

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Award Winners Celebrate the Restaurant Industry of Maryland

*The Restaurant Association of Maryland Salutes the "Stars of the Industry"
with the 2009 Award Winners!*

(Columbia, MD)--The Restaurant Association of Maryland is excited to announce the winners of the awards bestowed at the 55th Annual McCormick & Company Stars of the Industry Awards Gala. The Gala Celebration and Awards presentation took place on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 6pm at Martin's West in Baltimore, MD. This Annual Awards Gala is a spectacular event of industry recognition that brings together over 700 of hospitality's best and brightest to spotlight the industry's influence as a part of the nation's foundation of opportunity. The public voting was intense with thousands of votes collected. Congratulations to all of our nominees, honorees and award winners!

Award Winners and Honorees

Restaurateur of the Year - Leighton Moore, Seacrets Bar and Grill (Ocean City)

2009 Chef of the Year - Chef Michael Gettier, Antrim 1844 (Taneytown)

2009 Favorite Bar and Tavern - Fager's Island (Ocean City)

2009 Pastry Chef of the Year - Chef Arismendy Infantale (Baltimore)

2009 Favorite Caterer - Putting on the Ritz Catering (Laurel)

2009 Wine and Beverage Program of the Year - Liquid Assets Wine & Martini Bar (Ocean City)

Maryland's Favorite New Restaurant - Mitchum's Steakhouse (Trappe)

Maryland's Favorite Restaurant - Marlin Moon Grill (Ocean City)

Allied Member of the Year - Lankford Sysco Food Services represented by Fred Lankford

The Brice & Shirley Phillips Lifetime Industry Achievement Award - Nicholas Mangione (Turf Valley Resort)

The Schellhase Award - Steve F. de Castro of Big Steaks Management

The McCormick Cornerstone Award - Bill Bateman's (Havre de Grace); Glory Days Grill (Gaithersburg);
The Greene Turtle Sports Bar and Grille (Edgewater); SODEXO (Gaithersburg)

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Maryland Hall of Honor Inductees - Fager's Island (Ocean City); Jimmy's Cantler's Riverside Inn (Annapolis); McGarvey's Saloon and Oyster Bar, (Annapolis); Tersiguel's French Country Restaurant (Ellicott City); Three Brothers Italian Restaurant (Greenbelt); Turf Valley Resort (Ellicott City)

Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation ProStart Teacher of the Year - Bette Mullins (Carver Center for Arts and Technology)

Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation ProStart Student of the Year - Francisco Flores (High Point High School)

Marcia S. Harris Legacy Fund Scholarship Recipients - Sarah Baker (Howard High School) and Monica Preibisch (Howard Community College)

For more information on the Annual Industry Awards Gala or a complete list of nominees, please visit www.marylandrestaurants.com or contact Marisa Chioini, Manager of Marketing and Special Events by calling 410.290.6800.

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The Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) has remained relevant to restaurateurs for over 80 years by maintaining core principles born out of the first national financial crisis. In 1927 a small group of Baltimore area restaurateurs met to deal with the challenges facing the economy and the foodservice industry. Today, RAM is a 2,000 member strong statewide trade association operated for the purpose of promoting, protecting and improving the foodservice industry in the State of Maryland. Since the very beginning, the Association has been run by restaurateurs and suppliers working not only for the benefit of dues paying members, but also for the restaurant industry as a whole. For more information about the restaurant industry in Maryland please visit our website at www.marylandrestaurants.com.