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National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation Recognizes Rockafeller's Restaurant with Virginia Restaurant Neighbor Award

Richmond, Va. – June 17, 2019 – The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) has announced its State winners for the **2019 Restaurant Industry Awards**, celebrating diversity and inclusion, community service, and leadership in the restaurant industry.

“Every year we look forward to celebrating the people who make our industry inclusive, generous and exciting,” said Rob Gifford, Executive Vice President of the NRAEF. “The Foundation is thrilled and honored to recognize the people and businesses that truly embody these values.”

Restaurant Neighbor Award State Winner

The Restaurant Neighbor Award, developed in partnership with American Express, highlights outstanding local and national charitable service and philanthropy. Gifford stated, “I am proud to announce that one of this year’s winners of the RNA is Rockafeller's Restaurant, a long time National Restaurant Association; Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association; and Virginia Beach Restaurant Association member.”

Serving the community since 1989

Rockafeller's Restaurant has been independently owned and operated in Virginia Beach, Virginia, since 1989. While it prides itself on excellent food, great service and a friendly atmosphere, owner Elizabeth Henley-Baumann (known to most as BJ), is most proud of the restaurant's community involvement. Since Rockafeller's opened its doors (and decks) to the public, its mission has been to give back to the community. Few other restaurants are as fully interwoven into the fabric of their neighborhoods and community as Rockafeller's.

The main focus of the restaurant's community involvement is to help feed the ever-growing homeless population in Virginia Beach and improve the lives of neighbors. Virginia Beach has many families in need of support, food and shelter, and while Rockafeller's cannot help them

all, it does everything possible to make an impact on these families. Through donations of food, gift certificates or money, Rockafeller's has supported local charities such as the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center for the homeless, Samaritan House for battered women and their children, and many more. Rockafeller's also supports the Potter's House and its own holiday-based Adopt-A-Family effort with time, food, and funds.

About 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.

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Pictured: Douglas Silva, Executive Chef; Aaron Feliciano, Executive Sous Chef; Elizabeth (BJ) Henley-Baumann, Owner; and Brian Sutton, General Manager