

Embassy Suites Names Charleston Favorite Lodging for 2015

The Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau's (CVB) honored local employees, restaurants, business and hotels Thursday evening during an awards ceremony at B&D Gastro Pub in celebration of National Tourism Week.

"National Tourism Week celebrates the value of tourism in our communities and provides us an opportunity to recognize our tourism industry partners," said CVB President/CEO Alisa Bailey.

For the third year, the CVB asked residents and visitors to nominate and subsequently vote for their favorite restaurant, lodging, specialty drink and dish, attraction, retail outlet, dessert shop, nightlife spot, family activity and event for its Tourism People's Choice Awards.

The final round of voting ended April 25. Winners in each category, include:

- Favorite Restaurant - Pies & Pints
- Favorite Attraction - Capitol Market
- Favorite Event - Live on the Levee
- Favorite Specialty Drink - Sangria, Lola's Pizza
- Favorite Food Dish - Grape Pie, Pies & Pints
- Favorite Lodging - Embassy Suites
- Favorite Retail/Boutique - Cornucopia
- Favorite Dessert Shop - Ellen's Homemade Ice Cream
- Favorite Nightlife Spot - Empty Glass
- Favorite Family Activity - WV Power Baseball

In addition, the CVB also honored front-line tourism industry staff members, whom were nominated by their employers and colleagues as individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty in the workplace. Category winners include:

- Best Hotel Employee - Johnny Canterbury, Marriott
- Best Restaurant Employee - Dana Hammond, Paterno's
- Best Frontline Ambassador - Ann Saville
- Mayor's Choice Award - Susie Salisbury

"Tourism is big business for the state and for the Charleston area and our industry partners deserve to be recognized for their hard work," said Bailey.

About the Charleston CVB

Annually, tourism has a \$649 million economic impact in the Kanawha Valley, employing more than 5,000 people and generating \$53.4 million in taxes. Last year, the CVB booked 25,671 room nights for events and meetings in the current year through 2017, with an estimated economic impact of \$13.6 million. The CVB inspires and grows the city's economy through tourism expenditures, thus enhancing the quality of life for Charleston's citizens and businesses. For more information about the CVB and upcoming events, visit www.charlestonwv.com.