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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 18, 2017

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### **The Lighthouse honors employees at annual Christmas Banquet**

TYLER, Texas – On December 15<sup>th</sup>, two of East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind employees were recognized as National Industries for the Blind (NIB) Award nominees at the company's Annual Christmas Banquet held at the Holiday Inn – South Broadway.

**Charles Coleman**, Production Supervisor of Horizon Industries, manufacturing division for East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, was selected as the 2018 Indirect Labor Employee of the Year and will be the nominee representing The Lighthouse for the National Milton J. Samuelson Career Achievement Award in Washington, D.C., later in the year. The Samuelson Award is presented to an individual who demonstrates career advancement at an NIB associated agency or in the private sector. The award was named for the late Milton J. Samuelson, who championed upward mobility and placement programs for people who are blind.

Coleman started at East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind in 2010 and was also the 2012 Employee of the Year. During his time with the organization, Charles has participated in the Activities Committee, Adaptive Equipment Committee, Safety Team, Mentorship Program, and job shadowing program for blind and visually impaired high school students. Charles is active in his local church and son's

sporting events. In addition to his full-time job and his commitments at home, he is attending college to complete his degree in business.

“Charles is a true leader who the shop employees look up to and trust. He eats, sleeps, and breathes the mission and is firm and fair with all employees.” says William Darby, Director of Operations, Horizon Industries. “With his attention to detail, willingness to learn, and high integrity level, Charles is a cornerstone for Horizon Industries and for all growth moving forward.”

**Jared Sebren**, Production Worker IV, was selected as the 2018 Direct Labor Employee of the Year and will also represent East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind in Washington D.C. as the nominee for the National Peter J. Salmon Direct Labor Employee of the Year. The Peter J. Salmon Direct Labor Employee of the Year Award was established in 1968 by the Board of Directors of National Industries for the Blind (NIB) in cooperation with The General Council of Industries for the Blind (GCIB), now known as The National Association for Employment of People Who are Blind (NAEPB). It is named after the late Dr. Peter J. Salmon, one of the nation's outstanding advocates for people who are blind, who was instrumental in the passage of the Wagner-O'Day Act in 1938 and who served on the Board of Directors of NIB in its early years.

Sebren first began working at East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind in 2016 as a production worker for Horizon Industries after completing the job readiness program at the Client Services division of the organization. With an associate's degree, Jared is continuing his education while working full time as a machine operator. He is known to put safety first while on the job and is known a team player.

“Jared is a high performer who thinks outside the box, utilizes in house resources and is detail oriented.” says Darby. “Jared embodies our mission and represents everything we stand for and is the future of our company.”