



ACVB Announces 2004 Hospitality Hall of Fame Inductees

ATLANTA (Oct. 13, 2004) – The Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) is holding its sixth annual Atlanta Hospitality Hall of Fame ceremony to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the growth and well-being of the city with special emphasis on tourism and the travel and leisure marketplace.

“The hospitality industry is a driving force for the city and state’s economy,” said Spurgeon Richardson, ACVB president. “The Hospitality Hall of Fame is a special way to honor these individuals that have made great contributions to the industry and a resounding impact on our city.”

An induction ceremony will take place Thursday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta. The 2004 honorees include former Atlanta Braves player Hank Aaron, Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy, Mary Mac’s Tea room former owner Margaret Lupo and former Mayor Sam Massell.

The Hospitality Hall of Fame is 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 \$1,000 for a table of eight. Please contact Judy Claxton, ACVB vice president of operations, at 404.521.6606 to purchase tickets. For more information or to order tickets online, visit www.atlanta.net/halloffame.

Hank Aaron

Baseball Legend

Baseball fans from around the world traveled to Atlanta in hopes of seeing Henry “Hammerin’ Hank” Aaron break Babe Ruth’s legendary home run record. The largest crowd in the history of Atlanta stadium watched as Hank Aaron hit his 715th career home run on April 8, 1974. He has received a number of accolades including the 1957 National League’s Most Valuable Player, four Gold Glove awards, induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002. Aaron is currently senior vice president for the Atlanta Braves and owns a BMW dealership in Atlanta.

S. Truett Cathy

Atlanta Entrepreneur

As founder and chairman of Chick-fil-A, the nation’s second-largest quick-serve chicken restaurant chain Cathy has coupled the success of his Atlanta-based company with a myriad of community-based contributions. In 1946, Cathy founded Chick-fil-A on biblical principles, hard work and humanity, later expanding those ideals into a national chain. Through Chick-fil-A, Cathy supports Atlanta’s hospitality industry as the primary sponsor for two of the city’s largest annual sporting events: the LPGA Chick-fil-A Charity Championship hosted by Nancy Lopez and the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl. Cathy has also established several youth-focused charitable organizations including the WinShape Centre® Foundation; which awards college scholarships, WinShape Homes®; a long-term care program for foster children; and Camp WinShape®, a series of summer camps that help boys and girls build self-esteem.

Margaret Lupo

Atlanta’s Local Icon for Hospitality

As owner of Mary Mac’s Tea Room for nearly 26 years, Lupo welcomed Atlanta visitors and residents to share a taste of the South. Taking hospitality to the limits, Lupo created what she called a joining table, or communal table, for those who didn’t care to eat alone, and when the restaurant got busy, she would put money on the

counter and let people collect their own change rather than wait for an attendant. Lupo served as a Board member of the Georgia Hospitality and Travel Association and was honored the organization's highest honor, Restaurateur of the Year, in 1980. She is remembered for the warmth and affection with which she served all of her customers, from governors and presidents to the man and woman off the street.

Sam Massell

Civic Leader and Atlanta Visionary

As a life-long resident of Atlanta, Sam Massell has had successful careers in real estate brokerage, elected office, tourism and association management. Massell served terms as President of Atlanta's Board of Aldermen (now called City Council) and one term as mayor where he is credited with establishing MARTA, developing the city's first enclosed arena, the Omni Coliseum, and providing the Central City Woodruff Park. As mayor, Massell also was chosen as President of the 15,000-member National League of Cities. Following a career in office Massell established Your Travel Agent Sam Massell which became the first Atlanta travel agency to market inbound tourism. Massell now serves as president of the Buckhead Coalition, a civic organization dedicated to maintaining the quality of life and guiding smart growth for Buckhead.

Established in 1913, the 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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