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S.D. 500 Brings Out The Best in Us



SDBJ INSIDER

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Our kickoff party for the San Diego 500, The Book of Influential Business Leaders, was iconically San Diego, from the festive holiday spirit on display at the **Hotel del Coronado** to the **Karl Strauss Red Trolley Ale**. The San Diego 500 was delivered to subscribers along with this issue. Go ahead, put me down and check it out.

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The kickoff was the essence of an SDBJ event — great networking and being surrounded by overachievers. The long and short of it ranged from the nearly 7-footer **Bill Walton** to the petite but mighty 94-year-old queen of the wellness movement **Deborah Szekely**, who recently gave a keynote address at the **South County EDC's** annual economic summit.

We welcomed back **Rear Adm. Yancey Lindsey** as our new Navy Mayor after his short stint as commander Naval District Washington. We didn't immediately recognize **Daniel Sullivan** of **Sullivan Solar Power**. He came sporting a full beard.

We weren't surprised to see the sharply dressed **Paul Robinson** of **Hecht Solberg Robinson Goldberg & Bagley**. He recently was in the headlines for chairing the committee that is re-imagining Mission Bay Park.

Chris Cramer of **Karl Strauss** was in a jovial mood — and why not? They were named national Mid-Size Brewing Company of the Year at the 2016 Great American Beer Festival and just opened a new property in downtown Los Angeles.

You can't beat listening to **Ralph Rubio** talk about his love for **San Diego State** and what it has become; he doubts his younger, less-disciplined self would even be accepted into the school nowadays.

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Ashok Kamal of **Tech Coast Angels** — **San Diego** was among several of the SD 500 who pulled double duty and headed from the Del to La Jolla for the MIP Awards Gala, **CONNECT's** annual event celebration of the most innovative new products launched in the past year. **CONNECT CEO Greg McKee** and **Mike Kremin** of the **San Diego Venture Group** were among those who made the SD 500 but gave us deserved grief over our trampling on **CONNECT's** date. We are sorry about that.

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And to **Teresa Halleck** of **San Diego County Credit Union**, **Kathlyn McAd** of **The San Diego Foundation**, and **Judi Sheppard Missett** of **Jazzercise**, after honoring each of you in November at the **Women Who Mean Business** event and including you in December in the 500, I have no idea how we might top that in January.

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