



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 26, 2016

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MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS INDUSTRY CHAMPION AWARDS

Winners from Birmingham, Lowell, and Ypsilanti

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is pleased to announce the winners of the third annual Michigan Restaurant Industry Champion Awards. The awards were presented at the Association's Dinner with the Champions event, held on April 25 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

The Michigan Restaurant Industry Champion Awards recognize outstanding employees of the foodservice industry who have demonstrated professionalism in performing their jobs and have contributed to the positive image of Michigan's restaurant industry.

The winner of the **Front of the House Restaurant Employee of the Year** is Dana Moorman from Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill in Ypsilanti. Moorman has been with Aubree's for more than 20 years, demonstrates outstanding customer service, and is a respected leader.

The **Heart of the House Restaurant Employee of the Year** is Derek Bitterman from Three Brothers Pizza in Lowell. Bitterman is noted for his strong work ethic, which sets the bar for other employees.

The **Restaurant Manager of the Year** is Vera Day Rizer from Big Rock Chophouse and The Reserve in Birmingham. A more than 30-year employee, Rizer's biggest attributes are her eagerness to learn and building loyalty among staff.

"These awards put a well-deserved spotlight on the thousands of professionals in Michigan making a living in restaurants," said Justin Winslow, president and CEO of the MRA. "Restaurant employees are hard-working and dedicated, and I commend Dana, Derek, and Vera for their outstanding performance."

PHOTOS OF WINNERS ATTACHED

Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents nearly 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 421,000 people and creating \$15.4 billion in annual sales.

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