



INTERNATIONAL TRADE COUNCIL *of Greater Kansas City*

Shabobba ® International, LLC Hosts Reception at its River Market Gallery for Ambassador Kenton Keith

Dixie Henderson, President, Shabobba ® International, LLC, announced the reception for Ambassador Kenton Keith at its Shabobba® Gallery, 425 Washington, Suite 109, Kansas City, Missouri, December 5, 2009. The event was sponsored by Shabobba ®. Co-sponsors were: the International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City, the University of Kansas, International Programs and Emery Henderson, Actor, Wright/Laird Casting Agency. The affair was held to recognize and honor Ambassador Keith's contributions in international endeavors.



(L) Barbara Dolci, Executive Director, International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City (IVC) (R) Ambassador Kenton Keith, Senior Vice President, Meridian International Center, Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Kenton Keith assumed the duties of Senior Vice President of Meridian International Center in late 1997 after a career as a Foreign Service Officer with the United State Information Agency (USIA). His primary responsibility at Meridian is management of the professional exchanges activities associated with the State Department's International Visitor Program. He retired from USIA with the rank of Career Minister. From 1992 to 1995, he served as Ambassador to the State of Qatar. Previous assignments were Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs in Cairo, Senior Cultural Affairs Officer in Paris and various posts in the Near East and Brazil.

Apart from his managerial duties at the Meridian International Center, Ambassador Keith remains active in a range of international activities. He serves on the boards of the American Field Service, the Council on International Educational Exchange, and the conflict resolution organization Partners for Democratic Change.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Keith is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a major in International Relations. He was recently named a Distinguished Alumnus of the university and is a member of the Advisory Board of the International Programs Division. Additionally, he serves as an Honorary Advisory Board member of the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City.

Guests from the Lawrence, Kansas, and Kansas City's metropolitan business communities, educational institutions, and international organizations gathered in more than 4,000 square feet of gallery space at Shabobba ® International, LLC to show appreciation to the Ambassador for all that he continually contributes to regional, national and worldwide endeavors. In recognition of the event, Qatar Airways sent giveaways for the guests.

Ross Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, and President, International Visitors Council of Greater Kansas City served as Master of Ceremonies. Marine had the pleasure of introducing the honoree. In his remarks, Ambassador Keith held in high regard the important work that we accomplish in metropolitan Kansas City/Lawrence to promote global peace, education and economic development through diplomacy.

Notable guests and speakers were: Harry McLearn, Consul of Morocco, and Secretary General of the Greater Kansas City Consular Corps; Sharon K. Valasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic; Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco, Associate Vice Provost, and Charlie Bankart, Assistant Vice Provost, International Programs, University of Kansas; Nicholas Peroff, Professor, Department of Public Affairs, Henry W. Block School of Business & Public Administration, University of Missouri- Kansas City; Barbara Dolci, Executive Director, IVC, Jose Somoza, President, GD & J, LLC. Of note, Somoza is a former President of the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Dixie Henderson, President, Shabobba ®, was host. Henderson currently serves on the Board of Directors of the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City.

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