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CONTACT: Lawrence M Fidel
334-244-1320
800-372-1022

JAMES BOYCE WINS RESTAURATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD AT STATEWIDE STARS OF THE INDUSTRY AWARDS DINNER

MONTGOMERY, AL— October 16, 2012-James Boyce, with Boyce Restaurants in Huntsville, was presented with the prestigious Restaurateur of the Year Award for his exemplary cuisine, employee relations, community service and dedication to advancing the foodservice industry in Alabama. James will have the honor of proudly displaying the Restaurateur of the Year trophy which has been handed out annually since 1954. Alabama is blessed to have the talents of James Boyce, a multiple award winning chef/restaurateur who brought his culinary talents to Huntsville in 2008 when he opened Cotton Row restaurant, which features fine American cuisine with strong Southern influences. Since then he has continued to open successful concepts making downtown Huntsville a popular restaurant destination. A Culinary Institute of America trained chef, James is a regular on national radio and television cooking segments, and he has received numerous culinary awards.

The award was one of several presented at the thirteenth annual Stars of the Industry Dinner, hosted by the Alabama Restaurant Association and the Alabama Hospitality Association. The gala event was held at the beautiful Westin Huntsville Hotel in Huntsville, Alabama, where guests and honorees enjoyed a night of festivities synonymous with a Hollywood “Red Carpet” event. The street was lined with fluorescent “Stars” giving guests a preview of the special night and they were greeted at the door by a flood of paparazzi taking pictures. The event began with an elegant reception featuring seafood sponsored by Alabama Gulf Seafood, and guests were entertained by watching the finalists in the Bartender of the Year compete live on stage. Guests then enjoyed a fabulous dinner prepared by Westin Chef Bill Stellwagon, which featured a “farm-to-table” theme. All the finalists were presented with plaques recognizing them for their selection as a finalist, an achievement in itself as they were chosen from the hundreds of nominations received. The winners in each of the fifteen categories were announced at the end of the evening and each received engraved plaques or trophies. The awards were sponsored by the Alabama Restaurant Association and the Alabama Hospitality Association.

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“Company Quote.”

Over 375 guests from restaurants and hotels across the state were on hand as the awards were presented.

The two associations presented prestigious awards in the following categories:

- Legislator of the Year: Senator Paul Sanford
- Front of the House Restaurant Employee of the Year: Clayton Garth, Right Way Restaurants, Huntsville
- Restaurant Manager of the Year: Jeremy Hicks, Longhorn Steakhouse, Oxford
- Chef of the Year: Bill Stellwagon, Westin Huntsville, Huntsville
- Bartender of the Year:
- Supplier of the Year: Nick Hartmann, Alabama Power Company
- Front of the House Hospitality Employee of the Year: Annie Clifton, The Hotel at Auburn University, Auburn
- Back of the House Hospitality Employee of the Year: George Swan, Westin Huntsville, Huntsville
- Hospitality Department Manager of the Year: Gosia Sullivan, Westin Huntsville, Huntsville
- Hotelier of the Year: Larry Bowser, Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, Florence
- Tourism Promoter of the Year: Charity Stewart, US Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville
- Spirit Award: Brian Brown, Birmingham Marriott, Birmingham
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Dana Lee Jennings, Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association, Mooresville

Congratulations to all nominees and winners. You are all “Stars of the Industry.”

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The Alabama Restaurant Association is the state’s largest trade association representing the foodservice industry. The Association represents all restaurant and foodservice-related segments, offering members lobbying support on legislative issues, money-saving benefits, information-services and training aids. The Association is located in Montgomery, AL. and has over 1,000 members.