

## Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association



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### Patriot's Day

On Friday, September 11, 2009, CFHLA conducted a community breakfast in recognition of the eighth anniversary of 9-11-01.

This tribute featured nearly 500 attendees and included the following:

**Honorary Chairman: The Honorable Jeff Kottkamp**  
Lieutenant Governor – State of Florida

**Keynote Presentation: Fred W. Sager**  
New York Rescue and Recovery First Responder

**Corporate Sponsor: Radio One / Motorola**  
(Thank you David MacDonald)

**Central Florida**  
**"First Responder"**  
**Honorees:**

Corporal James E. Nusl - Florida Highway Patrol

Sergeant Michael McCaskill - Osceola County Sheriff's Office

Firefighter/Paramedic Ralph Seymoure - Osceola County Fire Rescue & EMS

Lieutenant Kris Gundersen - Orange County Fire Rescue

Lieutenant Mark Ratta - Orange County Fire Rescue

Firefighter Juston Jones - Orange County Fire Rescue

Firefighter Jason Oyler - Orange County Fire Rescue

### LATEST INDUSTRY NEWS

Every week CFHLA will discuss relevant hospitality industry updates here for you:

#### 1. MAYOR DYER TO RIDE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUTER TRAIN, DISCUSS CRITICAL LINK BETWEEN TRI-RAIL AND SUNRAIL

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer traveled to south Florida on Wednesday, September 9th to meet with Palm Beach County Commission Board Chairman and SFRTA Governing Board Chair Jeff Koons and other regional leaders to discuss the importance of partnership between Tri-Rail and Central Florida's planned commuter line, SunRail, and the connectivity between both systems and a future high speed rail network in the state of Florida.

Mayor Dyer, who also serves as chairman of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission, is leading the effort to make SunRail a reality.

This effort also includes the creation of the legislative framework to ensure that future systems can be built and existing rail systems (such as Tri-Rail) can be properly funded to ensure

**Firefighter Dan Quillinan - Orange County Fire Rescue**

Master Deputy Bryan Villella - Orange County Sheriff's Office

**Firefighter Anthony Hardy - City of Orlando Fire Department**

Captain Jon "Mike" Dickens - Orange County Fire Rescue

**Esteban Alves - Walt Disney World Security Bike Unit Officer**

Troy McRoy - Loews Hotels Security Bike Patrol Officer

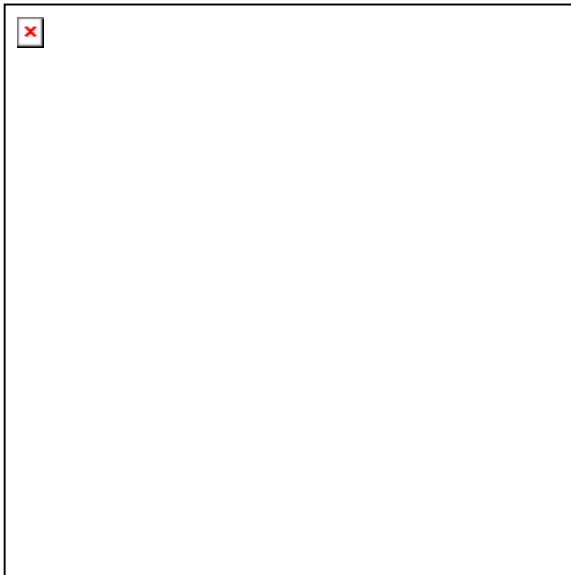
**Lieutenant Barbara A. Lewis - Orange County Sheriff's Office**

**Host Venue: Orange County Convention Center**

**F&B provided by: Centerplate**

**Official Proclamation: Orange County Board of County Commissioners –**

**Presented by the Honorable Richard Crotty  
Mayor of Orange County**



Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings, Orange County Mayor Richard T. Crotty and Lieutenant Governor of Florida Jeff Kottkamp all attended this Patriot's Day Breakfast.

their long term existence. Additionally, the state of Florida is pursuing federal stimulus dollars for the creation of a high speed rail network that would link Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville and other Florida cities.

Leaders from the U.S. Department of Transportation have made it clear that the successful funding and operation of the state's existing commuter line (and the creation of new commuter lines) are essential to the success of Florida's bid to obtain high speed rail.

## **2. U.S. Senate Passes 'Travel Promotion Act'**

New Program Will Drive Millions of New Visitors to U.S., Create Jobs, Strengthen Economy, Lower Federal Budget Deficit  
U.S. Senate Passes 'Travel Promotion Act'

Washington, DC – September 2009 – Wednesday (September 9) the U.S. Senate passed S. 1023, the "Travel Promotion Act," with strong bipartisan support, 79 to 19. The legislation creates a public-private partnership to promote the United States as a premier travel destination and better explain U.S. security policies. Once passed by the House of Representatives and enacted into law, the program is estimated to create 40,000 U.S. jobs, drive \$4 billion in new consumer spending according to Oxford Economics and reduce the federal budget deficit by \$425 million according to the Congressional Budget Office. Overseas visitors spend an average of \$4,500 per person, per trip in the United States.



Our Keynote Speaker Fred Sager delivered his touching thoughts and experiences relating to September 11, 2001.



Steven Jamieson, General Manager of the Mall at Millenia, hosted sponsor tables at this event and welcomed several Public Safety Personnel.

“The United States Senate today took a giant step toward regaining America’s position as the premier travel destination and strengthening our struggling economy,” said Roger Dow, president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association. “Nearly every company, city, state and developed nation understands the power of promotion. By getting in the global game, America will create tens of thousands of new jobs and strengthen its image in the world as visitors leave with an improved perception of our country and her people.”

The “Travel Promotion Act,” introduced by Senators Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and John Ensign (R-NV) and co-sponsored by 51 Senators, is modeled after successful state-level programs and is funded through a matching program featuring up to \$100 million in private sector contributions and a \$10 fee on foreign travelers who do not pay \$131 for a visa to enter the United States. The fee is collected once every two years in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security’s Electronic System for Travel Authorization. No money is provided by U.S. taxpayers.

Nearly identical legislation passed the House of Representatives in the last session, but did not receive a Senate vote before adjournment. A new House companion bill, H.R. 2935, is co-sponsored by 68 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

[Hospitality Newsmaker](#)

MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER HOTELIER  
OF THE MONTH



The Central Florida Fire and Police Honor Guard respectfully presented our colors.

## [CLICK HERE FOR ADDITIONAL PHOTOS](#)

A special thank you to the following companies:

Minute Man Press-Sand Lake

PSAV-Presentation Services

Orange-TV

Skyy Limousine

Winter Park Photography

In addition, CFHLA thanks the **“Patriot’s Day” planning committee** for coordinating this “remembrance” event:

Chair: David Bartek of Loews Royal Pacific Resort

Vice Chair: Thea Sargent of Disney's Contemporary Resort

Allied Liaison: Steven Jamison of The Mall at Millenia

Jeff Brinda of the Sheraton Safari Hotel and Suites

Andy Buddenhagen of Radio One

Ron Caimano of the Embassy Suites I-Drive / Jamaican Ct.

Sharon Celcis of the Orlando Police Department

Richard Collins of the Osceola County Department of Fire Rescue / EMS

Ken Cox of the Orange County Sheriff's Office

Karinne Donis of Orange County Fire Rescue

Roger Farwell of Tempus International

Lydia Frost of CBS Radio

Mike Hill of the City of Orlando Fire Department

Dan Kucik of the Orange County Fire Rescue

David MacDonald of Radio One

Danny McAvoy of the Osceola County Emergency Services Department

Lybee Pedonti of CBS Radio

Chief Carl Plaughter of Orange County Fire Rescue

Leeanna Raw of the Seminole County EMS / Fire Rescue

Vicki Robles of the City of Orlando Fire Rescue



Pat Engfer

Hyatt Regency Orlando  
International Airport

**SEPTEMBER ALLIED  
MEMBER OF THE MONTH**



Yvonne Perez

Travel Host Magazine / Orlando

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Doug Sarubbi of the Orange County Sheriff's Office  
Bart Stitzel of the Luxury Outdoor Furnishings Team  
Brian Thomas of Skyy Limousine and Sight Seeing Tours  
Steve Vinciguerra of SeaWorld Orlando  
Mike Wajda of the Orange County Fire Rescue  
Barbara Weyel of Osceola County Fire Rescue  
Jim Wright of Balfour Beatty Construction

**Karen, Lee and Jenny**

## ONE MORE TIME:

CFHLA is proud of two staff professionals who recently celebrated CFHLA work anniversaries:

**Karen Ragone** (Executive Assistant to the President)    **7 years**

**Lee Johnson** (Finance Director)    **5 years**

In addition, as previously announced, Karen has submitted her resignation, due to the pending birth of her first baby. In light of this resignation, CFHLA has hired a new Executive Assistant, effective immediately:

**Jenny DiSanto**

## "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer"



**Mystic Dunes Resort & Golf Club** will once again support the **American Cancer Society's** "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" campaign to eliminate the number one health concern among women by hosting their 5th annual Pink Ribbon Golf Classic on **Friday, October 9, 2009.**

The tournament will feature a four-person scramble format. Registration will begin at 12:00

noon and the scramble starts at 1:00 p.m. A reception including a silent and live auction will "round out the day." Tournament fees are \$95 per player or \$350 per foursome, with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society. For more tournament or reception details call 407-787-5638 or register online at [http://www.mysticdunesgolf.com/email/pinkribbon\\_09/index.html](http://www.mysticdunesgolf.com/email/pinkribbon_09/index.html).

In addition to our Pink Ribbon Golf Classic, Mystic Dunes Resort & Golf Club is offering a Go Pink Getaway - book two nights and receive your third night free, plus kids eat free specials at Kenzie's. Show your support during Breast Cancer Awareness Month - \$50 from every Go Pink Getaway package will be donated to the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission to eliminate breast cancer. [Click here](#) to book your Go Pink Getaway, or call 1-877-747-4747.

### **AH&LA Issues Guide on H1N1**

The [American Hotel & Lodging Association](#) released "H1N1 Influenza Management in Hotels," a guide for dealing with H1N1 virus situations. The 26-page manual gives hoteliers guidance for employees and guests who are afflicted with the H1N1 flu and other influenza strains.

**[CLICK HERE TO REVIEW THIS MANUAL](#)**

