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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gecko's Grill & Pub's Michael Quillen to Participate in National Restaurant Leadership Conference
Scottsdale, AZ Conference Matches Top Restaurant Industry Executives with Thought Leadership forum

Sarasota, FL; March 31, 2014 // - Michael Quillen, Co-Owner of local *Gecko's Grill & Pub* family of restaurants, has accepted an invitation to participate in the prestigious Restaurant Leadership Conference in Scottsdale, AZ. The RLC is the top-to-top, invitation only event where the most progressive and influential individuals in the restaurant industry gather each year.

The Conference has a reputation for providing unprecedented thought-leadership and critical relationship-building and attracts the Hospitality industry's most active executives as well as the most sought after speakers in the world. Included in this year's speakers panel are Bernie Marcus, Co-founder, The Home Depot, Marcus Luttrell, Decorated Navy Seal and Author, Lone Survivor, and President Bill Clinton.

Quillen was recognized by the National Restaurant Association in 2013 with the prestigious *Cornerstone Humanitarian Award*, and *Gecko's Grill & Pub* has been recognized for the past two years with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's *Florida Restaurant Neighbor* award, which recognizes outstanding restaurants around the country that go above and beyond in community service and aim to inspire other restaurateurs to get or stay involved in their local communities.

Gecko's Grill & Pub has a long history of serving as Business Partners with dozens of schools in Sarasota and Manatee County, providing Super Student Free Meals to tens of thousands of elementary students and supporting untold numbers of teams, projects, fundraisers and events in area schools. *Gecko's* is a benefactor of the non-profit *Y Youth Shelter*, which serves children 10-17 years of age who are homeless, and *Operation Second Chance*, which serves America's wounded, injured and ill combat veterans. Quillen also personally serves on several community Boards, and is the immediate Past President of The Argus Foundation, a public policy community foundation which harnesses business leadership for effective community building.

Gecko's Grill & Pub has been locally owned and operated since 1992, and employs over 300 Floridians. Quillen and his partner, Mike Gowan's newest venture, *S'macks Burgers & Shakes*, opened in Summer, 2013.

For more information, please contact 941.921.3924, or office@geckoshospitality.com.

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