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**CFHLA HONORS 2024 CHARLES ANDREWS MEMORIAL
HOSPITALITY AWARD RECIPIENT, MEMBERS OF THE YEAR
AND LEGENDS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

ORLANDO, FL (December 17, 2024) – The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) held its **2024 Hospitality Gala** on Saturday, December 14th at the **Loews Sapphire Falls Resort** at Universal Orlando.

In total, nearly 1,100 members, elected officials and community leaders attended the year-end celebration. It recognizes the Association's annual award winners, including the Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award, Lodging Member of the Year, Allied Member of the Year, Engineer of the Year and CFHLA PAC Board Member of the Year.

This year's Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award recipient was presented to **Mark Woodbury**, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of **Universal Destinations & Experiences (UDX)**, the unit of Comcast NBCUniversal which designs, builds, and operates a growing portfolio of innovative entertainment resorts and live experiences worldwide. This award is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by CFHLA, as the award is named after the first CFHLA Board of Directors Chair, Charles Andrews.



CFHLA 2024 Board Chair Barb Bowden, Chairman & CEO at Universal Destinations & Experiences Mark Woodbury, 2025 Incoming CFHLA Board Chair Chris Mueller, CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa

In his current role, Mr. Woodbury oversees all aspects of the company's destinations, including Universal Orlando Resort, Universal Studios Hollywood, Universal Studios

Japan and Universal Beijing Resort. Mr. Woodbury previously served as Vice Chairman & President of Universal Creative, where he oversaw the designs of Super Nintendo World, Wizarding World of Harry Potter, and other Universal thrilling experiences & hotels.

Additionally, Mr. Woodbury has helped accelerate significant job creation, career growth and development around the world and particularly here in Central Florida. He has led the creation and development of **Universal's Epic Universe** - the highly anticipated, transformational fourth theme park opening at Universal Orlando in May 2025. Epic Universe is the most ambitious development the company has pursued worldwide, and it will be the first new theme park in Orange County in more than 25 years. The 110-acre park with more than 20 attractions will bring millions of new visitors to Central Florida, and economists say it will create thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars for Central Florida's economy in the coming decades.

Community leaders also praise Mr. Woodbury's leadership, as Universal Orlando has been a trailblazer in addressing the shortage of affordable housing and workforce housing in Central Florida. Mr. Woodbury supports Orange County's Housing for All initiative and has played a leading role in the development of **Catchlight Crossings**. This 20-acre not-for-profit Housing for Tomorrow is designed to create a lasting community-based solution for expanding housing options, improving affordability, and providing access to diverse and vibrant neighborhoods for Orange County residents in the heart of the tourist corridor.

Furthermore, CFHLA would also like to congratulate the 2024 Lodging, Allied, Engineer, and CFHLA PAC Board Member of the Year honorees, who were also recognized at the CFHLA Hospitality Gala.

The 2024 CFHLA Lodging Member of the Year Award was presented to **Jorg Heyer**, Vice President of Operations at Marriott Vacations Worldwide.



CFHLA 2024 Board Chair Barb Bowden, Vice President of Operations at Marriott Vacations Worldwide Jorg Heyer, 2025 Incoming CFHLA Board Chair Chris Mueller, CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa

The 2024 CFHLA Allied Member of the Year Award was presented to **Linda Grier Hanson**, Owner and Managing Director of Greenery Productions, Inc.



CFHLA 2024 Board Chair Barb Bowden, Owner & Managing Director of Greenery Productions, Inc. Linda Grier Hanson, 2025 Incoming CFHLA Board Chair Chris Mueller, CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa

The 2024 CFHLA Engineer of the Year Award was presented to **Christopher Chosay**, Director of Engineering at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center.



CFHLA 2024 Board Chair Barb Bowden, Director of Engineering at Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Ctr. Christopher Chosay, 2025 Incoming CFHLA Board Chair Chris Mueller, CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa

The 2024 CFHLA PAC Board Member of the Year Award was presented to **Jacqueline Bozzuto**, Shareholder and Co-Chair of Hospitality & Leisure at Lowndes.



CFHLA 2024 Board Chair Barb Bowden, CFHLA 2024 PAC & PC Board Chair Jay Leonard, Shareholder and Co-Chair of Hospitality & Leisure at Lowndes Jacqueline Bozzuto, CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa

Lastly, CFHLA honored and inducted four deserving and retired hospitality professionals into the CFHLA Legends Hall of Fame. Each of these individuals has played an instrumental leadership role within CFHLA throughout their career and significantly helped with the advancement of the Central Florida hospitality industry. This included **Jeff Brinda**, **Jay Hunt** (posthumously), **Louis Robbins** and **Ron Silveira**.



CFHLA 2024 Board Chair Barb Bowden; Ron Silveira, formerly of F.P.I.S. Inc., Distribution & Marketing Solutions; Laura Hunt; Jeff Brinda, formerly of the Sheraton by Marriott Orlando Downtown; Louis Robbins, formerly of Key Performance Hospitality Management; CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa

About Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association's mission is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service. As the largest regional lodging association in the United States, CFHLA represents approximately 80 percent of the more than 129,500 hotel rooms throughout the Central Florida Region (including but not limited to Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Seminole counties) and more than 500 "supplier" organizations that do business with the hospitality and tourism industries.

For more information on the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, please visit www.cfhla.org.

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