

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ARIZONA HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
ANNUAL STARS OF THE INDUSTRY WINNERS**

Phoenix, AZ – The Arizona Hotel & Lodging Association (AzHLA) held their annual Stars of the Industry award luncheon on December 8, 2004 at The Ritz Carlton in Phoenix.

Emceed again this year by KTVK Channel 3's Tara Hitchcock, the Stars of the Industry award program recognized 12 individuals and properties during this year's event. Over 50 nominations were submitted for seven categories.

In the category "**Employee of the Year**" three winners were announced: Small Property (less than 100 rooms) – Ms. Elga Sickler, a Human Resource Assistant at the Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain, Paradise Valley; Medium Property (100 – 300 rooms) – Ms. Eleanor Gardner, a Fine Dining Server at Little America Hotel in Flagstaff; Large Property (301 rooms or more) – Ms. Ruth Anne Fuller, a Group Tour Coordinator at the Lake Powell Resort in Page.

In the category "**Manager of the Year**" three winners were announced: Small Property – Ms. Kelly McClellan, Sales Manager at The Hermosa Inn, Paradise Valley; Medium Property – Mr. Jesse Rangel, Banquet Manager at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas; Large Property – Mr. Craig Martin, Service Express Manager at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, Tucson.

Six properties were recognized in the achievement award categories. The **Guest Relations** award winner was the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas for their W.H.Y – We Hear You! Program. Renaissance Scottsdale Resort received the **Community Service** award for their Spirit to Serve Our Communities

program. In the **Special Event** category two awards were presented. In the **Special Event ~ One-Time-Only** category the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort was recognized for their Teaching Kids to CARE program. In the **Special Event ~ Ongoing** category the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa won for their Arizona Culturekeepers event.

Finally two **Good Earthkeeping** awards were presented at the luncheon. First, Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas in Page were recognized for their **Trash Tracker Program/Wahweap Campground Store**. To complete the award presentations, The Phoenician was the co-winner in this category for their water conservation program.

These award recipients will be submitted to the American Hotel & Lodging Association award program to compete for national honors in their category in April 2005.

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Since 1938 the Arizona Hotel & Lodging Association (AzHLA) has been the leading public policy advocate for the Statewide Lodging Industry representing over 35,000 rooms statewide and 450 members including hotel, resorts, B&B's, and related industry members. Our mission is to enhance, unite, and protect the interests of the Arizona Lodging Industry.



Little America's Food and Beverage Director Robert Hopkins (L) and General Manager Dietrich Mayring present the Arizona Hotel & Lodging Association Stars of the Industry Award to Eleanor Gardner, fine dining server in the Western Gold Dining Room.