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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TOURISM HONORS REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**



**Steve Precourt, State Representative – District 44**

*ORLANDO, FL (July 10, 2013):* The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) is proud to honor **State Representative for District 44, Steve Precourt** with the ‘**2012 CFHLA Public Servant of the Year Award.**’ This annual award recognizes an elected leader who has demonstrated dedication to the advancement of the Central Florida tourism and hospitality industry.

Since first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2006 and elected subsequently, Representative Precourt continues to serve as a resolute advocate of the hospitality industry. Representative Precourt is committed to preserving the integrity of the tourist development tax, also referred to as the “bed tax,” which was created by hoteliers to support destination marketing efforts.

Additionally, Representative Precourt fully understands the impact of tourism on Central Florida’s economy. In 2012, Central Florida welcomed over **57 million visitors!** Travel to Orlando and Central Florida infuses **\$31.7 billion** in spending by visitors, employs more than **367,000** people and provides local and state governments with **\$7 billion** in tax revenues annually.

Throughout his seven years of public service, Representative Precourt has distinguished himself as a champion of the hospitality industry. In the 2012 Legislative Session, he supported a 55% increase in annual funding for **VISIT FLORIDA** in the amount to **\$54 million** for FY 2012-2013, and an increase the following year to **\$63.5 million** for FY 2013-2014.

This year, Representative Precourt sponsored and successfully passed **CS/HB 655 Employment Benefits**, which effectively protects Florida’s businesses from a patchwork of local government mandates requiring specific employee benefits not otherwise required by state or federal law.

This award will be officially presented at the **CFHLA Forward Thinking Luncheon on Wednesday, July 31st, 12 Noon – 1:30pm** at the **Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport**. Over 400 industry professionals and community leaders are expected to attend.

CFHLA congratulates and offers sincere gratitude to Representative Precourt for advancing the hospitality industry through his leadership and public service.

To learn more about CFHLA, please visit our website: [www.cfhla.org](http://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.*