Good Evening distinguished guests, Chamber members, Board of Directors and Elected Officials.

I’m truly honored and privileged to stand here today as the new Chairman of the Board of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past two years, I’ve had the opportunity to work with a strong group of business leaders seeking to bring our Chamber to its highest level.

It’s a task I have performed with great respect and a strong sense of responsibility.

First, I’d like to thank our outgoing Chairman, Tom McElroy, for his outstanding service and strong leadership.

I look forward to working with Tom in his new role as Immediate Past Chairman. Thank you, Tom.

I want to thank my colleagues at GlobalNet Services . . . my friends . . . my family . . . my parents who are visiting from Israel . . . and my children Yuval, Roey, and Tali for their enormous support. To my wonderful wife Galia: thank you for your patience, understanding and love.

As you have seen tonight, leaders — exemplified by our distinguished award recipients — shape our future.

- Cliff Kendall is an outstanding leader who succeeded in business and supports the community, impacting a regional economy that strengthens us.
- The United States Department of Health and Human Services expertly responds to the critical needs of global science and commerce.

We all benefit from their service and strong presence in our community.

I’m honored this evening to carry the torch of an organization that has come to be known as the Voice of Business in Montgomery County.

But I want you to know that this evening and this year is all about YOU, OUR MEMBERS. Our Chamber exists to help you achieve your goals.

As your new Chair, I’m committed to fulfilling the mission we’ve set for ourselves . . . to “provide an effective voice for the diverse and vibrant economic landscape of Montgomery County, Maryland and beyond.”

With the help and support of our Board of Directors, I’ll work hard to ensure that our Chamber continues to provide the business community with the resources and tools it needs to succeed.

I’m excited about the many new possibilities that lie ahead.

Whether you’re an emerging small business experiencing growing pains or a large global organization, we want you to think of us as your proactive business partner.

You can look to the Chamber to provide business development opportunities, solid business strategies and effective advocacy...all geared for your success.

The Chamber can provide you with the tools to think globally and thrive locally. By engaging here, you can connect everywhere.
That’s why one of my initiatives for growing Montgomery County’s economic base is to increase global, national, and local opportunities, including promoting Global Trade for our members.

We can accomplish this goal by working off our strengths, and we have many:

Montgomery County has the distinction of being at the doorstep of the Nation’s Capital, giving us access to the Departments of Commerce, State, the World Bank, the IMF, foreign embassies, and others.

We’re home to industry leaders, high-tech and biotech companies, and world-renowned educational and research organizations.

Many of our Board of Directors are global corporate leaders who are headquartered here... and overseas.

Our County residents comprise the largest international population in the state and more than 160 nationalities call Montgomery County home.

Nearly half of Maryland’s immigrant population lives in the County. Thirty percent of our residents are foreign born, including myself, and are represented throughout our industries.

Indeed, Montgomery County has become an international microcosm.

Federal agencies headquartered here have a significant global reach.

- From their headquarters in Montgomery County, the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the NIH are on the frontlines with nations around the globe in the war against pandemics.
- The FDA regulates all food imported from abroad.
- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission responds to the aftermath of natural disasters overseas.
- NIST is charged with finding ways to improve security in cyberspace and e-commerce.

On the education front, The University of Maryland, The Universities at Shady Grove, Johns Hopkins, Montgomery College, and Montgomery County Public Schools serve a changing demographic and the workforce demands of a global economy.

Our multi-cultural communities and international business complex reach far beyond our County borders.

As the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, we’re at the nexus of this development.

We want to bring the world of business to the Montgomery County Chamber by engaging experts in the U.S. and foreign markets to guide our members in the global marketplace.

According to the World Bank, in the past five years, approximately 85 percent of the world’s economies have made it easier for local entrepreneurs to operate through improvements to business regulations.

However, it is essential to gain an understanding of the rules, regulations, and processes for operating successfully in an international environment.

We’ll help our members learn what to expect... including the unexpected.

These are significant next steps, and as Montgomery County’s Voice of Business, we’re ready to take them... and to take your company to the next level by developing the kind of strategic programming and
events that can make this global initiative a reality.

We can all be proud of what our Chamber stands for and its legacy of visionary leadership.

As your new Chair, I’m proud to build on our Chamber’s history of empowering our members.

We’re committed to your success — locally, nationally, and globally.

Thank You.