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**Billy Sewell Wins 2011 Griff & June Glover Award
for Distinguished Service to the Hospitality Industry**

(Raleigh – For Immediate Release) Billy Sewell, owner of Platinum Corral in Jacksonville, North Carolina, has been awarded the Griff and June Glover Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association (NCRLA) and the hospitality industry of North Carolina. Sewell will receive his award at the 2nd annual Taste of North Carolina on February 28, 2011 at the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club of Durham, North Carolina.

The award, named for two of the association's most dedicated members, the late Griff and June Glover, is given to the person who best exemplifies the Glovers' distinguished service to NCRLA by going above and beyond the call of duty for the association. This means the winner will have made significant contributions of time and effort in helping NCRLA accomplish its mission of protecting, promoting, informing and improving the restaurant and lodging industries in North Carolina.

Sewell has served countless hours as the Chairman of the NCRLA Government Affairs Committee since its inception five years ago. Sewell has also dedicated his time to various NCRLA events, such as the *Off to the Races Breakfast* and *Manteo to Murphy PAC* Fundraisers.

"I am honored and privileged to be recognized with this award," said Sewell, fittingly at the first Government Affairs Committee meeting on January 19, 2011. "I give my time and service not to be recognized, but am very appreciative of the recognition. I look forward to continuing to give back to an industry that has been very good to me over the years."

Sewell's dedication is noted by his peers, as well.

"Billy's contribution to NCRLA PAC fundraising throughout the recessionary economy has been nothing short of phenomenal," said Christina Larson of Longhorn Steakhouse. "Billy has a unique way of keeping us focus on why we must band together and pool our resources - to lobby and educate our lawmakers about who really creates jobs; and prevent onerous legislation that handcuffs our ability to grow and operate our businesses."

"Billy has been a devoted and enthusiastic member of NCRLA for several years, and has committed countless hours of his own time and resources towards the betterment of the hospitality industry and NCRLA," said Paul M. Stone, President and CEO of NCRLA.

Tickets to the Taste of North Carolina can be purchased online at TheTasteofNC.com. Tickets are priced at \$89 for the event, which will be celebrating the best food, beer, wine and hospitality service in North Carolina. For more information on the event or the awards, contact Jacquelyn Manson at 1-800-582-8750.

About NCRLA: NCRLA, the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association is the leading advocate and resource for the state's \$17.5 billion hospitality industry. Combined, restaurants and hotels are one of North Carolina's largest employers providing jobs to more than 10 percent of the state's workforce. For additional information, visit <http://www.ncrla.biz>

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