



www.GeckosGrill.com

Contact: Anne Rollings
Telephone: 941.921.3924
Email: office@geckoshospitality.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gecko's Grill & Pub to be Recognized as a 'Restaurant Neighbor' for Second year
-Awards Part of Two Day Summit for Hospitality and Tourism Business Owners and Operators-

Sarasota, FL; July 7, 2014 // – Gecko's Grill & Pub is proud to announce that the National Restaurant Association has honored the restaurant group by selecting it as a 2014 Florida Restaurant Neighbor Award winner. The Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association ("FRLA") will host a combined Marketing and Operations Summit on July 29-30, 2014 in Tampa, Florida, where the award recipients will be recognized for their achievements. The Summit features world-class presenters over the two day program.

Each year, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation recognizes outstanding restaurants around the country with these prestigious national awards. The awards honor restaurants that go above and beyond in community service and aim to inspire other restaurateurs to get or stay involved in their local communities. This selection marks the second year in a row that Gecko's Owners, Michael Quillen and Mike Gowan have earned this distinction.

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; *The 4H Club & Foundation*, and the *Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches*, among many others. 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 Gowan's newest *Gecko's*, located at Fruitville and North Cattleman Roads opened June 30, 2014 and their 'Better Burger' concept, *S'macks Burgers & Shakes*, opened in Summer, 2013.

About the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association FRLA's mission is to 'Protect, Educate and Promote' Florida's hospitality industry – which represents a \$71.8 billion industry, 23% of Florida's economy, \$4.3 billion in sales tax revenue, and over one million employees, making it Florida's largest employer. It is Florida's premier non-profit, hospitality industry trade association. FRLA safeguards the needs of the hospitality industry, improves the business climate, promotes the highest levels of quality and safety for patrons, provides legislative advocacy, and eases navigation of government regulation.

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

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