



## **ACVB Inducts Four into Hospitality Hall of Fame**

**ATLANTA** (Oct. 12, 2006) – Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) will recognize four outstanding individuals for their contributions to the city’s hospitality industry at the eighth annual Atlanta Hospitality Hall of Fame event. The induction ceremony will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead.

“The Hospitality Hall of Fame is our way to recognize exceptional individuals who have given the hospitality industry their time and commitment,” said Spurgeon Richardson, ACVB president. “These individuals have helped to grow the city’s economy and vitality.”

The 2006 inductees include: Mari Jo Ford, retired director of tourism for Stone Mountain Park; David B. Kenney, chairman of the Kenney Hotel Group; the late Robert R. King, former president and CEO of the Georgia Hospitality & Travel Association (GHTA) and Richard M. Stormont, managing director of The Stormont Companies, LLC.

### **Mari Jo Ford**

*Unforgettable personality and ageless spirit, a little mischief and tons of fun*

Mari Jo Ford spent 28 years improving the visitor experience to Georgia’s Stone Mountain Park. Ford was instrumental in starting the “Yellow Daisy Festival,” and later managing the annual event which was voted by *Sunshine Artists* magazine as one of the nation’s top 10 arts and crafts shows. Through her work with the City of Stone Mountain, Ford established a visitor’s center in Stone Mountain Village to provide information and promote the city to domestic and international visitors. In 1972, the general manager contributed a refurbished caboose to the city of Stone Mountain in her honor.

### **David B. Kenney**

*Selfless contribution of time and talent define his trademark on Atlanta’s success*

David B. Kenney is the former president and partner of Days Inns of America, Inc. and is now managing partner for the Regency Suites Hotel in Midtown Atlanta. Kenney served as a liaison for the Senate Finance Committee at the White House and chairman of both the American Hotel and Motel Association and GHTA. He also served as interim president of the ACVB in 1991. In 1989, Kenney was named “Georgia Hotelier of the Year.” The Society for Advancement of Travel for the Handicapped named him “Man of the Year” in 1992 and in 1994 he was awarded The Paul Grossinger Award as “Humanitarian of the Year.” Kenney also served as chairman of the Cecil B. Day School of Hospitality for 13 years, a board member of the Paralympics and a member of the President’s Committee for the Disabled.

### **Robert R. King**

*A devoted leader with a steady hand and cool head at the helm of Georgia’s hospitality industry*

Robert R. King will be honored posthumously for his dedication to the community and Atlanta’s hospitality industry. He was president and CEO of GHTA for 19 years, retiring in 2000. He has served as vice president for Callaway Gardens at Pine Mountain in Georgia. King gave back of himself by serving on the board of several civic and hospitality organizations such as ACVB, the Atlanta St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the Rotary Club of Atlanta. In 2003, he was honored with the GHTA Hospitality Award for leadership in the industry. The Georgia Hospitality and Lodging Association has also recognized King with a memorial scholarship for Georgia State University students.

**Richard M. Stormont**

*Tenacity, perseverance, faithfulness and commitment are the cornerstones of his remarkable legacy*

Richard M. Stormont has enjoyed a 37-year career in the hospitality industry. As a 22-year veteran of Marriott Hotels, Stormont’s positions have included executive committee member of the American Hotel & Motel Association, chairman of ACVB board of directors and president of Hotel Sales Management Association, Atlanta. Stormont’s civic involvement has included director positions at charitable organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, Atlanta and Leukemia Society of America, Atlanta. He has also served as vice president and director of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. He has been honored with the “Obi T. Brewer Award” from ACVB for a decade of outstanding service, “Hotelier of the Year” from GHTA and induction into its Hall of Fame in 2000. Stormont was also named “Most Valuable Volunteer” for Georgia in 1999 by the American Hotel & Lodging Association where he was presented a plaque by former president, George H. W. Bush. Most recently, Stormont has led the effort to bring the 126<sup>th</sup> Atlanta St. Patrick’s Day Parade back downtown. More than 15 years ago, he founded the successful Stormont Trice Corporation; a premiere lodging company specializing in custom property development and management.

The Hospitality Hall of Fame is proudly presented by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, The Coca-Cola Company, Cingular Wireless and WXIA-TV, 11 Alive. Tickets to the dinner and award ceremony are \$125 each or \$1,250 for a table of 10. For more information or to order tickets, contact Judy Claxton, [jclaxton@atlanta.net](mailto:jclaxton@atlanta.net).

Established in 1913, ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as the premier conventions, meetings and leisure destination in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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For more information, please contact ACVB Public Relations:

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