCA President and CEO William Canary welcomes guests.

BCA Senior Vice President Anita L. Archie recognizes elected officials.
But in 2010, all of that changed. With the help of BCA’s ProgressPAC, Alabama elected the most pro-business legislature in its history, and initiatives the private sector had fought for years finally began to become law.

Former BCA and ProgressPAC Chairman Bubba Lee appeared in a promotional video explaining why it is critical for business leaders to remain engaged in the political process and participate in the Carrying the Flag for Business campaign.

“The Carrying the Flag for Business Campaign will ensure that BCA’s non-partisan engagement in the 2012 and 2014 campaign cycles is successful and the political gains we have made over the past few years aren’t lost,” Lee said in the video. “Over the next three years, the campaign’s goal is to raise the resources necessary to combat anti-business special interests that oppose our progress. Business leaders have a choice: do we continue down this pro-business road we have carved, or do we go back to the old days of too much regulation and too little respect for those who sign the front of a check so others can sign the back? The stakes have never been higher, so let’s charge forward and get to work.”

The Business Council of Alabama presented its 2012 Chairman’s Award for Leadership and Distinguished Service to U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus. BCA Chairman Terry Kellogg of Birmingham presented the award to Bachus at the annual Chairman’s Dinner.

In his tenth term representing Alabama’s Sixth Congressional District, Bachus is the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over the banking, securities, insurance, housing, and domestic and international monetary policy sectors. As chairman, Bachus has championed free-enterprise solutions to the challenges facing our financial sectors.

He has been a steadfast voice for tax relief, economic development, a strong national defense and the elimination of unnecessary, job-killing federal regulations.

In presenting the award to Bachus, Kellogg said, “You have made numerous contributions to this city, our state and our nation. You are a consistent and strong voice for Alabama businesses and the principles of free enterprise.”

Congressman Spencer Bachus
Receives 2012 BCA Chairman’s Award

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