



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GRAND HAVEN'S STEVE LOFTIS RECEIVES AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE FROM THE MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is pleased to announce that Steve Loftis of Grand Haven has received the MRA Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the Association. He was bestowed the honor at the MRA's annual Chairman's Dinner, held this year in Kalamazoo on January 25, 2015.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who have provided exceptional and continuing leadership, vision, and commitment to Michigan's foodservice industry. Previous Distinguished Service Award winners select a new winner each year from submitted nominations.

Loftis is owner of Harbor Restaurants, which owns and operates Snug Harbor, Dee-Lite Bar & Grill, Theatre Bar, Jelly's, and the Grand Seafood & Oyster Bar – all located in Grand Haven. He also owns Creative Advantage, a hospitality training and consulting firm.

"Receiving this award from my industry peers is a great honor and motivator," said Loftis. "I will continue to focus my energies on youth education, career pathways, and skill-sets required for success in today's market place."

Loftis was first selected to the Board of Directors in 2006 and served as Treasurer, Vice Chairman, and Chairman of the Board (in 2011). Loftis also serves on the MRA Educational Support Foundation (ESF), and has started a scholarship for students in Michigan's ProStart Program, which the MRA ESF administers.

"Steve Loftis is a tireless advocate and champion of the restaurant industry," said Brian DeBano, president and CEO of the MRA. "His enthusiasm and positive energy are a tremendous asset to the MRA and those around him."

Loftis is very dedicated to the Grand Haven community and was instrumental in creating ArtWalk, a three-week showcase and collaboration of artists, local businesses, and members of the lakeshore community. He has also served as Chairman of the Grand Haven Downtown Development Authority, Past President of the Grand Haven Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and is currently Chairman of the Grand Haven Waterfront Development Project.

He and his wife, Carole, have three children, Tyler, Jesse, and Allegra, and one granddaughter, Isla.

PHOTO: Steve Loftis

The 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 415,000 people and creating nearly \$14 billion in annual sales.

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