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## 2019 VRLTA Ordinary Awards Winners Announced

*VRLTA Announces 17 Honorees at 4th Annual Dinner at The Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa | Short Pump*

Richmond, Va. – October 11, 2019 - The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 VRLTA Ordinary Awards. Recipients were honored at a special dinner at The Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa | Short Pump on October 10, 2019 in Richmond, Virginia. The winners were announced in front of an audience of more than 240 hospitality and travel industry peers and leaders from across the state.

This was VRLTA's fourth consecutive year hosting the Ordinary Awards, which were sponsored by Kings Dominion, Virginia Business, UnitedHealth Group, E&J Gallo Winery, Virginia Lottery, Visit Fairfax, Tablee, and Queen of Virginia Skill & Entertainment.

During the event, VRLTA honored Hu Odom, of Golden Corral / Both, Inc., with the *Golden Pineapple Lifetime Achievement Award* for both his work in the industry and his philanthropy. Odom recently gifted \$1.1 million to Norfolk Public Schools, to develop a ProStart culinary program, and \$1.0 million to Tidewater Community College, to support their Hospitality and Culinary Management program.

The following individuals and businesses were selected as winners from the more than 140 nominees:

### Bartender of the Year

- Mark Beyer, Saltine Norfolk at Hilton Norfolk The Main

### *Charlie Buser Award* for Attraction Employee of the Year

- Colin Romanick, Pamplin Historical Park

### Hotel Employee of the Year

- Denise Walters, Four Points by Sheraton Richmond

### Restaurant Employee of the Year

- Lily Wilson, Glory Days Grill of Reston

### Chef of the Year

- Frank Estremera, The National Conference Center

### Supplier of the Year

- Tablee

*Rising Pineapple Award* for Hospitality & Tourism Student of the Year

- Amanda Hall, Virginia Tech

Brewery of the Year

- Mustang Sally Brewing Company, Chantilly

Distillery of the Year

- A. Smith Bowman Distillery, Fredericksburg

Winery of the Year

- Paradise Springs Winery, Clifton

Hotelier of the Year

- Scott Jones, Delta Hotels by Marriott Richmond Downtown

*Jim Ricketts Award* for DMO/CVB Employee of the Year

- Lois Tokarz, Smithfield & Isle of Wight Tourism

*Jim Wordsworth Award* for Restaurateur of the Year

- Shaena Muldoon, The Palisades Restaurant

Attraction of the Year

- The Arc of Loudoun's Shocktober, Leesburg

Restaurant of the Year

- The Water Dog, Lynchburg

Hotel of the Year

- The National Conference Center, Leesburg

“Each year, Ordinary Awards winners represent all the extraordinary people and companies that make up Virginia’s hospitality and tourism industry, and this year, our record number of nominations raised the bar even higher,” said Eric Terry, President of VRLTA. “On behalf of the Association, our staff, and board, we applaud the efforts of our nominees, finalists, and winners for the exemplary work they have done and will continue to do.”

For more information about VRLTA’s Ordinary Awards, visit [OrdinaryAwards.com](http://OrdinaryAwards.com) or [VRLTA.org](http://VRLTA.org).

About the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA)

The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association is the only unified voice for the restaurant, lodging, travel and hospitality suppliers associations. VRLTA creates value for members by promoting the legislative interests of the industry, networking, educational opportunities, and protecting free enterprise. Inquiries about membership and VRLTA services should be directed to VRLTA at (804) 288-3065 or [VRLTA.org](http://VRLTA.org).

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