



2010 THOMAS A. WAITS DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Nominations are now being accepted for Visit Tallahassee's 2010 Thomas A. Waits Distinguished Leadership Awards, recognizing individuals and organizations whose leadership has made a significant impact in the tourism industry in Tallahassee and Leon County, Florida. This awards program recognizes excellence in tourism marketing leadership, community initiatives, innovative programming, creative partnering and/or green/sustainability efforts on behalf of and for the betterment of the tourism and hospitality industry.

The Thomas A. Waits Distinguished Leadership Awards will showcase one individual and one organization each year demonstrating excellence in leadership as demonstrated by outstanding initiative, impact of work and inspiration of others. With each award, Visit Tallahassee publicly affirms present achievements and seeks to encourage further advancements in the tourism and hospitality industry in Tallahassee and Leon County and to motivate others to follow their lead.

History of the Thomas A. Waits Distinguished Leadership Awards

In 2001, the "Hospitality Award" was established to recognize the individuals who helped pioneer tourism development efforts in Leon County and helped found the Tallahassee Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (TACVB). In 2003, the award was officially named "The Thomas A. Waits Hospitality Award" – affectionately known as "The Tommy" – to pay tribute to the man who dedicated his career to economic development through tourism. For 2010, "The Tommy" awards name has been modified and the program expanded to also recognize one organization that embodies the ideals and visionary leadership of tourism excellence.

Nomination Process

The Nomination form will be posted August 31, 2010 on [VT.com LINK HERE](#). Nomination forms will only be accepted through September 17, 2010 5:00 p.m. EST. Please note that forms and any supporting documents can be accepted via mail, fax or electronically, however they must be received by the deadline.

Selection Process

Nomination forms along with any supporting documentation are forwarded to the Awards Committee, a panel of five tourism and community leaders in Tallahassee, comprised of members of the Visit Tallahassee Community Awareness Committee and past "Tommy" recipients, which reviews nominees and selects the final winners. Current

Awards Committee members are ineligible to receive Thomas A. Waits Distinguished Leadership Awards.

Thomas A. Waits Distinguished Leadership Awards Celebration

Please join us on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, to celebrate and present “The Tommy” awards to one individual and one organization during Visit Tallahassee’s 2010-11 Marketing Roll-out Event (location TBD).

Eligibility

Individuals and Organizations

Individuals and organizations in the tourism and hospitality industry in Tallahassee and Leon County may be nominated. (Organizations include attractions, nonprofits, lodging (hotels/motels), restaurants, sporting venues, meetings and events groups, etc.)

Previous “Tommy” Awards Winners

Previous “Tommy” Awards Winners are ineligible. Please see complete list of past individual winners below.

Multiple Nominations

You may nominate more than one individual or organization, but no more than three.

Past Recipients of “The Tommy” Award

2002 – **Althemese Barnes**, Executive Director, Riley House Museum; 2003 – **Pace Allen**, General Manager, Collegiate Village Inn; 2004 – **Chucha Barber**, Executive Director, Brogan Museum of Art & Science; 2005 – **Mickey Brady**, General Manager, Cabot Lodge N. Monroe; 2006 – **Patricia Grosvenor**, Director of Sales, Park Plaza Hotel; 2007 - **Donna Ross**, President/CEO, Florida Attractions Association; 2008 - **Bill Hagen**, Chair of the Tallahassee Sports Council; 2009 – **Sharon Liggett**, President, TACVB.

Nomination Form (Please Print)

Nominee Name & Title:

Organization Name:

REQUIRED: Please describe in <2 pages why you are nominating this individual or organization and include:

- 1) a) How many years he/she has been involved in the tourism/hospitality industry? In Tallahassee?
or b) How long has the organization been doing business in Tallahassee?
- 2) a) List his/her outstanding achievements or contributions within the industry.
or b) List the organization's outstanding achievements or contributions.
- 3) List a PRIMARY and SECONDARY impact his/her or the organizational efforts have made to local tourism development and marketing. You may include up to three supporting documents to submit along with the Nomination form.

Submitted by:

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Phone	Email
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Please complete and return nomination form to Kaye Strong-Hogan via fax 850-606-2304; email: kaye.hogan@visittallahassee.com; mail 106 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301; **by Friday, September 17 at 5:00 p.m. EST**