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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORLANDO CITY SOCCER’S PHIL RAWLINS RECEIVES HOSPITALITY GROUP’S HIGHEST HONOR

Phil Rawlins, Founder and President of Orlando City Soccer Club, addresses CFHLA Members and guests at the 2015 CFHLA Hospitality Gala, where Mr. Rawlins was recognized as the 2015 recipient of the CFHLA Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award for Community Leadership.

ORLANDO, FL (December 14, 2015): On Saturday, December 12th, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) awarded Phil Rawlins, Founder and President of Orlando City Soccer Club, with the 2015 CFHLA Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award for Community Leadership. Mr. Rawlins was honored at the CFHLA Hospitality Gala, the Hospitality Industry’s largest annual holiday gala event in Central Florida. This year’s Gala was held at the Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort and over one thousand Hospitality Executives and guests were in attendance.

Each year, the Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award for Community Leadership is presented to an individual whose actions have positively contributed to both the Central Florida Tourism Industry and the community as a whole. Mr. Rawlins was selected as this year’s Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award Honoree for the following contributions he has made to Central Florida:

- Acquiring both a Major League Soccer franchise (Orlando City Soccer Club) and National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL) franchise (Orlando Pride)
- Attracting a number of high profile sporting events that have drawn thousands of visitors to the region and enhanced Orlando’s international profile, including:
  - 2015 International Friendly Soccer match between the Mexican and Costa Rican National Football Teams
  - Orlando City Soccer Club’s “Friendly” matches against high profile international clubs including English Premier League club West Bromwich Albion F.C. and Brazilian professional club Ponte Preta
  - US Women’s National Soccer Team International “Friendly” matches versus the Brazilian Women’s National Team in 2013 and 2015
Procuring the 2016 Copa América Centenario matches, one of the largest soccer events in World

Phil Rawlins, Founder and President of Orlando City Soccer Club, receives the CFHLA Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award for Community Leadership, presented by 2015 CFHLA Chairman Gerald Urquiola of the Caribe Royale Resort & Convention Center, 2016 CFHLA Chairman David Bartek of Loews Hotels and CFHLA President / CEO Rich Maladecki.

This award is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by CFHLA, in recognition of achievements and contributions to the Central Florida hospitality industry, as well as the community at large. The award is named after the first CFHLA Board of Directors Chairperson, Charles Andrews, and exemplifies perseverance and dedication to a cause.

Past recipients of the Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award for Community Leadership include:

2014 – Jonathan Tisch of Loews Hotels & Resorts
2013 – Alex Martins of the Orlando Magic
2012 – Gary Sain of Visit Orlando (posthumously)
2011 – Bill Davis of Universal Orlando
2010 - Martin Belz of the Peabody Hotel Group
2009 - Jim Atchison of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment
2008 - Tom Ackert of the Orange County Convention Center
2007 - Mark McHugh of Gatorland
2006 - Al Weiss of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts
2005 - Richard T. Crotty of Orange County Government
2004 - Jeb Bush, Florida Governor
2003 - Thomas Williams of Universal Orlando
2002 - John Wycoff of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
2001 - Bill Peeper of Visit Orlando
2000 - Jim Brown of McCree Incorporated
1999 - Walt Disney of the Walt Disney World Company (posthumously)

For more information 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 more than 121,000 lodging rooms in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties.