



“Night of a Thousand Stars” to Reveal ACVB Member of the Year

ATLANTA (Oct. 31, 2002) – The Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) will once again honor its outstanding members in style at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta Hotel. On Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m., the ninth annual Member of the Year celebration and awards will commence.

The night is designed to thank all of the ACVB’s members, who work every year to enhance and promote Atlanta’s convention and tourism industry. There are four awards granted each year. A panel of seven judges, selected at random from ACVB staff and the membership board committee, rate the nominees for both the Volunteer of the Year – the person who has devoted personal time to any number of service projects that affect the hospitality industry – and the coveted Member of the Year, awarded for embodying and promoting the spirit of hospitality. The ACVB’s senior staff decides on the Corporate Sponsor of the Year, and ACVB president Spurgeon Richardson personally selects the prestigious President’s Award.

“In our forever-changed industry, it is the commitment of our members that keeps Atlanta’s hospitality and tourism industry alive,” says Richardson. “The Member of the Year Gala is our opportunity to give members a token of our appreciation in return for their continued participation and support of our programs and the enrichment of the Atlanta product.”

The success of the ACVB is due in large part to the partnerships with its members. Atlanta is consistently ranked as one of the top convention destinations in the country, the number one destination for African-American travelers and welcomes more than 17.32 million visitors annually, raising nearly \$9 billion in tourist expenditures. The ACVB is largely funded through membership revenues and serves its 1500-strong membership through networking opportunities, securing conventions and trade shows and launching cooperative marketing programs.

Established in 1913, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) is a private, non-profit 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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Below is a list of Volunteer of the Year and Member of the Year nominees, for more information, please contact:

Rachel Knighton
e-Communications Specialist, Public Relations
404.521.6398
rknighton@atlanta.net

Brandy Humphries
Public Relations Manager
404.521.6645
bhumphries@atlanta.net

ACVB Member of the Year Nominees

Thomas Brandt, Delta Air Lines, Inc.

Karen Bremer, Dailey's and City Grill/Great Hospitality LLC

Greg Davidson, More Than Magic

Cathy Delpozo, 755 Club at Turner Field

Ted Kanatas, Hyatt Regency Atlanta

DJ Mackovets, Atlanta Local Organizing Committee

Linda Montgomery, Holiday Inn Atlanta Airport

Sean Mueller, American Coach Lines/Gray Line of Atlanta

Marc Szymanik, Bold American Food Company

Lucy Tillman, Shepard Exposition Services

ACVB Volunteer of the Year Nominees

Holly Clifford, Hope-Beckham, Inc.

Teri Craton, Destination South, USA

Rick Dumas, Offset Atlanta

Cindy Fowler, Presenting Atlanta, LLC

Bob Godfrey, City Grill

Phelps Hope, Aspen Productions, Inc.

Christopher Huber, MAP South Publishing

Preston MacIntyre, Spectrum Productions

Renee Perdue, Ambassador Force of Downtown Atlanta

Lon Slack, Multi-Media Services, LLC