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# The Weekly Challenger

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## Governor Crist Salutes Curtoom founder on 20<sup>th</sup> Year... Appoints Curtis to State Housing Commission

**Tampa** – Governor Charlie Crist took time from a busy schedule to stop in Tampa last month at the stylish Cheval Golf & Country Club to recognize a friend. Crist recognized businessman Paul Curtis, founder and Principal of Curtoom Companies, Inc., a firm started in Tampa by Curtis in 1988.

Crist saluted Curtis on the 20th year anniversary of his business. Curtis of Riverview says the firm rose from a start-up roadwork & utilities contractor to international construction, engineering and management consulting firm. The firm has operations in Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta, San Antonio and New York State. On hand at the event were a number local officials and dignitaries.

In addition, Crist announced he has re-appointed Curtis to a second term on the **Florida Affordable Housing Study Commission**. The Affordable Housing Commission recommends improvements to public policy to stimulate community development, revitalization and to promote the production, preservation and maintenance of safe, decent and affordable housing for all Floridians. Curtis says, “this is a significant personal mark, I have been appointed to a board or commission by every Florida Governor for the last 20 years. Curtis says he is particularly proud of each Governor respects his personal commitment to serving the public, no matter their Party affiliation.

In comments to onlookers Curtis, 52 said he is more enthusiastic than ever about the position and promises held by his firm. “The list of people I would thank is too long to mention. We show our appreciation by the passion in executing and expanding our professionalism.”



Taken at Tampa's Cheval Golf & Country Club – From right to left: Builder/Realtor Paul Curtis, Governor Charlie Crist and Attorney Wilhelmina Curtis. Governor Crist is now considered a leading contender as a running mate for Vice President of the United States.

Curtis says he recognized the firm was becoming more global. Recently he noticed half of the firm's 30 employees, now speak several languages. At first, Curtis said, “I wondered was it just our South Florida base. Now, I have come to know, both America and the World have grown more global in nature.”

**Attorney Anthony W. Robinson, Esquire, President of the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense & Education Fund (MBELDEF)**, a long time associate of Curtis' says, “Curtoom has become a model of the evolving business of tomorrow, today. Visionaries like Paul Curtis, will lead so-called small businesses into the mainstream on a global basis in this century.”

Curtis was quick to proclaim new U.S. Government programs promoting **Veteran-Owned Businesses** may provide a boost for Curtoom. The firm has won contracts with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, U.S. Department of State and the Department

of Homeland Security. Services include facilities management, base engineering and program management. According to Curtis, the opportunities may boost the firm's total worldwide employees to over 100 within two years.

Besides government contracting services the firm is involved in humanitarian efforts with the international relief organization **Engineers Without Borders-USA** designing water/ wastewaters systems, solar powered pump systems and mini hydro electric power systems for local communities in Honduras, Haiti and St. Lucia.

Last month the **National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)** held its 34<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando Florida. The Convention theme was **IGNITING THE TORCH: Engineering in Action**. Over 4,000 NSBE members and guest were in attendance. Curtis, Legislative Committee Chairman for the Tampa Florida Alumni Extension Chapter was elected as the **Region III - Public Relations Chair for the Alumni Extension**. Region III covers Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, the Island of Jamaica and the British Virgin Islands. Curtis says he will initiate programs to foster greater involvement of every jurisdiction in the Region.

Curtis announced the firm will host a gala event in Washington D.C. in September, celebrating the firm's successes at the opening of its Washington D.C. office the week after Labor Day 2008. Featured speakers will include Veteran Association officials, local business association officials and a variety of government officials and corporate officials.