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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOURISM HONORS SENATOR GARDINER FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



State Senator for District 9, Andy Gardiner

ORLANDO, FL (February 5, 2010): On Friday, February 19th, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) will honor State Senator for District 9, Andy Gardiner, with the 'CFHLA Public Servant of the Year Award.' This new annual award recognizes an elected leader who has shown dedicated service to the Central Florida tourism and hospitality industry.

Since he first was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2000, Senator Gardiner has continued to serve as a State of Florida hospitality advocate. During his 9 years in public service, the Senator has continued to preserve the integrity of the Tourist Development Tax and maintained an understanding of the importance of VisitFlorida, the public/private marketing agency for the state. Also, the Senator boasts a pro-tourism voting record in both the State of House Representatives and State Senate.

Importantly, as Chair of the Florida Senate Transportation Committee, Senator Gardiner's leadership was instrumental in passing crucial commuter and high-speed rail legislation that laid the groundwork for the future of Florida's transportation. This transportation enhancement will positively impact the tourism industry and enable visitors to conveniently enjoy the State of Florida.

This award will be officially presented at the CFHLA Smith Travel Research Luncheon on Friday, February 19th, Noon at the Hilton Orlando at 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819. Nearly 500 industry professionals are expected to attend.

CFHLA congratulates Senator Gardiner for continuing to advance the tourism and hospitality industry through his leadership.

To find out more about CFHLA, please visit our website: www.cfhla.org

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The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association is the world's largest regional hotel association, representing approximately 80% of the hotels in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties.