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## **CFHLA Honors 2025 Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award Recipient and Members of the Year**

**ORLANDO, FL** (December 17, 2025) – The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) held its **2025 Hospitality Gala** on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the **Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort**.

Nearly 1,100 CFHLA members, elected officials, and community leaders gathered for the Association's premier year-end event, which recognizes outstanding professionals whose leadership, service, and dedication continue to elevate the Central Florida hospitality and tourism industry. Honors presented during the evening included the Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award, Lodging Member of the Year, Allied Member of the Year, and Engineer of the Year.

The evening's highest honor, the **2025 Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award**, was presented posthumously to **Mr. David Siegel**, founder, president, and CEO of **Westgate Resorts**, and accepted by members of his family, including Jacqueline Siegel, David Siegel Jr., and Daniel Siegel. Named in honor of CFHLA's first Board Chair, Charles Andrews, this award represents the Association's most prestigious recognition.



CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa, CFHLA 2025 Board Chair Chris Mueller, David Siegel Jr., Jacqueline Siegel, Daniel Siegel, 2026 Incoming CFHLA Board Chair Jon McGavin

Mr. Siegel established Westgate Resorts in 1982 with its first property on an orange grove he owned in Kissimmee, Florida. Under his visionary leadership and determination, Westgate Resorts grew into the largest privately held timeshare company in the world and one of the largest resort developers in the United States. This included more than 13,500 rooms at 22 resorts across the United States. Before his passing in April 2025, he announced an expansion of more than 44 resort destinations under the VI Resorts by Westgate brand.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Siegel embodied the entrepreneurial spirit that helped transform Central Florida into one of the world's premier travel destinations and built Westgate Resorts into the largest private employer in Central Florida.

While Mr. Siegel will be remembered for his successful business ventures, his influence extended far beyond. In 2013, Mr. Siegel was inducted into the Central Florida Hospitality Hall of Fame by the University of Central Florida and earlier this year, the American Resort Development Association (ARDA) honored Mr. Siegel with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.

Furthermore, his philanthropy and advocacy left an enduring mark on families and organizations throughout the region. After the passing of his beloved daughter Victoria in 2015, Mr. Siegel's life mission radically changed toward solving the nation's drug epidemic. He founded Victoria's Voice Foundation to honor Victoria and advocated zealously for the widespread availability of Naloxone, lobbying Congress and raising awareness on this important issue. As a military veteran, Mr. Siegel donated more than 28,000 complimentary vacations to members of our armed services as a thank you for their service to our country. This year, the Westgate Foundation distributed grants of \$1.5 million to community-focused organizations across the United States.

Additionally, CFHLA would also like to congratulate several outstanding members of the hospitality community who received the 2025 Lodging, Allied, and Engineer of the Year awards at the Hospitality Gala.

The 2025 CFHLA Lodging Member of the Year Award was presented to **Barb Bowden**, Area Managing Director of **Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando**.



CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa, CFHLA 2025 Board Chair Chris Mueller, Barb Bowden, 2026 Incoming CFHLA Board Chair Jon McGavin

The 2025 CFHLA Allied Member of the Year Award was presented to **Glen Lyons**, President of **ATMFLA, Inc.**



CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa, CFHLA 2025 Board Chair Chris Mueller, Glen Lyons, 2026 Incoming CFHLA Board Chair Jon McGavin

The 2025 CFHLA Engineer of the Year Award was presented to **Willam “Bill” Mathews**, Director of Engineering at the **Sheraton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Resort**.



CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa, CFHLA 2025 Board Chair Chris Mueller, William “Bill” Mathews, 2026 Incoming CFHLA Board Chair Jon McGavin

Together, these honorees exemplify leadership, excellence, and community commitment that helps to drive Central Florida’s hospitality and tourism industry forward.

### **About Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association**

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association’s mission is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.

As the largest regional hospitality association in the United States, CFHLA represents approximately 80% of the more than 129,500 hotel rooms throughout the Central Florida region (including, but not limited to, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, and Seminole counties), and nearly 500 "supplier" organizations that do business with the hospitality and tourism industries.

For more information on the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, please visit [www.cfhla.org](http://www.cfhla.org).

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